

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Reducing Parental Conflict

Early Help Conference

29th October 2019



Background and Context

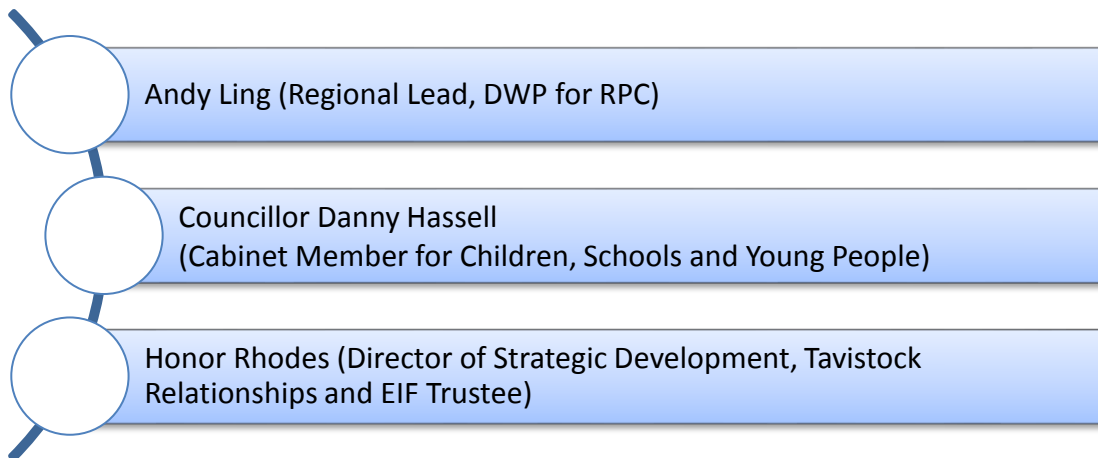
The first Tower Hamlets Reducing Parental Conflict conference was held on 29th October 2019, in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions.

Objectives

The objectives of the conference were to:

- engage Senior Leaders and Managers from across Local Authority and Partner agencies in a shared understanding of the significant impact parental conflict has on children and young people
- encourage leaders to reflect in their strategic plans a commitment to enhance the knowledge of their teams in identifying and supporting families in conflict
- raise awareness of an excellent training programme to be rolled out in the coming months, that will provide staff with the knowledge, skills and understanding to help them reduce the negative impact of conflict between parents on their children

Speakers



Attendees

This conference is free to attend and is being organised in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions, (DWP).

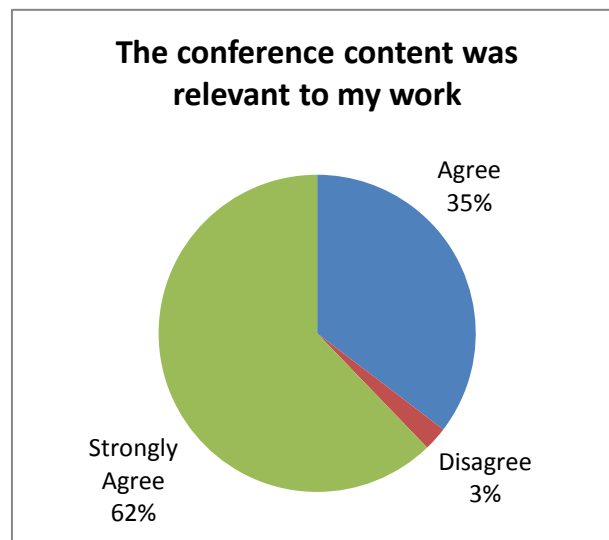
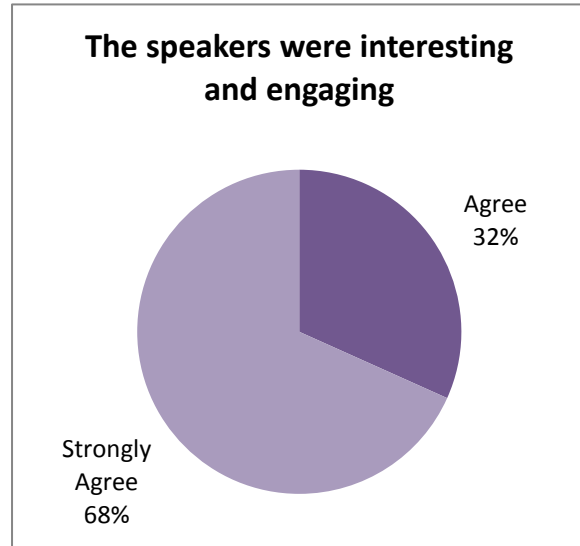
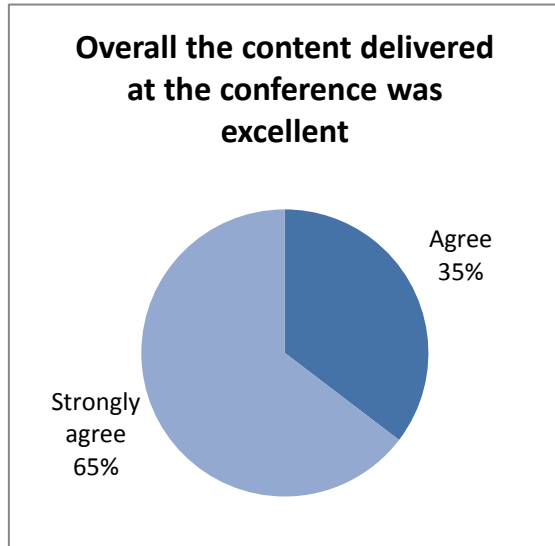
The Parental Conflict (RPC) Conference is for all managers and frontline staff delivering public services, to come together for a half day of information sharing about the evidence base for RPC.

Professionals from across local government, NHS, children's services, public health, adult mental health, housing, the police, schools and the voluntary sector were all invited to attend.

Feedback

Evaluations were undertaken at the end of the conference. 82 attendees completed forms. Delegates were asked:

1. What did you find most useful about the conference?
2. How relevant will this learning be to your current and future work?
3. Any other comments?



100% of attendees had positive feedback about the conference, including the two delegates that felt the content may not be relevant to their role.

'What did you find most useful about the conference?'

tools, exercises and presentation	raising awareness of impact on	tools and suggestions for conversations with parents	turn away from focus on child behaviour or one parent behaviour
never considered conflict outside of domestic abuse before	couple approach to conflict	role of the professionals	Placing significance on parental conflict separate from DA/DV
how to get parents to reflect on their relationship	opportunity to think through challenging issues	thinking about root causes and poor outcomes for children	The importance of recording PC in assessments
highlighting commonly avoided areas: Sex/relationships	understanding how my role can support parents with conflict	impact of PC on children's development	involving absent parents and other family members

'How relevant will this learning be to your current and future work?'

Thinking about our questioning techniques	building quality of relationships into assessment	relevant in context of whole family working	when and how to ask about parental relationships
new concept of PC rather than just focussing on DV	try to influence organisational change and others' practice	how to support frontline practitioners	taking different approaches to working with parents
using the tips to deal with difficult families	useful information for working with single parents	emphasising importance of romance and sex in relationships	understanding the causes of conflict
can use the tools for working with families	will incorporate in deliver of services and planning	really important to consider when assessing foster carers	making children the focus

How will you/your organisation raise awareness of RPC?

The responses were categorised into two categories:

our work with parents

- ✓ Ask questions about relationship between parents / partners / exes
- ✓ Consider parental conflict as an open subject in family group conferences
- ✓ Talk about Sex (appropriately and in context of course!)
- ✓ Raise awareness within the community
- ✓ Use family trees/genograms to visualise and help families to open up
- ✓ Use the parent problem checklist and pie exercise with parents
- ✓ Parental Conflict is nothing to be ashamed of. It's how we resolve and talk about it. Will will lead the way/conversations
- ✓ It's okay to talk about relationships. We must lead the way by being interested, compassionate, brave and curious

our processes/procedures

- ✓ Review our assessment forms to ask about parental conflict
- ✓ Discuss in team meetings, forums, supervision, incorporate in meetings
- ✓ Attend the Train the Trainer programme to deliver it ourselves
- ✓ Supporting practitioners to have challenging conversations with parents
- ✓ Have a parental lead in the team for staff to go to for advice/support



What key messages will you, as practitioners, give to parents?

- Build positive relationships... you are role models!
- Be honest and ask for help when you need it.
- Let's look at the root cause of the problems and start addressing them early so that you can get help
- Both parents needs to be involved
- You are both doing the best you can!
- There are other parents experiencing the same thing
- I want to work with you to find solutions to these issues and that means asking some difficult questions
- Your relationship affects your child's development
- we provide a range of support on relationships and parenting, we're here if you need to talk.

Were the objectives of the conference met?

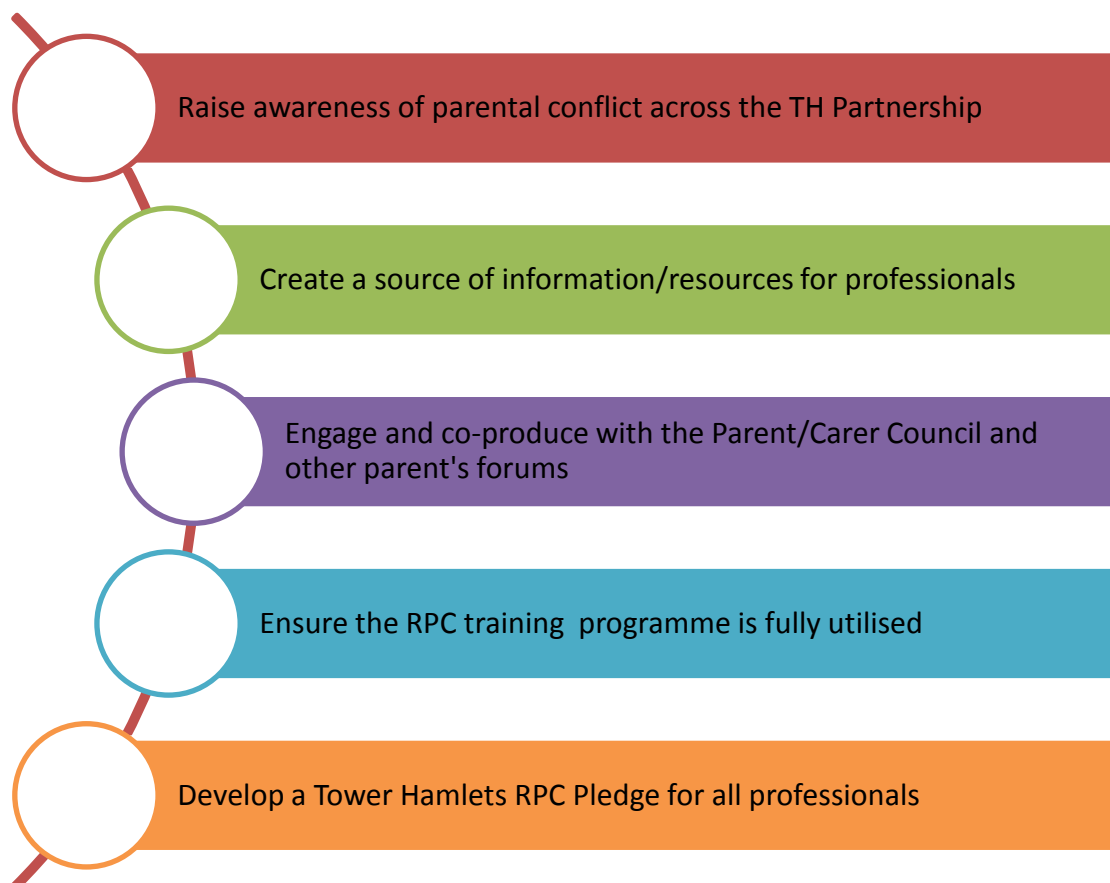
Strategic Leads, Senior Leaders and Managers from across the Local Authority and Partner Agencies attended and contributed to interagency learning and discussions. Attendees agreed that parental conflict has significant impact on children and young people and their outcomes.

At the end of the conference, all attendees were given the opportunity to contribute towards a RPC pledge – identifying how they would raise awareness back in their own areas of work and

Details of the RPC training programme were circulated, and since the conference, a number of professionals across social work, partner organisations, health and police have contacted the Workforce Development Team to express an interest in the training programme and e-learning.

The conference was highly commended and the objectives were met beyond expectation.

Actions/recommendations for the future



If you would like to get involved or find out more about the TH Reducing Parental Conflict Training Programme, please contact Kobita.Begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk.