

LPCC

Conference

Newsletter

Part 2

What parent carers told us

February/March 2010

Contact details

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Council

PO Box 1183

Spalding

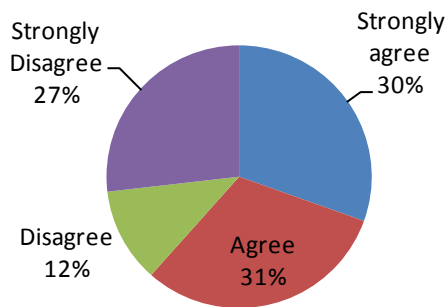
PE11 9EE

Tele 0845 33 11 310

Email: enquiries@lincolnshireparentcarercouncil.org.uk

Feedback from conferences –Direct Payments

I have heard of direct payments

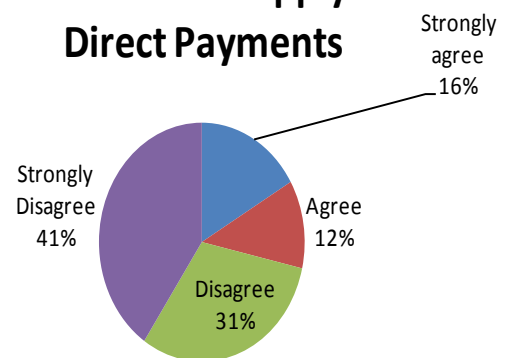


Throughout the seven conferences parents & carers completed feedback forms on the specific area of Direct Payments. We received a total of 139 feedback forms on this topic and the statistics have been collated in the following charts. We also encouraged parents to comment on their experience of Direct payments and received 42 comments. Some of these are listed below

Comments listed were:-

- What are they?
- I have heard about this but have no idea how they worked or whether or not I am entitled.
- Never been introduced to them & have no idea about them
- Criteria vague as to what it can be used for when it is awarded.
- Is this relevant to me?
- Health visitor could not supply any relevant information. Have really struggled to find any information about Direct Payments.

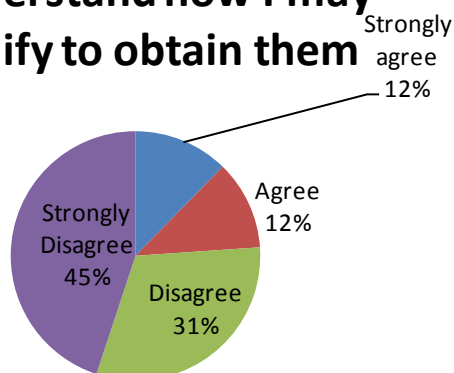
I know how to apply for Direct Payments



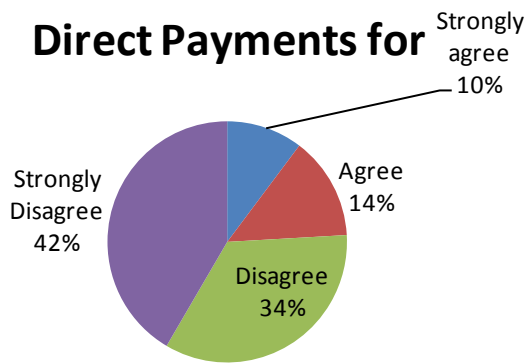
Other comments received were:-

- The whole criteria for Direct payments is very vague. Who can & who can't access it? Then you may get it and not know what you can spend it on. Then you have to employ someone, do the CRB check, fill in insurance forms etc. It hardly seems worth the hassle for a few hours a week. Surely there should be clearer criteria & it should be clearer how you can spend it. Is it the fact that adults who access Direct Payments can spend it on what they like as long as it fits their outcomes- well why not children -do they think that we don't know what is best for our children. The amount of questions I get asked at my Annual Review you would think I had access to millions of pounds.

I understand how I may qualify to obtain them



I understand what I can use Direct Payments for



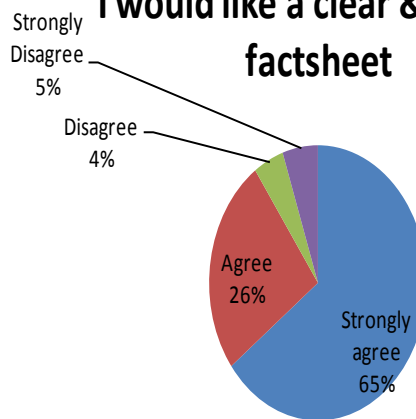
One Parent commented:-

I would like to be flexible on how to spend this money if extra is building up i.e paid cinema ticket, taxi to take child & carer to a venue instead of parent, promoting more independence & a longer break for parents.

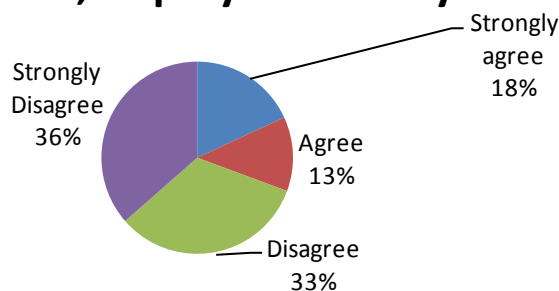
Another parent commented:-

I use Direct Payments myself & find it helps both myself & my husband who is a full time carer. It would be helpful to have a fact sheet as so many people don't know how to apply or who is/isn't able to get Direct Payments. Are Direct payments available for children with disabilities?

I would like a clear & simple factsheet



I understand the legal implications e.g CRB checks, employers liability...

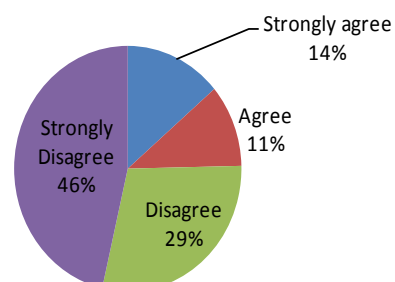


Another parent commented:- This is an excellent opportunity in getting my child's needs met by planning a service that can evolve, change & grow with him. Providing you have a social worker that agrees with you & gives you a realistic budget in the first place to allow for growth & change as the child grows & changes.

A parent commented:-

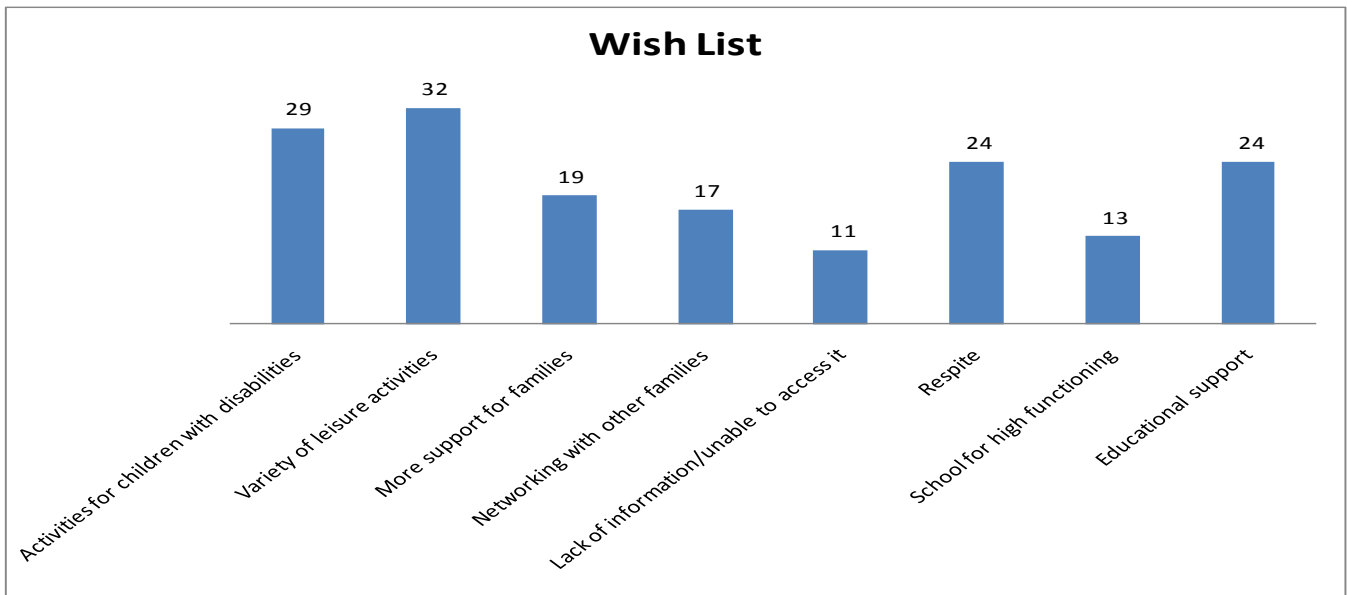
I have got Direct payments but don't really know how people qualify for them or what they can be used for. Don't know about extra support available. Local Penderells trust haven't been very helpful to me. Another said : There are more choices of brokers than Penderells .

I know about extra support like Penderells Trust etc



Wish List

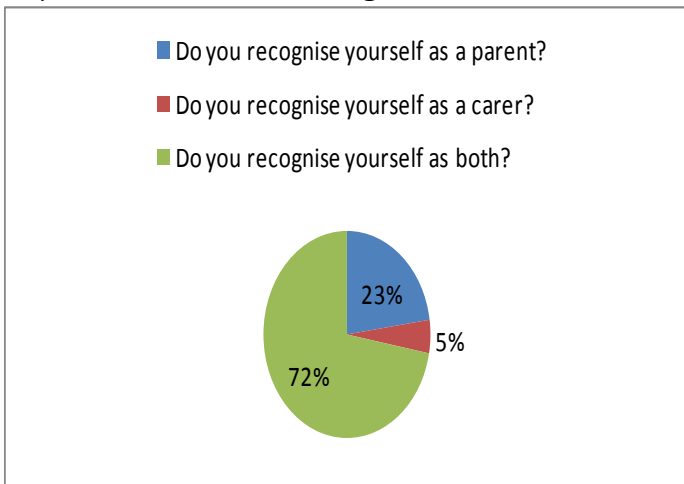
Parents were asked " What **three** things would help improve your family life? We received 114 completed forms and the most popular themes are as follows:-



We are at present looking into these areas and will let you know how they are progressing in our next newsletter.

Hidden Carers

We received a total of 143 completed feedback forms explained in the following tables:-



Parents were also asked "if you live in a rural area how far to the nearest town?"

The answers varied from one parent in Spalding stating it was 1/2 mile to nearest town to another in Lincoln stating it was 12 miles-which was the furthest.

We will feed this information back to service providers to hopefully inform them when planning services in Lincolnshire.

