



Hampshire Children and Families Forum
C/o Bushey Leaze EYC, Eastbrooke Road, Alton, Hants, GU34 2DR
Email: Alton@hcff.org.uk

**MINUTES FOR HCFF ALTON BRANCH MEETING
HELD AT ALTON FIRE STATION
ON 21 January 2007**

Present

Kim Francis – HCFF, Jo Bishop - HCFF, Sharon Goodchild – HCC Parent Development Team, Councillor Pam Bradford, Annette Picozzi – Outreach Worker for Bushy Leaze, Alison Cliffe – Extended Services Co-Ordinator Bushy Leaze, Maria Elliott – Alton Community Centre Adult Education, Christine Lehegerat – HomeStart Weywater, Sally Henderson – HomeStart Weywater, Ella Palmer – Wootey Infants, Karen Mabbott – PLA, Adella Howes – Alton Fire Station

Apologies

Karen Cunningham – Portage, Karen Lloyd – Parent, Evelyn Askew - Relate

Kim opened the meeting by wishing everyone a belated Happy New Year and thanking everyone for coming. Kim also let everyone know that she is no longer the Alton co-ordinator, but will still be covering Bordon for HCFF. Kim introduced Jo Bishop who has taken on the role of Alton Co-ordinator.

Co-ordinators Report

Kim began her report by saying that although she is leaving the Alton branch she will still be carrying on with community link work through a new and exciting role at Chase Childrens Centre. Her remit will also involve finding funding.

Kim attended the **East Hampshire Play Strategy** meeting and reported they are in the process of applying for the £200,000 lottery funding. Kim will continue to attend as the Bordon Co-ordinator.

Working with Young People Surgeries – the next meeting will be on 15th May 2007 at Forest Community Centre in Bordon – 7.30 – 9.30.pm. It will be a big networking opportunity so anybody who works with young people are welcome to attend.

Extended Service – Attended Extended Services workshop where many agencies were invited. From that, a steering group based around schools was set up to identify sub committees to help to reach all of the community.

East Hants Community Partnership - Kim attended the Autumn Conference. Lottery funding is available and Kim chose to identify what was available for children and young people. The report of the outcome should be out in two months.

East Hants Strategy Group is in the process of changing to become more locally based (Alton & Bordon)

Childrens Fund

Kim informed the members that from 2008 the fund will no longer be working. Money has been allocated for this year but more funding has become available, so the Local Parent Group need to reconvene in order to allocate it. Projects that already have funding from the Children's Fund have been invited to apply for extra funding.

Consultation

The consultaion topic for this term is a Pamper Day for parents who have children with special needs. It will take place at Farnborough Early Years Centre one Saturday in April (exact date to be advised) Lots of therapies will be available for people to enjoy. There is no crèche available at present, but Christine Lehegerat said it may be possible to use HomeStart at Farnborough for the crèche.

Newsletter

2,500 newsletters are distributed in Alton, Bentley, Binstead, Medstead, Four Marks, Chawton and Ropley each term. Please can you let Jo have any articles that you want adding before 2nd March for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Directories

The directory is currently being put into Database format which is available online. Once all of the data is entered, a hard copy will be printed. Please make sure the signed declarations have come in to be included in the directory.

Help

We are still searching for an Alton Chair Person so if you know of anybody who would be willing to spare a few hours a month, please encourage them to step forward.

Information Exchange

Alison Cliffe updated the members about Extended Services. As a result of the workshop, it was identified that steering group was needed, based around schools. In order to cover all areas of the community, from wrap around childcare, family support, swift, easy referral, adult family learning, sub committees will be set up to deal with each aspect. There is an Extended Services Workshop on 14th March at the Alton Malting Centre : 9.30 – 3.00pm.

Pam Bradford is involved in the Youth Centre proposal in Nursery Road. The business plan for it has now been completed and a project manager is needed for the project.

Pam also highlighted the lack of funds available to pay for courses – she is interested in the Domestic Abuse course but the convention cost £248 so she was unable to attend.

Sharon Goodchild – Parent Development Team. Sharon informed members that she has a new Acting Manager for the next 18 months – Jennifer Feat. Sharon updated the members of her involvement with the co-ordination of parenting classes. There are classes for young children, teenagers, special children, special parents. A gap in the courses offered has been identified – for 7 –8 year olds and 11-13year olds. More funding has been received which means capacity can be increased to run classes for all.

Karen Mabbott – PLA - HCC have joined the Pathfinder project which is extended flexible entitlement for 3 and 4 year old children. To date 12 1/2 hours per week have been funded for children at nurseries but that has

now been increased to 15 hours per week , 38 weeks a year. There is a consensus amongst many of the nurseries in Alton that this will be very hard to implement as many nurseries rely on the extra 3 hours top up charge that they currently receive. All nurseries to be involved by 2010.

Christine Lehegerat introduced Sally Henderson as a new Homestart administrator , covering 4 mornings a week. Homestart are involved in the Pancake Race on 20th February , which they are hoping many of their volunteers and families will participate in, starting at Woolworths in Alton, the race starts at 1pm. There is also a drop in Homestart event on 9th February at 10am at Bushy Leaze Early Years Centre.

Annette Picozzi – Annette identified that there is a Confident Parents Confident Kids course running at Bushy Leaze by Kim Francis and Jane Heath. The Early Bird Course has just finished and the next one will start at the beginning of June. The Special Children, Special Parent course will run in September.

Maria Elliott – Maria explained that they are into the second term of their parenting course – the had five parents attend the first course and at their course running in Petersfield, they had referrals from the police and social worker. Half term activities for school children will be held at the Community Centre and flyers advertising the events will be sent out to all schools to inform parents what is available.

Ella Palmer – Head of Wootey Infants. Ella informed the members that funding for after school care has been secured through Extended Services. The after school club can take 24 children , each paying £2 per session. Both the after school club and the holiday club (the Tiger Club) are well attended.

Adella House – works at the Fire Station. The Fire Service are eager to promote their free home visits to households with children under 5 years old. They are struggling to get referrals – some of the members suggested they should produce an eye-catching advert to put in the newsletter. It was highlighted that parents sometimes feel threatened when ‘there is something for free’ and feel that there may be a catch. In order for their fears to be addressed it was felt that the PLA could promote the safety check in a more positive way and the literature for parents to be more informative that it is free and for their benefit.

Kim and Jo thanked everyone for coming and Jo went onto arrange a date for the next meeting. A new time was also discussed and agreed on.

Kim personally thanked everyone for their support over the past two and a half years and wished Jo and the Alton branch members well.

Date of Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday 18th April

Time: 10am – 11.30am

Place: Alton Fire Station