

**Voice and Influence of Parents and Carers  
in your organisation/ service/ setting**

<b>Name of Organisation &amp; contact details</b>	Sarah Johal – One Adoption West Yorkshire Email - Sarah.johal@oneadoptionwy.leeds.gov.uk
<b>What approaches do you use to engage and communicate with parents /carers?</b>	We ask adoptive parents to complete surveys, we have established an “Adopter Voice Forum” and have two adoptive parents on the management board. Adoptive parents are involved in practice improvement work groups. We have also invested in a part time post “Adopter Development Coordinators” and successfully recruited an adoptive parent to the post. The role involves coordinating the views of adoptive parents across the region by going to support groups and events and arranges focus groups to gather their views.
<b>How do parents and carers have a voice and influence?</b>	Adoptive parents have produced an adopter timeline about all the issues they face with recommendations as to how to improve the service. They are developing an adopter charter, developing a peer to peer support model and participate in the recruitment and selection of all posts within the agency. Adoptive parent’s feedback continues to shape the services we provide.
<b>What approaches work well and why?</b>	Providing a range of different opportunities and levels of involvement to enable adoptive parents to have a voice and influence works well. Opportunities range from a paid role in the organisation to volunteering in different work streams, being on adoption panels and at events. We have also found that paying an hourly rate for adoptive parents to deliver training has worked well.
<b>Any challenges faced?</b>	Ensuring a diverse range of adoptive parent representative views are heard and individuals don’t dominate discussions.