



Activity 1

an open space event to identify key issues



Purpose

- To gather ideas and views on themes for the strategy framework
- People to be able to participate easily and express their views
- You want people to learn from each other
- You want a session that is lively and fun



Who will be involved?

- Parents who are not actively involved as well as parents who are part of representative bodies
- Teachers, support staff and senior managers
- Young people

> The 'Open Space' Event

An open space event can be an excellent way for a wide range of staff and parents working together to explore good practice or identify issues. Open space events are best run with a minimum number of around 20 with the maximum about 100. Allocate people to groups before the event if possible.

In advance of the event participants identify the theme/s for discussion. A speaker is needed to lead the event. The leader opens the event by introducing the theme. The theme is then discussed in groups of between 4 and 10 people and participants identify issues. Delegates are not expected to 'represent' the views of their school or council; their individual views and ideas are what will count.

> Example of a key theme

How do we work together to promote parental involvement to help children to do their best and be all they can be?

> Issues for discussion:

- What can schools do?
- What can parents do?
- What can others do?

> Running the meeting

Participants are asked to:

- Identify their 'issues and ideas' related to the theme
- Discuss their issue
- Identify causes and possible solutions to problems/issues identified
- Prioritise three key action points to resolve the issues.

> Outcomes: A report of the event is then prepared and shared with participants, the education authority, parents and the school. Actions agreed can then be used to advise development of the education authority strategy.