



Hampshire Children and Families Forum
c/o Bushy Leaze Early Years Centre, Eastbrooke Road, Alton, GU34 2DR
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MINUTES FOR HCFF ALTON BRANCH MEETING
HELD AT THE HARVEST CHURCH
ON 12th January 2005

Present: Kim Francis-HCFF, Joanna Whitfield – HCFF, Maria Elliott – Leisure Learning Activities Co-rod, Jennie Marlow – Chatterbox Toddler Group, Sue Dane – Stepping Stones Toddler Group, Colin Edwards- Student Health Visitor, Julie Alexander – ACA Pre-school, Karen Lloyd – Parent, Pam Bradford – Alton Town Council, Dave Lock-Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Evelyn Askew-Relate, Verity Tucker-Brown-Portage, Chris Finlay-Portage

Apologies: Stephanie Shirra- Health Visitor, Claire Coxwell- VAEH, Mark Rowley- Social Services Mary McIntosh – Alton Toy Library, Sandra Hughes- Alton Toy Library, Debra Robinson- Governor Bushy Leaze, Ruth Matthews-Parent

Joanna opened the meeting by welcoming everybody and wishing everyone a happy New Year. Jo then invited members to read through the Discussion paper if they hadn't had a chance to read it.

Co-ordinators Report: Kim went through the report and updated members on any projects she is involved in. The Focus day in April was highlighted and members were invited to book a place as soon as possible if they were to attend as places are filling up.

Kim then went on to tell the members that the Homestart Weywater project has been given funding from the Big Lottery Fund, and that the project will hopefully be up and running by September 2005.

Kim then went on to explain that she would be working along side Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to help distribute information regarding FREE Home fire safety checks in the form of leaflet distribution via the next newsletter.

Kim also explained that she had been in contact with Richard Harris from the Youth Service and informed members that she had offered her help and support should they need it for future projects.

Sure Start Programme

Joanna ran through the consultation that had been undertaken since the previous Branch Meeting and that the subject had been Deferred Entry. She also explained that the results from the Children's Information Service was available for members to read but not takeaway as the report was only from the North of the County.

Joanna then went on to explain about the next consultation subject being After School childcare places for 10-13 year olds. Kim asked Branch Members if they had any ideas on how to obtain this information. Jennie Marlow and Karen Lloyd both took questionnaires away with them and said they would try to get them completed. Kim was very grateful for this.

HCFF Constitution

Each member was given the discussion paper on arrival at the meeting. All members were invited to read and digest the paper. Jo advised that a vote on the discussion paper would be undertaken at the meeting and the result minuted. Jo then asked if any member wished to attend the E.G.M with the Branch Vote. But if no one wished to attend, a vote by proxy would be taken.

Jo then opened the floor for the vote and it resulted in 10 Members voted in favour of the age increase. Branch members also decided to allow the vote at the EGM to be made by Ann Hammond on their behalf. Pam Bradford asked about what would happen if the EGM vote resulted in a 50/50 overall result. (50% in favour of

change and 50% against change) Jo informed Pam that a 2/3 vote in favour had to be cast in order for an EGM to be called change to be actioned.

Speaker-Evelyn Askew

Evelyn explained what her role within Relate involves to get funding for Relate to run. She described all their services available by Relate and Relation, which include Couple Counselling, Domestic Violence, Drug Abuse, Redundancy and many more.

Evelyn informed members that Relates main centre is in Basingstoke but that the CAB in Alton has an office for Relate. The opening times are: 16:30-19:30. Appointments made via Basingstoke office.

Services for young people (Relateen) is aimed youngsters whose parents are going through divorce, Blended families (Step families) and other issues teenagers may wish to discuss. Results in raising self-esteem are very good and help avoid exclusion from school and society.

Evelyn then explained that Family Counselling is supported by the Children's Fund and that 80% of Lone parents who have children use this service. Those parents who have children with Aspergers and Autism have to travel to Basingstoke for counselling services.

Overall, 25% of referrals are from the Doctor, but 75% are self-referrals.

If someone contacts Relate regarding pregnancy, they are given priority to find out whether or not they wish to continue with the pregnancy and either way offer help and support to them.

For more information regarding Relate please go to www.relate.org.uk or www.relate-basingstoke.org.uk

Website Issues

If anyone would like any information posted on the HCFF website, please forward to Kim. Maria Russell said that she might have some information regarding courses to go onto the Website.

Newsletter

Joanna informed members that 2,500 newsletters were distributed around the Alton area each term.

Please can you let Kim have any articles before the 21st January for the next Newsletter. Kim informed members that space was short, but if necessary she could change things around. If the deadline was missed, Kim said that the information could go onto the website and then placed into the next newsletter if not too late.

Local Issues

Maria Elliot –Maria informed members that a parenting course was being run at the community centre by Sally Phelps. Sally ran a couple of taster courses last year but is back again to run a full-length course. Maria also informed members that she was already in the throws of organising the summer activities week. *Maria Elliot-mail address: acaaded@btconnect.com*

Sue Dane from stepping-stones informed members that the Christmas Service was very well attended.

Sue Dane e-mail address is: danesusan@btopenworld.com

Dave Lock informed members how the Fire service has changed and how Fire Safety and Death within the home was a priority of the Service now. Free Home Fire Safety Checks are being offered to everyone but the key areas are those in high risk groups (Low income families, high risk, drug users etc) If the assessment shows more fire prevention is needed, smoke detectors will be fitted free of charge. Dave then went on to explain about Fire Setters. Police, Parents and other organisations refer the youth to the programme to help them with their problem.

Dave finished off by saying how he would like Kim to distribute the leaflets via the Newsletter drop in February in order to reach the targeted areas. He also stated that he would place information in the Newsletter with relevant information including phone numbers and web site information.

Pam Bradford updated members on the Skate Park and said that it won't be ready by Easter but more likely ready by the summer. Teething problems still being encountered.

Verity Tucker Brown from Portage said that Portage PALS was now to be held at the Chase Centre in Bordon rather than the Community Centre. Dates to be entered onto Website and Newsletter.

Date Of Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday April 27th 2005

Time: 11.30am – 1.00pm

Place: The Harvest Church, Church Street (upstairs)

Early Years Development

& Childcare Partnership



Hampshire
County Council

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