



## Hampshire Children and Families Forum

### **SOUTHERN PARISHES (EASTLEIGH) BRANCH**

(covering West End, Hedge End, Botley, Bursledon, Netley & Hamble) Co-ordinator – Jane Parker, Tel 01489 691647,

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c/o Freegrounds Infant School Hobb Lane Hedge End SO30 0GG

### **Minutes of Branch Meeting held Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

**At Hamble Primary School, 7 – 9 pm**

#### **1 Welcome and apologies**

Present:

Jane Parker (HCFF Co-ordinator)

Bob Stewart (Chair)

Linda Knowles (Parent & Toddler Development Worker, PLA)

Mel Brook (Hamble Toddlers)

Heidi Knights (Hamble Toddlers & Hamble Pre-school)

Margaret Jamieson (Hamble Primary)

Sue Shearman (Hedge End Medical Centre)

Shan Litjens (Pilands Wood Partnership)

Apologies:

Russell Tribe (EBC Community Safety Officer), Linda Wilson (Carers Centre), Heidi Kavanagh (Young Carers Centre), Di Gray (Hedge End Library), Jacqueline Rolls (EBC), Diana Leahy (Eastleigh Credit Union), Marie Stride (Kool Katz Out of School Club), Mary Boardman (Eastleigh College), Min Partner (Eastleigh Borough Council/Domestic Violence Forum), Pat Statham (Pavilion Pirates Pre-school), Debra McAndrew (Senior Childcare Development Worker), Angela Wright (Skillquest), Karen Davies (School Nurse), Lorraine Tate (Parentline), Debbie Bowen and Jane Hooke (Hamble Playschool)

#### **2 Minutes of last meeting**

Re the Childcare Recruitment Survey, the Countrywide results showed a very similar picture as our branch survey. The top 3 childcare jobs that people were aware of were Childminders, Play/Pre-schools, and Nurseries. The top 2 perceptions of the type of people were female and young. Comments on this included that the sector is not well paid enough for men. **HCFF are in an ideal position, working at grass roots level, to help raise awareness of employment and vacancies in this sector.**

#### **3 Current Workplan**

**Newsletters** – A grant application to Eastleigh Borough Council was successful which means that extra Newsletters to be issued via local schools will continue for the forthcoming year. Last term the EBC funded Newsletters were printed on different coloured paper to the main centrally funded ones. The response to the Scrapstore

Questionnaire showed that these extra Newsletters are essential in helping HCFF link with more parents.  
Hamble Parent & Toddlers contributed an item on their re-opening.

**Special Families Fund** – Such a fund would enable families experiencing financial hardship to purchase additional help. Examples are respite cover, one-to-one helpers for special need children, mother's help if mother is ill or incapacitated, playscheme places... Sometimes a bit of help can go a long way. Many local organisations were willing to be a part of this scheme by volunteering to be on the Fund Panel. HCFF put quite a bit of effort in trying to apply for Local Network Funding. Although locally it was approved, it was rejected at a higher level as its intention was not to grant funds to groups for re-distribution. It has now amended its wording to reflect this. As this is such a worthwhile project, and the local response was encouraging, HCFF will be seeking alternative funds to get this scheme up and running. **Meanwhile, all those working with children and families can pass to HCFF a description of cases where such a fund would have helped. A body of such cases will help any further funding applications.**

#### **Audit of Parenting courses**

The results were considered and it was agreed to issue them attached to the minutes. Jane pointed out that the Audit was not comprehensive in that there are probably those who haven't responded yet. It was agreed that the audit should be a starting point to build on.

**Maintaining the information and adding to it would create a central resource** for everyone to consult. It would be useful for the HCFF co-ordinator when parents or professionals are seeking courses. It would also assist course providers in integrating their courses with others to prevent both duplication and gaps.

It was agreed that as the term parenting was off-putting to some, the title of the document should be changed to 'Courses for Parents and Families.'

#### **Scrapstore Working Party**

Questionnaires issues through the HCFF Newsletter have shown that there is a demand for a service in Eastleigh. Response has come from a variety of sources – childcare groups, parents, community groups... It is felt that the best way forward is to work with the existing Scrapstore facility at Eastpoint centre and enhance what they are offering, rather than compete with them. The Scrapstore could not support a fixed premises venue and the competition between the two centres could result in neither thriving. The proposal to take stock to a local premises eg community centre, may be too impractical. The time spent loading at Scrapstore, transporting, and unloading at venue, repeated at close of session, would be too time-consuming and physically demanding. **The project that therefore seems most viable seems to be the mobile van idea. The Scrapstore would fully support this outreach idea, feel that it would complement**

**their service, and may wish to have a service agreement to borrow the van to access Southampton areas. The van could have regular stopping venues, or may be specially requested, eg for school fairs, community events etc. The van would be able to go out to all parts of the community and would mean that parents who do not have access to transport would be able to access this service.**

The working party are looking at similar schemes elsewhere in the country to see what can be learned from them. It is also investigating working with the Ford Education Centre to set up a project for schools to look at the design/fitting out of a van to be used as a mobile scrapstore.

Margaret Jamieson indicated that Hamble Primary may be willing to be a potential venue for the mobile van.

### **Parents and Professionals Comment Forms**

Mostly enquiries have been for information on local services and provision.

An idea has come forward from a parent in the Hedge End area to raise money for **Children in Need**. The plan is to pilot the idea on a small scale this year, and extend the idea Hampshire-wide next year. **The 'Penny Walk' will involve a single penny being walked from one local group to another eg parent & toddlers, pre-school, schools in a community and then being walked to the next local community** so that ultimately the single penny is passed around a large area. Those attending each group makes a donation eg 50p so that every group to which the penny reaches contributes another sum to the pot. **The further the penny goes, the higher the amount of money raised for Children in Need.** The idea is still being put together, and many of the logistics need to be considered. Any thoughts or ideas are welcomed.

The meeting suggested that having the small penny set into a large 'penny' would make the carrying/handover a more visual action, and better for photo/press opportunities. It was also suggested that ideally within a local community, younger children should walk small distances, and older children eg primary/secondary could walk the penny to the next community.

Those present felt that it would be a good community event and discussed the way it could be passed around Hamble and on to Netley. In some circumstances the walk would have to be creative in design eg Hamble P&T and Hamble Pre-school share the same premises. Local communities may like to have a theme to their walk eg fancy dress.

### **Information Events**

The summer event is an **Under 5's Fun Day**. This has been organised by a variety of local agencies working together – HCFF, PLA P&T Development Worker, Play Co-ordinator, Eastleigh Community Services, Pavilion Pirates Pre-school.

The event is **Free, open to all parents, carers, grandparents, childminders, etc. Parent & Toddler and Pre-school groups may wish to come along with children & their parents as a day out. It is at Baden-Powell Lodge, Woodhouse Lane, Hedge End on 10<sup>th</sup> June (Tuesday) 10am – 2 pm. There will be bouncy castle/soft play area, unusual pets, DIY face painting, teddy bears picnic, arts and crafts, story telling and more!** Some activities are only happening for part of the day, so contact the co-ordinator for more information.

The next Open Information Evening is being planned for Autumn 2003 and the suggestion for this has been MMR. .

#### **Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership**

The county-wide research topic for this term is the EYDCP. A questionnaire, issued to those attending, asks providers (health, childcare, education, youth etc) what they know of the work of the EYDCP eg it's targets, training courses, the Children's Information Services etc. This is form part of the branch End of Term Report, so responses need to be back before the End of Term.

#### **4 Focus on Hamble**

The HCFF spider-diagram of all those with whom the branch links was used as a basis for this discussion. The list was 'personalised' to Hamble. It helped ensure that all relevant contacts are on the HCFF mailing list, and gave a useful overview of the services in Hamble. A summary is attached to the minutes.

#### **5 Information Exchange**

Nothing further was added.

#### **6 Date and venue for next meeting**

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 10 – 12 AM**

**FREEGROUNDS INFANT SCHOOL, (Hobb Lane, Hedge End)**