

Peer Support Study Stakeholder Group Meeting

20th July 2011

Research Questions

From the research questions suggested at our meeting in July, we have produced the following list. Some of the suggestions have been merged together. Some of these questions will change or may be entirely answered by the literature review that we are in the process of doing, so the questions posed in the final study protocol may be different, but we will take your advice on those as the protocol develops. Some suggestions, such as the impact of peer support on the child were very interesting but unfortunately will be beyond the scope of the present study.

1. What is peer support?

What different types of support are available? e.g. support for fathers
What are the underlying psychological processes?
What support is available and accessible in the local area?

2. Who benefits from peer support?

Does peer support benefit different people under different circumstances?
Why do some parents engage with peer support and others don't?

3. What are the outcomes of peer support?

What are the perceived outcomes/benefits for families and befrienders? e.g. better info/signposting and potential impact on healthcare access/return to work
What are the strengths and weaknesses of the F2F service? e.g. safeguarding, trained befrienders, GPG etc

4. What is needed to provide the peer support service (Face2Face)?

To include:

How many befrienders are needed and for how much time?
What is the nature of the intervention?
What is the average length of time that families are supported?
How many families are supported?
What are the benefits per unit cost

Your responses to the stakeholder questionnaire

At the meeting we asked you to rate the following statements on a scale of strongly disagree to strongly agree.

1. Parent wellbeing is vital to ensure the well being of disabled children
2. Checking and ensuring the well being of parents of disabled children is part of routine health and social care in the UK

3. Parents benefit from sharing information and emotional support with other parents in similar situations to themselves
4. There is a need for 'organised' peer support programmes with 'trained' supporters
5. Peer support programmes for parents of disabled children should be funded by health and social care in the UK

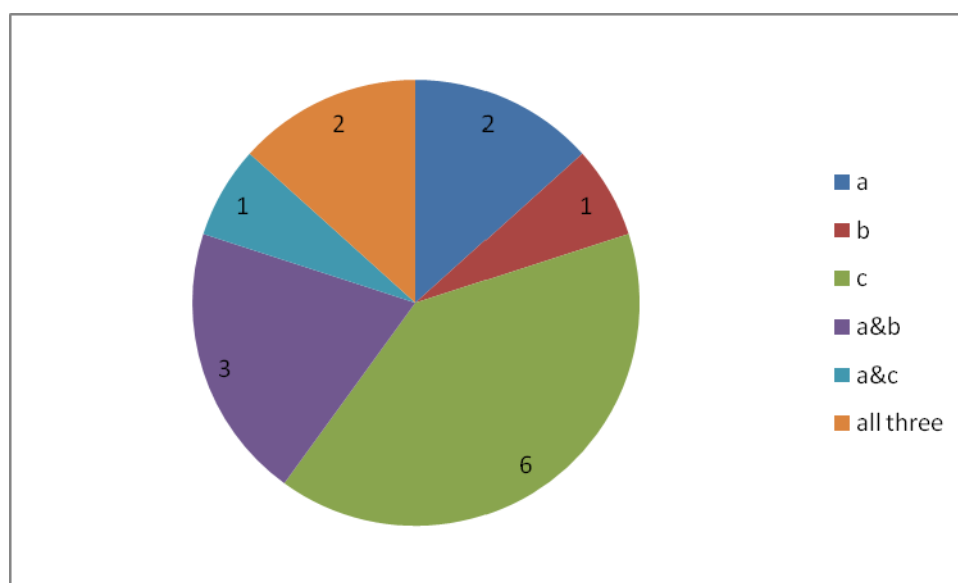
Almost all of you rated statement 1, 3, 4 and 5 as agree or strongly agree. Only 2 people rated statement 2 as agree or strongly agree, most of you disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

Who makes up the group?

We asked you to tell us whether you thought you were someone who:

- a) Delivers or supervises peer support – as part of your job or as a volunteer
- b) Is a parent who might use a peer support service
- c) Is part of an organisation that has a professional interest in peer support programmes and their evaluation

Some people identified with one group, others belong to more than one group. We've shown this on the pie chart below. The letters correspond to the groups described above and the number in each slice of pie tells you how many people gave that response.



What is it about the project that interests you?

We were interested to know what it was about this particular project that interests you and why you have decided to become involved. Many of you have received or given support in one form or another and want to be involved because you think it might benefit other parents; some of you were concerned that sometimes parents might get the 'wrong' kind of support and information from other sources. Many of you also feel it is important to evaluate the effectiveness of the service, to provide evidence that could be used to promote peer support and in applying for funding and to improve services. To do this you felt that we need to look at the any benefits of the programme, try to evaluate them in a way that is valid and meaningful and thinks about how we can weight them against the costs of providing the service.