

Wakefield Parent Partnership Service – an ‘Arm’s Length’ agreement.

Wakefield LEA recognises the important contribution made by the Parent Partnership Service to Education and Cultural Services. The LEA believes that independent advice and support to families is an important dimension of its strategy to ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their potential in an inclusive educational setting.

It is understood that, in order for the Parent Partnership Service to be seen to be independent, neutral and impartial, it must operate at ‘arms length’ from the LEA.

It is agreed that the Parent Partnership Service has ownership of all information specifically communicated to them (either orally or in writing) by parents or pertaining to parents and families. Access to such information by other departments within the LEA (e.g. line managers) will only be granted with the consent of parents/carers. Given that the needs of children are central to the delivery of all services to children and families, an exception to this policy may be made if child protection concerns are apparent.

In Wakefield, the Parent Partnership Service will be managed within the Parent Advice and Mediation Service, which will operate at a distance from other branches of Education and Cultural Services.

Wakefield Parent Partnership Service manages its own budget, has independent computer systems and has its own logo and headed stationery.