



Bromley Parent Voice

working in partnership to give parents and carers a voice

Children & Families Act 2014

Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014 states that local authorities and schools must have regard to:

- the views, wishes and feelings of the child or young person, and the child's parents
- the importance of the child or young person, and the child's parents, participating as fully as possible in decisions; and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions
- the need to support the child or young person, and the child's parents, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood."

What is co-production?

The term co-production refers to a way of working, whereby everybody works together on an equal basis to create a service or come to a decision which works for them all. It is built on the principle that those who use a service are best placed to help design it.

What does good practice look like?

'Co-production is about developing more equal partnerships between people who use services, carers and professionals.'

Researches into what good parental involvement looks like have identified the following key components:

- **Planning** - Parental engagement must be planned for and embedded in a whole school or service strategy.
- **Leadership** - Effective leadership of parental engagement is essential to the success of programmes and strategies.
- **Collaboration and engagement** - Parental engagement requires active collaboration with parents and should be pro-active rather than reactive. It should be sensitive to the circumstances of all families, recognise the contributions parents can make, and aim to empower parents.
- **Sustained improvement** - A parental engagement strategy should be the subject of on-going support, monitoring and development.



How can schools work with children, young people and their families?

Schools, like local authorities, will be inspected on how well they are delivering their duties under the Children & Families Act, in particular:

- Parents must be told when their child is identified as having SEN and a plan must be produced and shared with the parent (CoP 5.15 and 6.39)
- The focus in the plan must be on children and young people's outcomes (CoP 6.40-41)
- Children and Young People should be routinely involved in these discussions where appropriate (CoP 1.1-2)
- Schools should meet with parents at least three times a year to discuss progress and interventions (CoP 6.64-66) and schools must provide an annual report to parents on the child's progress (CoP 6.64)
- The SEN Information Report paints a clear picture of what the Schools Offer is for parents, children and young people (CoP 6.79). Parents should be involved in the production of this report.
- There is a clear process for discussing if an Education Health and Care Plan is needed and children, young people and their parents fully involved in decisions about the future (CoP 6.63)
- Schools should signpost to the Independent Support Service which is an **impartial** and **time limited** support to parents of children as well as young people with SEN who are going through the statutory assessment and Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan process

For further information please visit <http://bromleyparentvoice.org.uk>

On behalf of parents, thank you for taking the time to read this guide.

