



Parent Participation across England

Parent Participation

TDC began support of development of parent participation across England

From Nov 2008 - parent participation advisors and a small grant available in all LA areas

Work had to be joined up – with support of LA as well as parents

All LA areas have been successful in getting a grant



Core offer – across all services

About how services are delivered

- **Information** - about services and how to access
- **Transparency** – so parents know how decision are made
- **Assessment** – parents experience of process
- **Parent Participation** – individual and at service level
- **Feedback** – of service and did anything change



Disabled Children's Services National Indicator

Calculated from annual survey sent out to sample of families of disabled children asking them about their experience of services

Questions in survey are based on the core offer

Indicator feeds into NI54 and NHS vital signs by which local areas performance are measured



Parent Participation

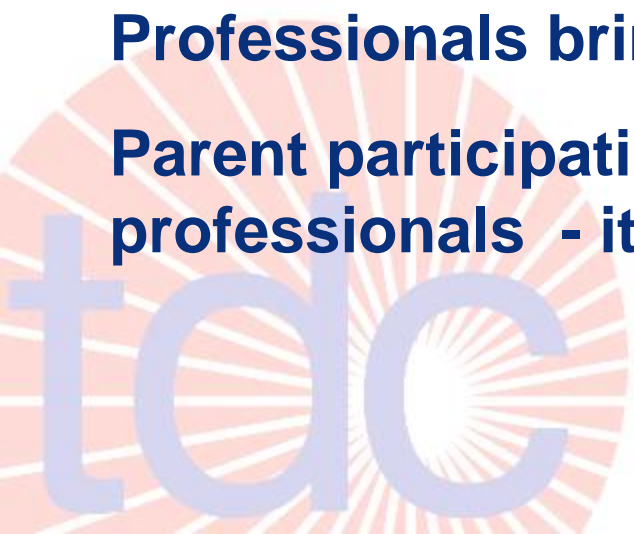
Indicator: identify areas where there are problems

Parent participation can help local services understand how to improve their performance

Parents bring their expert knowledge of how they experience services and what support would help

Professionals bring their expert knowledge

Parent participation is about parents working with professionals - it requires a sharing of knowledge



Short Breaks - Full Service Offer

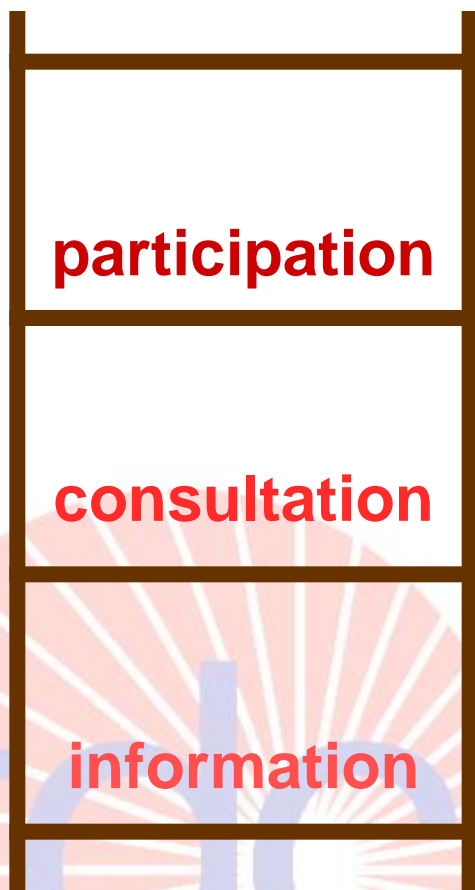
Programme Objective 1:

- ***To base service provision on the identified needs of disabled children/ young people and their families -
By 31/3/11***

Local Areas must demonstrate evidence that both families and children/ young people are satisfied that there are structures and processes in place to ensure sustainable and ongoing engagement in the planning and development of service provision; that it reflects their 'voice', is culturally appropriate and that there is a clear plan of evaluation for all parts of the service that involve children young people and their families.

What do we mean by...

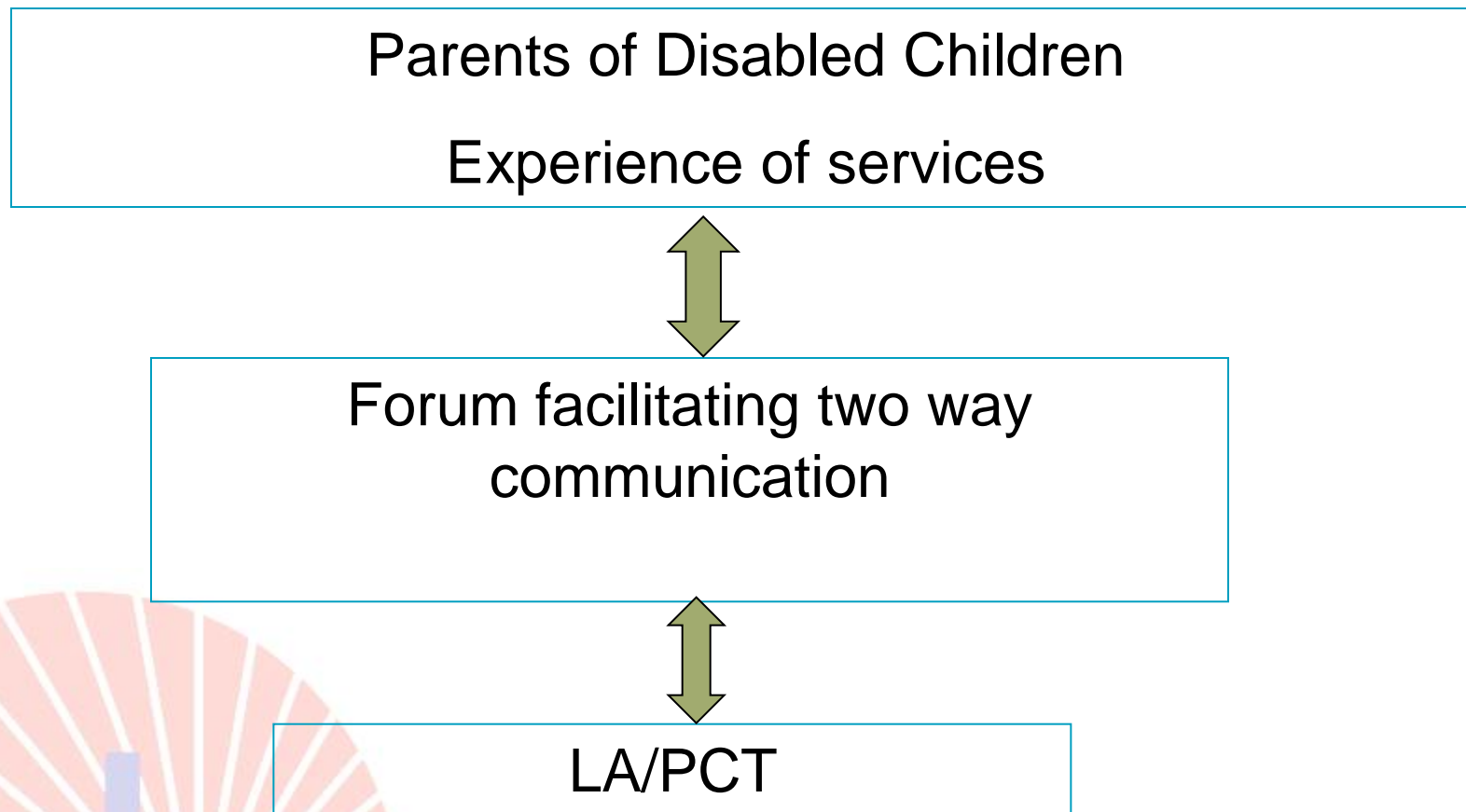
Strategic, multi agency, pan-disability



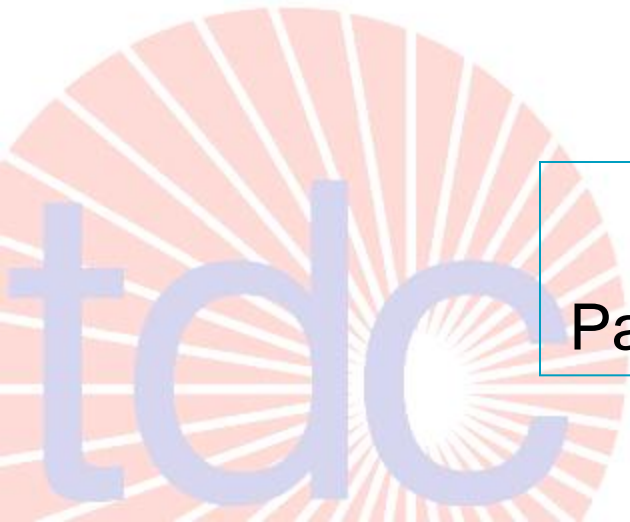
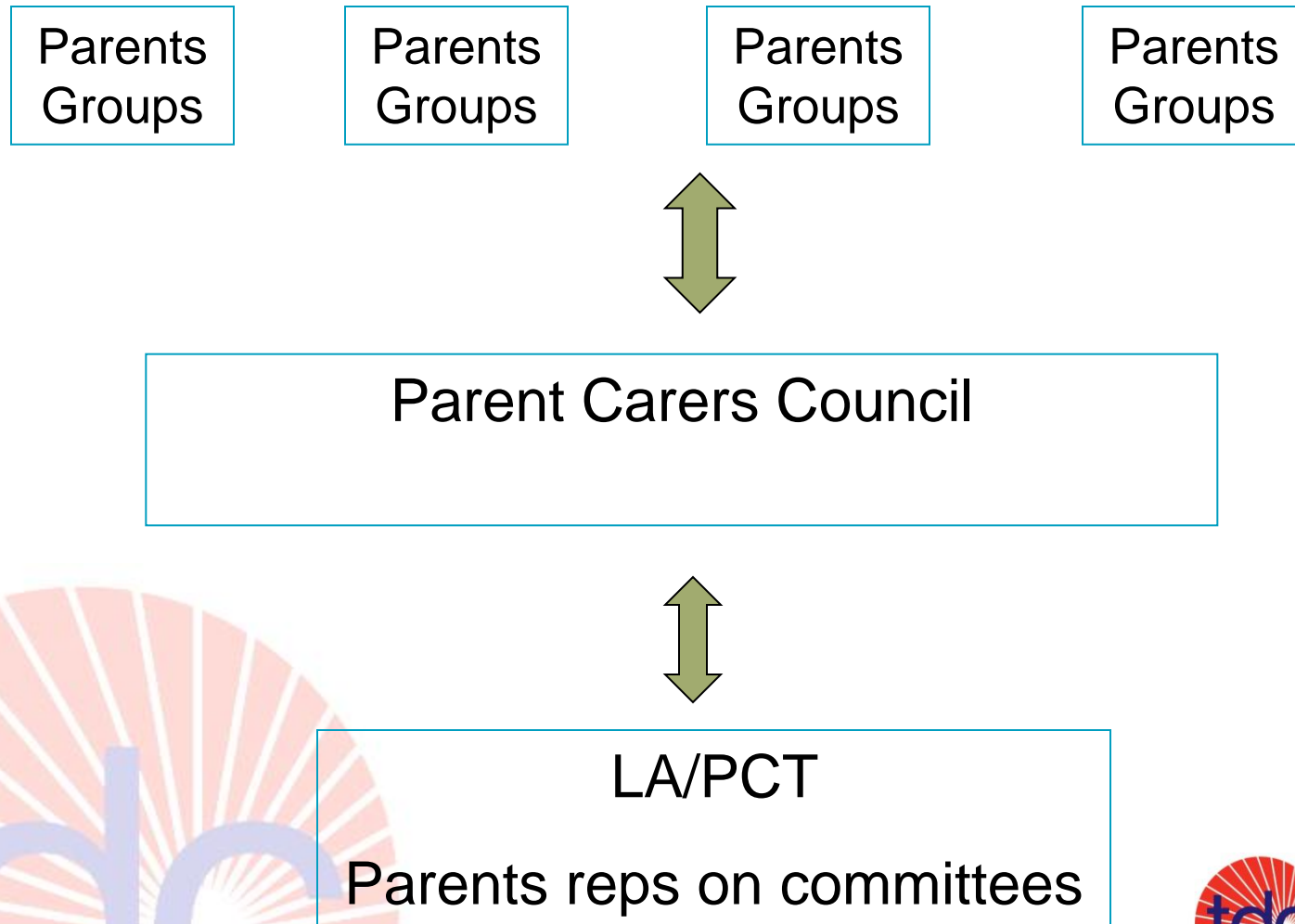
The ladder of participation

- **‘We want to make decisions with you’**
- **‘Here’s what we’re planning – what do you think?’**
- **‘Here’s what we are going to do’**

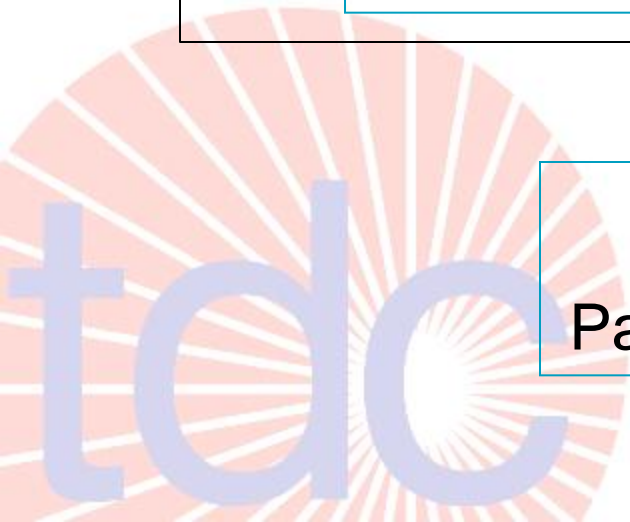
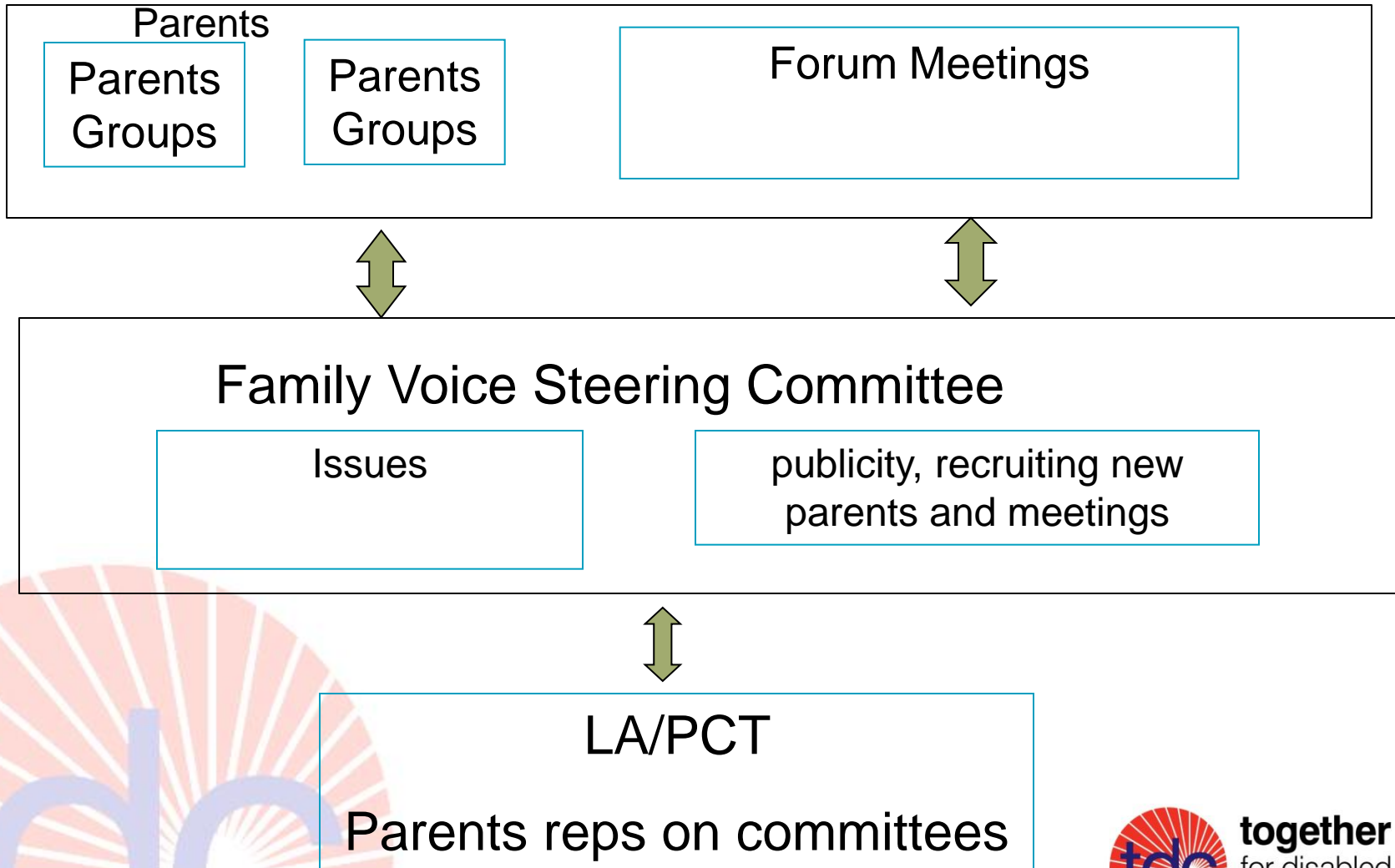
What does a parents forum look like



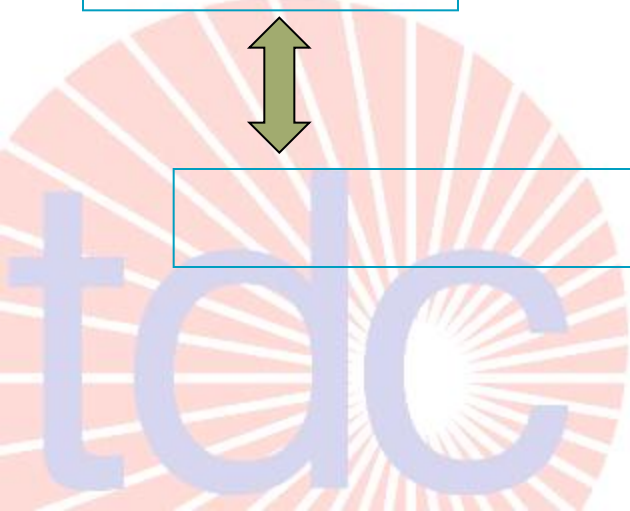
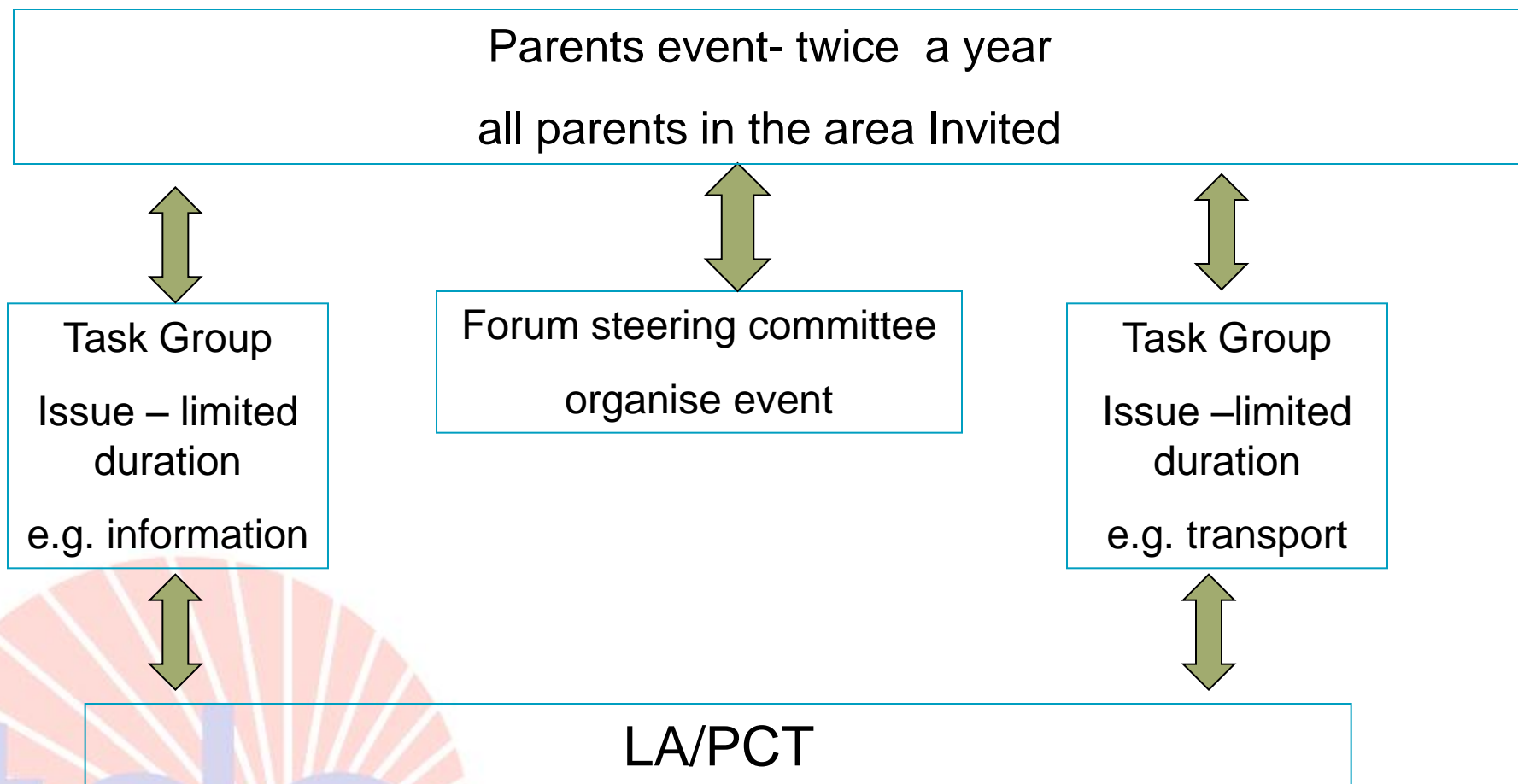
What might a parents Forum look like



What might a parents Forum look like



What might a parents Forum look like



Parent Participation Grant Programme

Phase 2: Grants of £10,000 – Apr 2009 to Mar 2010

All 152 local areas received a grant

- **Willingness of local authorities to engage**
- **Services beginning to value parent participation**
- **Different models of parent participation emerging**
- **Some areas well established, other just starting**

<http://www.togetherfdc.org>

Parent Participation: How to Guide



Parent Participation Grant Programme

Phase 3

April 2010 to Mar 2011 – grant of £10,000

- Support continuing development of forum
- Share promising and innovative practice
- Pilot national & regional parent forum networks to support parent participation once program ends



Parent Participation Innovative practice

Redbridge : Commissioning short breaks

- **Listened to parents and children and young people**
- **Passed this on to potential providers during tender**
- **Parents and young people input to decision making process**
- **Continuing to involve parents and young people in reviewing the service**

<http://www.togetherfdc.org>

Parent Participation – Case Studies



Parent Participation Innovative practice

Gloucestershire: Short Breaks

- **Parents did not like social worker led assessment process and services not meeting families needs**
- **Use community lead professionals to carry out assessment and flexible packages to meet individual needs**
- **Average cost of short break fell from £10,000 to £1,600 per year per family**

<http://www.togetherfdc.org>

Parent Participation: How to Guide- section 6b



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Parent Participation Innovative practice

East Riding Yorkshire : Information

Family Information Service (FISH) manage LOOK AHEAD database

Information used for planning , but individual confidentiality maintained

Families who register receive newsletter and are consulted about services

Parent forum input to newsletter so it is relevant and parent friendly

FISH proactive in meeting families of disabled children



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Parent Participation Innovative practice

Rotherham : Education

Reviewed indicator score – wanted to improve process for families. Parent forum invited to input to professional development of SENCO's.

Parents delivered training day to SENCO's

- **Presented results of LAMB inquiry**
- **Described good practice – and barriers to good practice**
- **Walked them through their journey**

Parent Participation Innovative practice

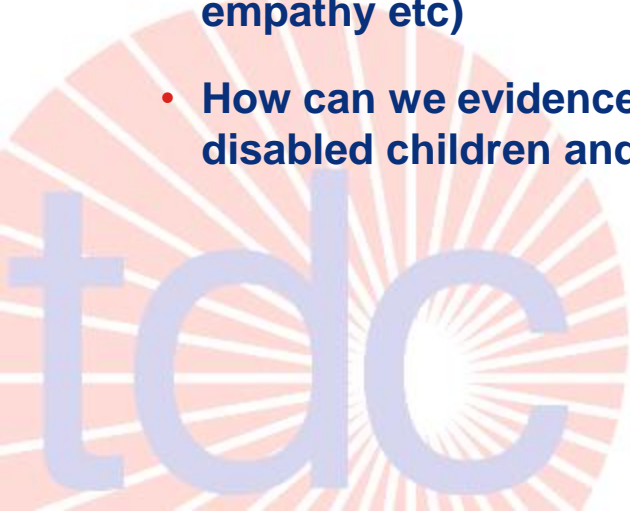
NE Lincolnshire: Hairdressers

- **Unhappy experience for young people with autism**
- **Parent forum approached local hairdressing college**
- **Parents delivered disability awareness training to hairdressers - now much better experience for the young people**
- **Parents now tackling shoe shops, supermarkets and dentists**

Discussion points

We hope that there will be support from Local Areas to ensure that parents continue to have a voice in the development and delivery of services.

- Do you have any examples of success in your Local Area?
- How do you think this will be sustained in your Local Area?
- Has the process of involving parents been successful?
- Has parent involvement made any difference –
- At strategic level (planning and commissioning)
- At operational level (in the way services and information are delivered – empathy etc)
- How can we evidence the difference that participation has made to the lives of disabled children and their families?



Final thoughts

It always seems impossible until its done.

Nelson Mandela

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

Barack Obama

