

Parenting Forum NI is looking for new members to join their Strategic Advisory Group

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has"

Margaret Mead

Parenting Forum NI

Following on from one of the main recommendations at the 'Parents as Teachers' conference in 1995 the Parenting Forum NI was established and officially launched in 1999. The Forum brings together all those who have an interest in parenting. It promotes the wellbeing of parent and child. It recognises that parents, including members of the extended family, foster parents, adoptive parents and all those in a parenting role need quality support and information on a wide range of issues in order to provide a holistic approach to the development of a child. With over 1,400 members made up of individual parents and groups, it provides a platform for the voice of parents to be heard. By coming together, professionals and parents can influence policy makers, practitioners and public opinion on the value of positive parenting.

Nomination and Selection for the Parenting Forum NI Strategic Advisory Group

Parents are the most important people in children's lives therefore the Parenting Forum NI is seeking representatives from parents and organisations to take a place on the Strategic Advisory Group.

Who are we looking for?

- ❖ Have you something to say about parent's issues?
- ❖ Would you like the opportunity to voice your opinion?
- ❖ Would you like the opportunity to make a difference to how people view / think about parenting and the issues and needs that are important to parents?

If you answered yes then you could be who we are looking for. Individuals who have a little time, a lot of interest and a willingness to share their view and ensure that the voice of parents is heard. We are seeking nominations from parents and individuals from organisations across a broad spectrum including the following:

Work with Parents	Men's Groups
Early Years	Health
Education	Rural
Disability	Young Parents
Ethnic Minorities	Parents of teenagers
Working with teenagers	Single Parents
Youth Sector	Fathers
Community Groups	Voluntary Sector
Women's Groups	
Parents of all ages and with children of all ages	

This list is not exclusive but can provide examples of the make up we aspire to have.

Representatives

- ❖ Should be members of the Parenting Forum NI (contact Alison for details)
- ❖ Should adhere to the ethos, aims and principles of the Forum
- ❖ Be enthusiastic and interested in parenting issues
- ❖ Be reliable
- ❖ Have a willingness to share views and experiences of parenting
- ❖ Have previous experience of community or voluntary work
- ❖ Be able to supply a reference
- ❖ Be nominated by your organisation or have line managers approval

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Functions

1. Members will have an opportunity to input into the overall strategic and operational direction of the Parenting Forum NI (the Forum) at meetings.
2. Members will act as a source of information sharing. Time will be allocated on the Agenda for members to bring information on developments, events etc to the meeting - Members will be kept informed and hear about developments with the Forum and share information which is of interest to the future development of the Forum.
3. Members will be provided with opportunities at the meeting to give presentations on the work of their organisation or a particular skill, which may benefit the work of the Forum or Forum members.
4. Members will undertake to support the work of the Forum by cascading information on policy and practice at all appropriate opportunities within their own and other organisations or social networks.

5. Members will actively promote the Forum and the work of the Forum within their organisations and others. They will support the staff with planning events and organising opportunities to engage with parent groups.
6. Members will act in a consultative role in responding to external policy documentation and in taking forward quality standards and best practice developed by the Forum.
7. Members will sit on one of the sub groups as and when required to support the work of the Forum and provide opportunities to advise on current work.

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Framework

1. SAG will be made up of 20 members reflecting the current broad membership of the Forum at the time of election. Members will have a cross base of skills as defined as part of the nomination process. Nomination may be sought from organisations or individuals where a gap exists in the current group make up. In addition, SAG has the power to co-opt up to 2 additional members for the same time period.
2. Members will be selected by a nomination process and serve for three years with an option to extend this term by a further two years.
3. In the event of the requirement for short-listing of nominees, The Director and Chair Person shall carry out this task.
4. Members will elect a Chair Person, to be reviewed on an annual basis with any change to be made by the September meeting. The Chair Person will serve for a maximum term of two years.
5. Any member to miss 2 meetings during a yearly term will be asked to leave the SAG immediately. The Chair Person and Director shall take joint responsibility for this task. The vacant position will then be offered to a nominee on the Reserve List.
6. SAG will aspire to have representation from across all sections of the community and all those concerned with parenting.
7. SAG will act in an advisory, support and consultative role to the operational work of the Forum.
8. SAG will meet 4 times per year for 3 hours on each occasion.

9. SAG members will take responsibility for contributing to the Agenda and will provide information 3 weeks prior to the date of the meeting. All papers relating to the meeting will be sent two weeks in advance.
10. SAG members will attend additional meetings directly linked to consultations conducted by the Forum on behalf of Government and other bodies. These meetings are optional.

Strategic Advisory Group Members Rights and Responsibilities

You have the right

to an induction on joining the Forum.

to voice your opinion during meetings and for your opinion to be heard.

to receive all information that the Forum accesses on behalf of its membership

to receive any relevant papers 2 weeks before the meeting to ensure sufficient reading time.

to contribute to the Agenda of the SAG meeting through the Director or Chair Person.

to influence the policy and work of the Forum.

to receive out of pocket expenses for travel and childminding (Parent Representatives).

Your responsibilities are

to inform the Parenting Forum NI in writing if you wish to stand down from the SAG.

to attend quarterly meetings of the SAG or other regular meetings, representations etc.

to send apologies if you are unable to attend a SAG meeting or other meetings or times when representing the Forum. To stand down from the Forum if you miss 2 meetings during a yearly term.

to contribute within meetings on decision-making, problem solving and planning etc. and to share information and contacts and fulfil the functions and framework of the Forum.

to read any relevant papers before the meeting and to carry out any action you have agreed to at meetings within the agreed time limit.

What Next?

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Alison McNulty on 028 9031 0891 or email alison@pachelp.org

If you are interested please complete an Expression of Interest / Nomination Form and forward it to Alison McNulty, Parenting Forum NI, 2nd Floor, Andras House, 60 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast BT2 7BB by Friday 29th July 2011.