



Hampshire Children and Families Forum
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MINUTES FOR HCFF ALTON BRANCH MEETING
HELD AT ALTON FIRE STATION
ON 12TH JULY 2006

Present:

Kim Francis-HCFF, , Christine Lehegarat – Homestart, Sharon Goodchild – HCC Parent Development Team ,
Councillor Pam Bradford, Dawn Murphy – PLA, Karen Mabbot- PLA, Karen Lloyd – Parent, Annette Picozzi –
Outreach Worker for Bushy Leaze, Maria Elliot – Alton Community Centre

Apologies:

Sue Dane – Stepping Stones, Jennie Marlow – Chatterbox, Ella Palmer – Wootey Infants School, Mandy Prentice
– EECU, Amanda Stewart – PALS (NHPCT), Alston Clifford – Extended Schools Co-Ordinator, Jenny Hollington
– PALS (Partnership for Active Leisure Scheme)

Kim opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and informed members of apologies received. Kim informed members that due to having a lot on, Jennie Marlow would no longer be attending these meetings. She said that something had to give and felt she had been with HCFF for a long time and felt it was time to step aside so she could allocate the time to other things. Kim thanked Jennie when she saw her and said she would stay in contact and still keep her on the mailing list. Jennie was happy for Kim to do this.

Co-ordinators Report:

Kim went through the co-ordinators report in slightly more detail informing members that Parenting workshops and programmes were still the main focus at present. Trying to find out what is needed and when to hold the sessions was an issue, but with the support of the Community centre and the Parent Development Team, Kim felt that this would be resolved quite quickly and painlessly.

Kim highlighted to the members the topic regarding Children Centres. This was then discussed in great detail and it was felt that at present people didn't fully understand where 'we were at' regarding Children's Centres. Kim informed members that Mandy Prentice was unable to attend this meeting due to a site visit taking place, but would hopefully be able to attend the next meeting in October. Kim went onto say that she had been asked to find out if there was anywhere in the Hangers and Forest area to offer Children Centre facilities. Dawn Murphy informed Kim and the other members that there was a newly restored building in Liss called the Crossways that may be able to offer something. Dawn said that she would forward to Kim contact details. Kim thanked Dawn for this. Kim then went onto ask Pam Bradford if she may be able to pass on the details of the Councillor associated with this area. Pam said that she would do her best to find out. The outcomes of the discussion were that members would like to have more information regarding Children Centres and for the information to give an easy to understand run down of how and where they are going to be run. Kim asked members if they could hang tight until more information was readily available to distribute.

Kim went through the rest of the co-ordinators report and invited members to ask any questions relating to the report but members were happy with what had been written and with what Kim had been doing since the last meeting.

Consultation

Kim invited members to look at the latest consultation report relating to Support for young parents and stated that if anyone wanted to have a copy emailed to them then they should let Kim know. Members who attended the meeting all said they would like a copy. Kim said she would minute this and also invite other members who were unable to attend the meeting to let Kim know if they would like a copy of the report sent to them.

Kim then went onto inform members that the research topic for this term was about the availability of services for vulnerable children and their families. This was discussed at length and Kim informed members that from the research carried out so far, it seemed that there was a lot of national organisations but not many real local organisations offering services. Christine Lehegarat from Homestart informed Kim that she did have a useful local contact number but both Kim and Christine agreed that due to the sensitivity and confidentiality of the organisation, Kim would not minute this number and also not put it onto the research sheet.

Complaints Procedure

Kim informed members that there was to be a new complaints procedure available for parents to have the opportunity to air the views and concerns and complaints regarding services that are available to them. As yet HCFF are to receive training on this and so Kim informed members that she would update them at the next meeting. Christine Lehrgeret from Homestart stated that she had a copy of a complaints and compliment form from Social Services. Kim asked if she could have a copy and Christine invited Kim to pick one up from the Office in Bordon.

Newsletter

Kim informed members that only 2,500 copies of the newsletter had been distributed this term across the area including: Bentley, Binstead, Holybourne, Alton, Chawton, Ropley and Medstead.

Kim informed members that she would be looking for funding of the newsletter to ensure that 2,500 were available to distribute. Any ideas would be greatly received.

Kim informed members that there is no newsletter until the autumn term.

Directories

Kim updated members on the directory situation and stated that she is in the process of obtaining consent from people regarding details on their information relating to the directory as this information is going onto a database and signed consent has to be obtained before it can go onto the database.

Any Other Business

Kim updated members about the Play Strategy and where it was at this present time. Kim informed members that a draft copy had been written and sent via the working group to send out to their contacts. Kim informed members that she had sent this to her mailing list and invited members to read and respond as necessary.

Kim then went onto say that once feedback had been received and included in the plan, then it would be rubber stamped by the Community Partnership and then sent to the Big Lottery to apply for the pot of money for £200,000. People would then be invited to apply for some of this money for their groups etc.

Information Exchange

Sharon Goodchild- Parent Development Team-Sharon informed members that there are currently two training courses being run at present for 16 new Confident Parent confident Kids facilitators and 16 new Supporting Parents of Teenagers Facilitators. Both these courses were oversubscribed and therefore more courses are going to be run September or October. There is also training going on for facilitators to run a new course called Special Children Special Parents. This course was piloted last year, and is now being rolled out across the county. For more information contact Sharon at Sharon.goodchild@hants.gov.uk

Christine Lehegarat –Home start Coordinator- Christine informed members that the Mayor of Alton will be opening the new Homestart office in Chalet Hill in Bordon tomorrow (Thursday) and invited all those at the meeting to the opening. The mayor has chosen Homestart as his charity for the year. homestart@weywater.wanadoo.co.uk

Maria Elliot – Alton Community Centre- Maria informed members that Richard Swainston had received some money for Community Strategy at EHDC to help with the running of parenting courses. Richards has pulled in

many agencies to help with this project and is hopeful that something will be available in the new term. Maria then went onto inform members of the Summer activities week planned during the Summer Holidays. Kim is placing information on the website but for those not at the meeting, School of Rock and an Arts and Craft Week are on offer at the Community Centre week commencing Monday 31st July. acaaded@btconnect.com

Karen Lloyd – Parent- Karen informed members that no one turned up for the Autism and Aspergers meeting she had organised and the Picnic organised for the Twins club was rained off. Karen is to continue with both support groups and was encouraged not to give up. karenedgar@aol.com

Karen Mabbott- PLA – Karen informed members that there wasn't going to be a fun day this year but that something on a smaller scale may be on the cards. Members asked if perhaps the PLA might want to piggy back onto the Fun Day that Maria Elliot is involved with, with regards to the live performance of the School of Rock activity week that is to end in the Band Stand. Karen said she would see what interest there might be and perhaps organise something.

Dawn Murphy – PLA – Dawn informed members regarding a new initiative coming in with regards to the bringing together the Birth to 3 Matters and Foundation Stage education. It is to be up and running by 2008. This is at consultation stage at present. The other initiative being introduced is a transformation fund which offers settings the chance to obtain funds to employ someone to 'manage a setting'. This person will have a degree in any subject and then will have to go on either a short or long route training programme that will enable them to receive the title 'Early Years Professional'. The setting can then have Early Years Professional status and receive extra money for having it. Dawn did say that there was a little unrest in this subject due to those working in settings wouldn't be recognised for the hard work they had put in regarding the children and setting they worked with. Members were quite taken aback by this as they felt that someone who had never worked with children but had a degree may not necessarily be the best person for the job.

Kim informed members that due to the fact that this meeting should've been after the Summer Holidays, the next meeting wasn't scheduled until the New Year. It was decided however that an informal get together of the members be planned, and so October 18th was decided.

Kim thanked everyone for coming and wished them a nice summer.

Date: Wednesday 18th October 2006

Time: 11.30 – 1.00 pm

Place: Alton Fire Station

Early Years Development

& Childcare Partnership

 Hampshire
County Council

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