

CIC Report for 2017-18

General Description of the Company's activities and impact

April 2017 – March 2018

The Parental Engagement Network aims to provide training, information, resources, research, projects, consultancy and support to enable schools and Early Years settings to better engage parents and the community.

National Research Project

Over this period PEN received £45,000 as part of a three-year grant awarded from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and the Sutton Trust. We have used this grant to continue our work as part of the Engaging Parents Effectively project, developing and evaluating the 'Mouse Club' transition project and the home learning project to engage disadvantaged families in the early years. We trained staff from 51 schools in four different phases to deliver the home learning project to nursery or reception.

Phase 2 of this work - a randomised control trial involving 9 schools as control schools and 9 as intervention schools was closely evaluated by Oxford University.

"The Sutton Trust working closely with the Department of Education at the University of Oxford has found PEN's approach to engaging parents in their children's learning to have a positive impact on targeted families..... PEN is a dynamic and committed organisation and one that we believe that funders, local authority commissioners and school leaders should actively consider."

Professor Kathy Sylva and Fiona Jolley, Oxford University and Laura Barbour, Sutton Trust

The report highlighted that the programme did positively influence parental behaviour at home, that it developed the skills and confidence of staff to engage parents and that it was cost effective, easily embedded within schools and highly scalable.

see report here: https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/PEN-Report_FINAL.pdf)



Other funded projects

Social Entrepreneurs Training

Emma Beresford, Director of PEN, won a place on the 2017 Lloyds Bank Social Entrepreneurs Trade Up Programme, in partnership with the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) and jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund. She started receiving training in October and is working with over 20 other social enterprises in a programme that includes action learning sets, witness sessions from other successful social enterprises and input from other organisations to learn about how to develop and grow PEN. This also includes £5000 of match funding if PEN increases its traded income.

Suffolk Community Foundation

PEN received funding from the Suffolk Community Foundation “Raising the Bar” Fund to help develop parental engagement in Suffolk schools and trial resources to engage parents in their children’s learning. The project which ran from Feb 2017 – Feb 2018 worked with three secondary schools and twelve primary schools. 4 training courses were delivered: Mouse Club transition and home learning project (early years), Playclub (KS1), Family Detective Reading Project (KS2) and Moving Up. A full report on the work can be found in the [broadsheet on our website](#).



Applications for other funded work

Between April 2017 and March 2018 PEN has put in applications for:

- Children in Need
- Health Trust – working to develop support for Ethiopian families
- Sport England Lottery funding to get families to be active together
- Walcot Foundation – to roll out the transition and home learning project
- OVO Foundation – to roll out the transition and home learning project
- NPC – work to develop videos
- Headley Trust – Parent Champions or boys work

We have also worked with local authorities in Lambeth and Derbyshire on two SSIF bids.

We have been successful in being awarded

- £314,000 from Sport England to develop an *Active Families* project over 3 years
- £20,000 from NPC to develop videos to support parental engagement
- £5,000 from the Headley Trust to develop work with boys
- £26,000 from the OVO Foundation to develop work over 2 years in Liverpool
- £10,000 from the Walcot Foundation to develop work with Lambeth schools

Resources

We have :

- Developed 6 new Tip sheets.
 - For the early years on helping your child to read and helping your child to write.
 - For 3 – 11 year olds on sleep, self esteem, helping your child to be happy and getting support to help your child to be happy
- Further developed the Mouse Club resources

Information

We have:

- Produced three termly update newsletters for schools giving current information, news and opportunities and links to further information on the internet.
- Given schools a range of information through 6 network meetings held in Manchester
- Given headteachers and senior leaders information through 2 head teachers' briefings held in Manchester
- Collated information for parents about free and cheap things to do in Manchester over the school holidays

Training

We ran:

- Training sessions for 33 schools involved in phases 3 and 4 of the Engaging Parents Effectively Early Years project (Esmée Fairbairn and Sutton Trust funded)
- On-going training sessions for nine primary schools and 3 secondary schools in Suffolk
- Provided a day's training for 20 staff from a cluster of 10 schools in Stockport
- 4 training sessions on the KS2 Family Detective Reading Project
- 4 courses on the Mouse Club Transition Project for 21 people from 19 schools
- 2 Moving Up courses for 7 people from 7 schools (Not including Suffolk)
- Nursery or Reception Home Learning for 13 staff from 12 schools
- Managing Conflict 9 people from 7 schools
- Building Parental Engagement across the whole year for 4 staff from 4 schools

Support for members

35 schools were members of PEN for 2017-18 which enabled them to access a range of networks, briefings, support, training and resources.

Topics for network meetings included Parent Champions, sleep, e-safety, refugee week, self-esteem, supporting EAL parents, and engaging parents effectively.



- 10 member schools attended Senior Leaders briefings
- 25 member schools attended Central & South Network
- 11 member schools attended North Network
- 18 member schools attended Coordinators network meetings
- 20 member schools attended Family Support Workers Network
- 17 staff from 13 member schools attended our training on Parent Champions

The Parental Engagement Network aims to work with other agencies to provide information, training and resources for parents

- We worked closely with Playbags Ltd which provides high quality materials to enable parents to support their children in developing their language, phonics and reading skills
- PEN has been instrumental in the development of OPE(N), a national group developing Parental Engagement.
- PEN worked with Manchester Adult Education (MAES) on a joint project to help parents support children's achievement through the Playclub 4 project which provides fun activities to help develop phase 5 letters and sounds.

The Parental Engagement Network aims to develop communication about parental engagement

- PEN chaired a conference in Manchester in March 2018 organised by Optimus on parental engagement and ran 2 workshops.
- PEN presented on Focusing on Engagement in Learning at a Parentkind conference in Liverpool
- PEN presented at a Leading Learning in Families Conference in Birmingham
- PEN launched a new website www.penetwork.co.uk
- PEN provided a free dissemination event to Trafford School (Heyes Lane) about successful resources to engage parents in the Early Years