



Cinderella Parents....

The Parent Action Model of Enabling, Advocacy and Empowerment: Developing Parent Carers as Transformational Leaders

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Orla : Purposes of the presentation



1.To advance the audience understanding of the experiences, values, strengths and resources of the community of families raising children, young people and adults with disabilities, learning difficulties and long term health conditions in Northern Ireland, in 2016.



 Explore with the audience today, how Parent Action's values, can be used to assess, measure and improve the experiences of Parent Action families, at the same time, transforming parents (and potentially professionals) into quality improvement leaders.



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Foundation of Nursing Studies



- Outcomes of Project = to be enabled and empowered, parents and professionals in public services, need to take action on;
- Communication
- · Care Co Ordination
- · Child and Family Centred Lifelong Planning

ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH PARENTS, AND THEREBY, THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

What does Parent Action stand for? = Values	
 Respect: Safety: Communication: Privacy: Dignity: Promoting person centred cultures and systems in children and young people's health, social care and education services: 	
What is engagement? • What is engagement? Involvement? "means more than consulting and informing, it includes engagement, active participation and partnership working" (PHA 2012, p8) Personal and Public Involvement? (PHA 2012)	
"Engagement means that I am bringing my humanity, my emotional intelligence, my compassion, my love and commitment to my children, my professionalism, fully to my (parenting) work, every day." I do that when I trust the leadership of the public service organisations, my child has no choice but to engage with. I and my children are engaged, when we percieve fairness, when we perceive effective support, when I perceive equal opportunities for my child with learning difficulties as his brother and sister receive, when I perceive equal access for my child with learning difficulties, to the services he needs to support his development, as his brother and sister get(Michael West, 2015).	

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Parent Action

is...





Parent Action is *Enablement......*

- "Help, advice and taking the same from others"
- "Mr Give and Mrs Take 2 hands"
- "Calm stay away thunder and lightening"



- "..a two way process...parents and professionals act together"
- "..a bridge.."
- "..other parents helping you to fly your kite when you cant..."



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Parent Action is Empowerment	
 "Having power to change attitudes about your child" 	
• "A bridge to cross to and from services"	
• "Me time achieved!"	
"At the start, my	
main fear was	
sounding stupid"	

"Now they cant
shut me up!"



"A lot of issues with health and social care...stressful"..



"With this group, now all supportive of each other, I feel that I can make a difference..."



"I need to come here and clear my headthen I can fly my kite for my son's rights"	
"We, parents, are all the same"	

"My children with a rare condition...difficult to know where to go at times...."



A Parent's View on Family Engagement....(Aislinn)..















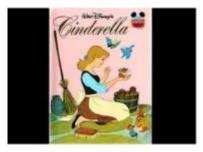








Disconnected Alone/Isolated Afraid



Day Dreams Feels Connected In Own World



Trying to please Wants to fit in Wants to be connected



Feeling Left out Feeling Different Feeling unwanted



Opportunity to be like everyone else



Feels special Feels Connected



Everyone working together To Find the best Fit



So that all concerned can have a Happy Ever After

Parents as Transformational Leaders(Orla)



Transformational Leadership (Kouzes and Pozner, 1987; Manley et al 2009)

- Transformational leadership is a clear and well researched concept that encompasses;
- · Paying attention to culture in public services,
- Role modelling shared values with both the people who use services and those people who deliver services.
- Achieving a common vision through engaging with people both who use services and people who deliver services.

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"Looking at our experiences can be scary...." (Parent, Fons project)

