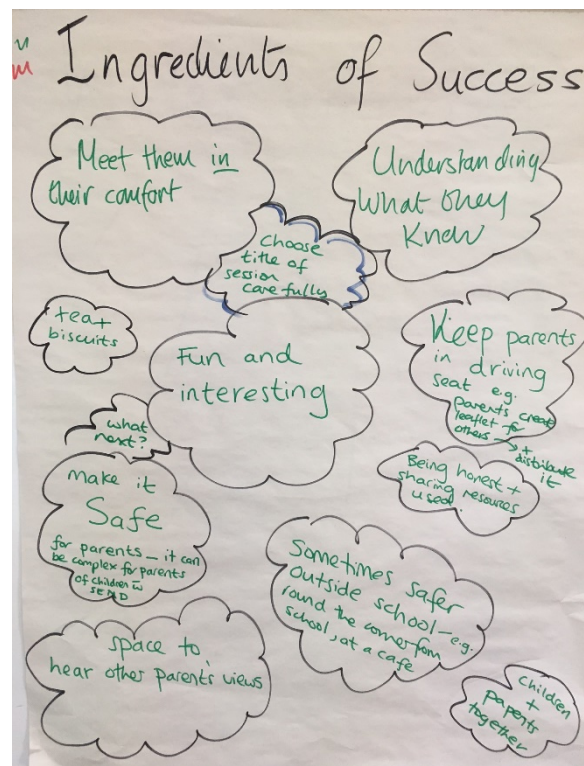


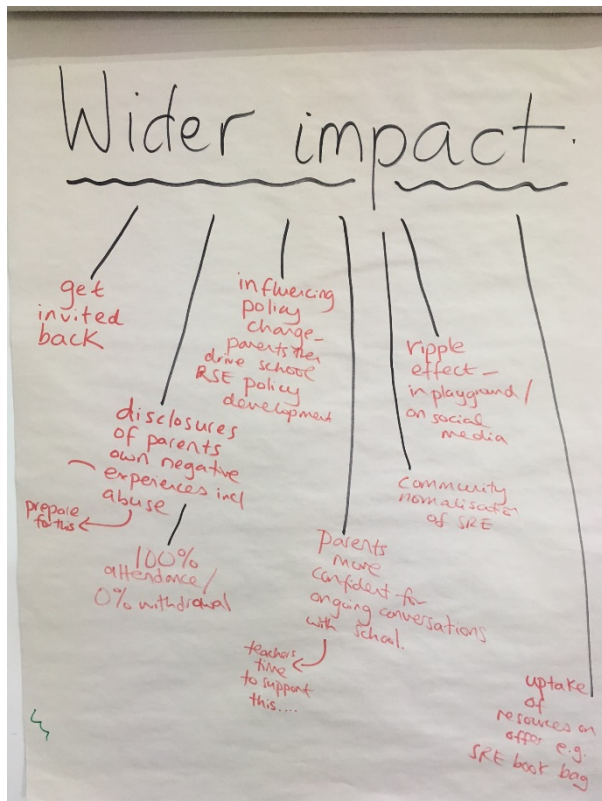
## Sex Education Forum summer members' event: Parents & RSE – Practice sharing session feedback

### Successful working with Parents – Practice Sharing tips

- Meet parents in their comfort zone
- Choose the title of the session carefully – parents may be put off by the title so ensure it reflects their concerns
- Consider the venue. Is school the best/only place for a meeting?
- Understand what parents already know first – and base your session around that
- Make it safe. Attending school may feel unsafe for some parents, or if they have a child with a learning disability they may need some extra support/reassurance
- Ensure parents feel comfortable, supply tea and biscuits to give it a more informal feel
- Make sure the session is interesting, engaging and fun
- Make sure there are opportunities for parents to share with each other and hear other parents views
- Keep parents in the driving seat. Is there something that they can do or contribute?
- Be honest! Share the resources you are using and be prepared to talk about them and answer questions honestly
- Consider the format. E.g. The Parent Café invited parents and children to come and read picture books together and talk about the content. What other formats are there?



## Wider impact of successful parent engagement activities?



- External speakers are more likely to get invited back to deliver sessions. Parents become more active and involved – e.g. they may seek to drive forward policy change or developments in RSE provision
- As parents feel more engaged and involved there may be a ripple effect in the playground/on social media
- May have disclosures from parents about their own negative experiences, including of abuse (staff need to be prepared for this)
- Improved attendance and less withdrawals from RSE
- Parents are more confident to have ongoing conversations with the school and are more likely to approach the school to discuss concerns
- Increased uptake of resources available (book bag, website information)