



TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL

# Services for Children, Young People and Families

Children in care

Children's homes

# Working with parents

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# Introduction

In situations where it is necessary for a child to become looked after by the local authority it is very important for parents to be as fully involved as possible in the child's life providing this does not jeopardise the child's welfare. The staff working in children's homes will actively promote the principle of 'working in partnership' with parents unless an individual child's circumstances provide good reasons (in writing) for not doing so.

## Partnership with parents

One of the key concepts of the Children Act is that local authorities should work in partnership with the parents of the child being looked after and also with the child him/her self, where the child is of sufficient understanding, provided that this will not endanger the child's welfare.

This covers such matters as:

- Ensuring that parents are advised about and given explanations of the departments powers and duties
- Promoting positive contact between the child and parents
- Keeping parents informed of the circumstances where appropriate?
- Consulting with parents in the decision making process
- Involving parents in the reviewing process
- Entering into written agreements with parents
- Emphasising that parents retain their parental responsibility
- Ensuring that parents are aware that sometimes information is shared with others e.g. schools

Partnership involves close co-operation and effective communication between those with parental responsibility for the child and the residential staff working in the home.

## Promoting parental involvement

Whenever possible parents should be encouraged to exercise their parental responsibilities and remain as closely involved as is consistent with the child's care plan.

Care must be taken to avoid value judgments or stereotyping.

For some, parents visiting can be painful and difficult. The LAC documentation and Care Plan should provide clear expectations of the venue, timing and frequency of visits.