



Hampshire Children and Families Forum
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MINUTES FOR HCFF ALTON BRANCH MEETING
Alton Fire Station
ON 2nd May 2006

Present: Kim Francis-HCFF, , Karen Lloyd – Parent, Pam Bradford – Alton Town Council, Christine Lehegarat-Homestart Weywater, Maria Elliot- Adult Education Alton Community Centre, Annette Picozzi- Bushy Leaze Outreach Teacher, Alison Cliffe- Extended Schools Co-ordinator Bushy Leaze, Karen Cunningham- Alton and Petersfield Portage, Amanda Stewart-PALS Co-ord NHPCT

Apologies: Mandy Prentice-EECU, Pam Jones- Alton Town Council, Christine Glanville Youth Co-Ord Deaf and hard of Hearing, Jennie Marlow- Chatterbox Toddler Group, Sharon Goodchild-Parent Development Team

Kim opened the meeting by welcoming everybody and thanked them for coming. Kim then invited members to read the minutes of the last meeting and to inform her if there was anything that needed attention.

Co-ordinators Report: Kim went through the report and informed members on what she had been involved in since January. Kim spoke about the CREW week (Crime Reduction and Environment Week) and the impact it had had on the area targeted which was the Lipscombe Rise area of the town. Kim informed members of the activities undertaken during the week, which included litter picking, graffiti removal, abandoned cars being removed and a general tidy up of the area. Kim stated that the Police were going to visit both Wootey Infants and Juniors on the Monday of the CREW but were unable to due to the Schools having an Inset day. Kim felt that had she had more involvement from the start she would've been able to inform the group that the school had an inset day and therefore a visit could've been programmed in on another day. Kim let members know that there was to be another CREW in Alton, but next time it would be for a whole week rather than a few days. Councillor Pam Bradford asked if Alton warranted a full CREW and Kim said that running two mini-CREWs was much harder than concentrating on one area, and it was felt that better links with the community would be formed over a week. Pam Bradford was happy with this response.

Kim went on to inform members of the Confident Parents Confident Kids course she had just finished running and explained some of the difficulties running the course. Some of this included the attendance of the participants, room availability and reaching those parents's who could really benefit from attending the course. Kim stated that next time she would meet the parent's before the course started so that they had some idea of what to expect but also to gain some knowledge of they types of parent's that were going to attend. Kim felt that the course was a worthwhile cause and would be running another course in the future. Karen Lloyd stated that as good as these parenting courses were, she felt that there should be more available for those parents's whose children have special needs. Karen did however state that she had some information on Special Needs Parenting Courses available through the same people who run the CPCK courses. Kim said she would forward some details regarding the County Parent Development Team to inform Karen of any useful courses.

Kim informed members of the meetings she had attended and these included: Children's Fund, Homestart, Hampshire Play Strategy, , Working with Young People Surgeries, Teenage Sex and Relationship taster session and Alton CREW

Kim then went on to speak about the 'Working with Young People Surgeries' that she has been involved in and explained that there was to be a pilot event on Thursday May 11th at East Hants District Council inviting those involved with working with Young People to come along and have some of their questions answered relating to the work they are involved in. The principle of the event is to have a question time rather like Gardner's Question time, where a panel of organisations are asked questions to which they will have some kind of answer to help those with issues regarding working with Young People. The second part of the evening is based on 'Speed Dating' where each table has a panel member on it and groups have five minutes to talk about a specific subject relating to the panel member sat at their particular table before being moved onto the next table. The idea is that by the end of the evening, attendees will have some idea on how to overcome some of the problems they are

experiencing at present, but also it will be a chance for those working in this area can have the chance to network and gain ideas from each other and feel that they have some support.

Consultation

Kim ran through the consultation that had been undertaken since the previous Branch Meeting and that the subject had been Support for Young Parents. Kim stated that she was unable to visit any specific groups aimed at young parents so she put together information gathered herself and from a group 'Bumps and Babes' in Bordon. Kim also informed members that the feedback regarding the 'telephone list' was very positive and that some agencies including health visitors and the Pregnancy Crisis Centre had asked for copies.

KF

Kim also informed members that she had a hard copy of the previous consultation available for members to look at regarding 'The Value and viability of Parent and Toddler groups'

Kim then informed members that the next consultation was yet to be decided but would inform members as soon as one was given.

Newsletter

Kim informed members that only 500 newsletters were distributed around the Alton area last term due to funding. 2,500 are being printed this term. However, funding is becoming an issue and Kim asked members if they had any ideas on where she could go to for funding options. Pam Bradford said Kim ought to try Guy Riddoch at East Hants District Council. Kim said she would, but that she would also approach the Town Council.

Kim invited members to send any articles for the next issue to her by Friday 5th May.

Directories

Due to the directory being almost at a stage that it is out of date, Kim informed members that she would like to place a hard copy at the Library and possibly at the Health Centre, Bushey Leaze and Wootey Infant School to enable updates and additions to be placed in the file. Kim could then take the relevant page home, update and return to the places where the directory was kept. This way an updated version was always available. This would help short term until a pot of money became available to fund a whole new directory. Members agreed that this would be a good idea.

Any Other Business

Members were informed that the Bordon Branch thought it may be a good idea to run the two branch meetings together. Karen Lloyd felt this was a good idea, but stated that if the meeting were in Bordon, she wouldn't be able to attend. Pam Bradford felt that it should be given a go to see how it would go. Others felt that issues between the two areas were too different and one meeting wouldn't allow time to discuss local issues relating to the different areas. Kim would again go back to the Bordon Branch members and ask them how they felt about it. Kim will keep branch members posted on the matter.

Kim spoke about the New Play Strategy being written and explained that there was a pot of money available for 'Play' but until a strategy was written district councils were unable to access the money. Pam Bradford stated that it was important that when the money was available for allocation to projects that the application form alone were easy to understand and that all those who were involved in smaller projects were given as much help and support to help them receive some of the money. Kim would feed this back to the strategy group to ensure this concern was raised. Kim also said that a Draft copy of the document would be sent out to ensure that everyone had a chance to look through it to make sure all angles had been covered and if something was missed, then it could be added or amended accordingly before the final copy was completed.

Information Exchange

Maria Elliott- Alton Community Centre, Adult Education: Maria informed members of the play projects coming up during half term and the Summer holidays. Maria asked if these could be advertised in the next Newsletter and Kim said this would be fine. Maria also informed members of a Parenting Skills Project Richard Swainston is involved in but stated this wasn't the average parenting skills courses he would be running. These are aimed at those parent's whose children are well known to the police and are possible young offenders. The idea is that Parent's are targeted rather than the Child and that the Parent's are expected to attend these courses in order for them to gain a better knowledge and understanding on parenting skills. *Email:* acaaded@btconnect.com

Amanda Stewart PALS- Amanda explained her role within the NHPCT and basically informed members that she is there to deal with any issues that patients may have with regard to the care they have received whether it be in Hospital, at the Doctors or even the Pharmacist. Amanda invited members to take away leaflets she had bought with her relating to the service. *Email:* Amanda.Stewart@nhpct.nhs.uk

Pam Bradford – Alton Town Councillor- Pam had details for Kim relating to the Scouts and Guides in the town and surrounding area. *Email:* pam_Bradford@easthants.gov.uk

Karen Lloyd- Parent- Karen informed members of the next Autism meeting which is 19th May at Bushel Leaze from 9.30 am onwards. *Email:* KarenEdgar@aol.com

Karen Cunningham- Portage- Karen informed members that at present there was a premises issue at The Petersfield School where the area Portage office is situated. If there were any ideas on where new premises could be sought, please let Karen know. *Email:* karen.a.cunningham@hants.gov.uk

Christine Lehegerat- Homestart Weywater- Christine informed members that the next preparation course would be starting on Tuesday 6th June in Alton. Christine will inform Kim of the venue and time. *Email:* homestart@weywater.wanadoo.co.uk

Date Of Next Meeting: Wednesday 12th July 2006

Time: 11.30am – 1.00pm

Place: Alton Fire Station