

CO-ORDINATORS REPORT



FARNBOROUGH & ALDERSHOT BRANCH MEETING

18th January 2008

Co-ordinator - Caroline Keith

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Clothing Exchange - North Town Base - Aldershot

After consulting with my Branch, I used some of the money sitting in the Farnborough Funds to purchase 6 storage boxes for the ladies to use at the Exchange. I have also consulted with Pavilion and they have agreed that we can have use of a couple of the large storage cupboards located within the Exchange itself, so that the ladies can store the clothes there and won't have to keep bringing them all in from the shed each week. The Exchange continues to open every Monday and alternate Friday during Term Time.

Directory of Services

We now have 3 quotes for producing the website with the money that was pledged by Cllr Rod Baulk from his Community Grant Fund. The application form has been completed and we have agreed on who we want to proceed with. Discussions are currently being held to ensure that the completed Website is as inclusive as possible. It is important that the existence of the Directory continues to be publicised amongst the local community and Agencies, to ensure that it is as comprehensive as possible. It is hoped that the mapping exercise that the Disability Forum are currently undertaking can be fed into the completed Website and that it can also be utilised with regard to the Extended Schools agenda.

Consultations / Research

There is no Consultations or Research this quarter. From the information gathered at the Pamper Days last April, a report has been compiled by Janet Hoff on the assessment of Childcare needs for families of children with additional needs and will shortly be available to read on our website www.hcff.org.uk. I have forwarded copies via email, but if you haven't received one and would like a copy, please let me know.

Nepali Translations

Bishnu, a local Nepalese parent, is continuing to work on translations using the computer and keypad at Owls Children's Centre in Farnborough. The Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) are also working from the Children's Centre, alongside Bishnu, every Wednesday afternoon during term time and operate a Nepali Hotline (07877 739302) from 1.30pm-5.30pm aiming to deal with any problems members of the local Nepali community, of all ages, are experiencing. The computer and printer are located in a separate room and this room can be booked by anyone in the local community from 9.00am-6.00pm, Monday to Friday. The translation service that Bishnu offers is open to any local School, Pre-School etc Free of Charge. If anyone would like some information translated into Nepali, please could they contact Chris Frankland at the Children's Centre on 01252 376879 or email her at chris.frankland@farnborough-eyc.hants.gov.uk

Since the 6th November "Simply Ask" has been running at Farnborough CAB, every Tuesday from 2.00pm-4.00pm. The service offers Free, Confidential One to One Advice and Support for Nepali families. A translator is present and questions can be asked re: housing, debt, employment issues, health and well being issues etc. For more information contact: Amanda@hartvolaction.org.uk

Mayfield Community Partnership

On the 10th December the Partnership held a Carol Concert at the Prospect Centre. Although residents were slow to come along initially, the evening was deemed an overall success, with everyone who attended having a great time. There are currently 8 or 9 residents who want to become a member of the Partnership, so it is hoped that the constitution can now be signed off. A list of events has been drawn up for the coming year.

Mayfield Youth (11-16 Years) Partnership

At the last meeting of the Partnership it was decided that Tracy Clements from the Gaming Zone would be appointed to try to secure the funding required for the project to run. A group of Nepali students from Oak Farm and surrounding schools have approached Dave Harvey (Deputy Head at Oak Farm) and expressed their wish for a Youth Club to be available to them that is accessible by all. It was felt that their thoughts and concerns could help Tracy to provide "evidence of need" when she was completing the application forms.

U14'S Directory

Bishnu, at the Owls Children's Centre, is continuing to translate the Directory into Nepali, with the aim of it being completed by the end of March. If anyone would like a copy / copies of the Directory please could they let either myself or Debbie Wall know as they are stored at Rushmoor Borough Council.

Newsletters

There continues to be 10,000 Newsletters printed for Rushmoor each term. If anyone would like me to include an article in the Newsletter, please could they let me have the information asap as I need to have it completed by the 8th February. The Newsletter will be delivered to me week commencing the 3rd March, so please only give me details of events that take place after the middle of March.

Website

www.hcff.org.uk . Please continue to send me details of your events or organisations so that these can be added to our website. All the information on Pre-Schools, Schools, Groups, Play Areas etc that is held for Aldershot and Farnborough can be accessed by clicking on the "Search" button on the homepage of the website and then by clicking the "Services Search" button.

CAF (Common Assessment Framework)

So far there have been 44 CAFs received by the Locality Team from across Rushmoor. It has been agreed to fund a Rushmoor Event in March, to be held at the Princes Hall. The Blackwater Valley and Hart Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Local Implementation Group (BVH CAMHS LIG) also have funding to organise an event and it was suggested that the money available to both groups be combined and a joint event held. This is currently being organised jointly by the two groups. The event will consist of Workshops and there will also be a keynote speaker. The aim of the day is to raise awareness amongst those who have not previously been reached.

Disability Forum

The Forum feels that ultimately funding should be gained to appoint a Co-ordinator who could start to address the gaps in provision across the District. It was also agreed at the last meeting that different Agencies / Services would be invited to future Forum meetings to talk about what level of service they can provide for children and young people with disabilities and their families. A mapping exercise is currently being undertaken to see what is already available locally. A letter is to be sent to all providers in the Borough asking what activities / services they provide etc. When this has been completed a folder of services will be compiled and the information will also be made available on the Office Bobs Website and the RBC Website.

HCFF AGM

The AGM held on the 27th November was deemed a great success and the evaluation forms were very positive. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve things for next year, we would love to hear from you.

CAMHS

Hampshire Children's Trust are contacting families and approaching schools in Hampshire to help them learn more about how effective their services are in supporting children and families who have experienced social, behavioural, or emotional difficulties. HCFF have been given a questionnaire by the Children's Trust to send out to relevant schools or to give to individuals, so that they can detail any experiences they may have had. The information is a chance for these people to have a voice in the ongoing development of children's services. The information will be fed back to the Local Implementation Group and the County Strategy Group, both of which are responsible for planning and implementing necessary changes that are impossible to get right without input from the community. In February / March 2008 HCFF will hold a local buffet lunch at which we will present our findings, check we have correctly represented the views and to offer a chance for you to talk to local service managers and other parents. Anyone who has supplied his or her contact details will be invited along.

The Blackwater Valley and Hart Local Implementation Group (BVH LIG) is really keen for any relevant Agencies to attend their meetings that are held in the Connexions Suite in Aldershot on a monthly basis. They want to ensure that they have the best representation for the community to plan, bid and implement actions and projects which will enable them to make a positive difference in Children and Young People's Mental health in this area. For more details contact Caroline Hobbs [Caroline.Hobbs@hants.gov.uk] who is the CAMHS Partnership Co-ordinator.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Just a reminder that each County Councillor has a new allocated budget of £10,000 with effect from April. These grants can be used to help fund initiatives that benefit the local community in the area they have been elected to represent. The grants are available for voluntary organisations and community groups to use to initiate a project, contribute to a community based project that might otherwise be vulnerable, or to make a local organisation a grant for a specific one off item of expenditure such as new equipment (but not running costs). Further details is shown on the County Councils grants website at www.hants.gov.uk/grants.

CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Safeguarding children is paramount and this can be a huge responsibility for people charged with this task in clubs and communities and the appropriate training courses are often hard to find. The Children and Young People's Alliance has launched a series of **free** training events across the county in February and March 2008. These workshops are aimed at all kinds of organisations, including football, rugby and other sports clubs, faith-based community groups, youth clubs and parent and toddler groups. The one-day workshops will cover Child Protection, Safer Recruitment and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). The Hampshire Voluntary Sector Children & Young People's Alliance is able to organise these courses after receiving funding from the Children's Workforce Development Council. The sessions are designed to be accessible to everyone and there is financial help for organisations struggling to send someone on these courses. Participants will also be able to have their training needs assessed by an expert from Learning Net.

THE VENUES ARE:

Winchester – Kings School – February 27th

Basingstoke – Popley Fields – March 11th

Liphook – Millennium Hall – March 18th

Gosport – Brune Park School – March 19th

Totton - Testwood Sports College – March 25th

Please contact me for an application form.

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