

**CO-ORDINATORS REPORT**  
**HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FORUM**  
**FARNBOROUGH & ALDERSHOT BRANCH MEETING**  
**30th September 2005**

**Co-ordinator - Caroline Keith**

**Clothing Exchange – North Town Base - Aldershot**

Along with the RVS Volunteer Bureau and the Estates Officer from Pavilion, I have been working to set up the Clothing Exchange that will be open every Thursday morning between 10.00am and 1.00pm at the North Town Base in Aldershot. The Exchange officially opened on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September with Meridian TV coming along to film the morning in progress. The Aldershot News and Pavilion Press Officer were also in attendance. The idea of the project is to bring the local community together on a regular basis, enabling them to exchange their unwanted clothes for other clothes, toys or books. Anybody that does not have anything to exchange can buy up to 5 items for 50p each. A credit system will operate for those who bring in more items than they wish to take away on any one particular week. Tea and biscuits will be served at each session and an application has been submitted to the LNF to enable a crèche worker to be present each week giving the parents / carers time to spend networking with others. For more details either contact me on 01252 518136 or Debbie Atkinson the Pavilion Estates Officer on 01252 314437.

**Parentaid**

An application for funding has been submitted to Rushmoor Borough Council and a meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September with Thomsons Local Directories who proved to be very helpful in giving us advice on how to move the project forward. Although they were not able to provide funding, it was felt that once the Directory was up and running they would possibly be able to incorporate some of the non confidential information, that we would have collated, on the many different Agencies into their local Directory. This would be in a similar format to the NHS Direct information that is currently included in an additional section at the back of their books. Further funding, to enable completion of the project, is actively being sort.

**Events & Consultations (Re: Sure Start Programme)**

As you will all now be aware, as part of our funding we have been asked to conduct surveys and consultations with parents and carers every quarter on matters to be specified by the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). The last consultation we completed for the Unit was on "Childcare for 10-13 year olds" By far the most frequent comment that came out of the consultation was that organised childcare did not cater for the older age ranges and that most PlaySchemes stopped at the age of 11. Most parents found that, even if their child did attend a holiday PlayScheme, many

of the activities were not appropriate or engaging enough for their age. The children, who did attend, stated that they did not want to be with other children who were much younger than them. If anyone would like to see the full report, I would be happy to email / send one on. The Consultation and Research topic this quarter is on Leisure Facilities for Children with Additional Needs and their siblings. I have compiled a list of facilities / clubs available around the local area and, again, would be happy to pass it on to anyone who would like a copy.

### **Funding for Nepali Keypad and Computer**

I have managed to source a keypad to enable translation into Nepali. I am in the process of applying for funding from the Refugee Community Development Fund for both the keypad and a computer that will be located at the Farnborough Early Years Centre. As there are over 300 Nepali families located around this area, I feel that it will provide an invaluable tool for the local community. It is envisaged that eventually we will be able to get translation of the U14's Directory for use within Rushmoor.

### **Mayfield Partnership**

The Mayfield Community Fun Afternoon was held at The Prospect Centre in Farnborough on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. The purpose of the afternoon was to engage the local community and to raise their awareness of the Mayfield Community Partnership that meets once a month on a Tuesday evening. The Partnership looks at different ways of improving life for the local residents. It is hoped, that eventually, they will take over the running of The Partnership and "have their say" in the way forward for the Mayfield area of Farnborough. This would enable the many Agencies who attend on a regular basis to take a back seat and be guided by the Community. The afternoon proved a great success with many local residents attending. 15 people expressed an interest in attending the next Partnership meeting. It is hoped that the Fun Afternoon can become an Annual Event.

### **Library Project**

I am still continuing to rotate the Library Books amongst the various Toddler Groups in Aldershot that are located in the most striving areas. All of the Groups that I visit seem to make good use of the books and are always keen to have them renewed each time. I will be attending a "Springboard" morning at one of the Groups in November where I will talk about the role that HCFF can play within the local community. As our consultation topic for next quarter is based around Toddler Groups it will provide me with a good opportunity to go and talk to the parents / carers attending the Groups.

### **0-19 Debate (Extending the Age Range for HCFF)**

It was agreed at the EGM to extend the remit of HCFF to cover 0-19 years. It now has to be decided how this is going to be implemented and funding to do so will be actively sort.

### **U14'S Directory**

There are only 5 boxes of Directories remaining, so if anyone would like me to pass some onto them, please let me know asap.

### **Water Feature Money**

HCFF will be the Charity named on the Water Feature based in Princes Mead, Farnborough between the 26<sup>th</sup> September and the 8<sup>th</sup> October. Any donations made by the public will be collected, counted and then sent to HCFF Head Office. The money will be for the sole use of the Farnborough Branch.