

**MINUTES FOR HCFF ALTON BRANCH MEETING
HELD AT ALTON FIRE STATION
ON Wednesday 18th April 2007**

Present

Kim Francis – HCFF, Jo Bishop - HCFF, Sally Henderson – HomeStart Weywater, Dawn Murphy – PLA , Marina Stafford – EECU, Liza Raper – After School Activity Co-ordinator, Karen Mabbott – PLA,

Apologies

Councillor Pam Bradford – Alton Town Council, Heather Bevis - CIS, Carey Owen – EECU, Sharon Goodchild – County Parent Development Team, Alison Hemmings – Out of Schools Co-ordinator, Ella Palmer – Wooteys Infant School.

Co-ordinators Report

Jo began her report by recognising that it had been three months since taking up the position of Alton Co-ordinator and has spent much of her time getting to know people and their roles from the variety of agencies that HCFF works with.

Meetings Attended:

Extended Services – attended the Extended Services workshop in March. Many agencies participated and the morning was spent getting an overview of extended services in the Alton area. The session prior to lunch was to identify and work on the five subcommittees that have been formed. Jo sat on the Swift & Easy referral sub committee. The group chose to identify the communities need, and importance of access of swift and easy referral at the preventative stage, rather than the crisis point. They identified how extended services could help and what other agencies would need to be involved, such as schools, Homestart, Parent Partnership, Police, Housing & Domestic Violence Outreach Worker.

HomeStart - It was agreed that future Homestart Advisor Meetings will take a slightly different format, with more time being given to advisors from many different agencies, including HCFF, to feed back information which is of relevance to HomeStart. Subsequent HomeStart business discussions will be kept to the Trustees meetings only.

Consultation

The consultation topic for this term was a Pamper day for parents and carers of children, aged 5 – 16 with special and individual needs. The pamper day took place at a variety of venues throughout Hampshire – the closest ones to Alton were in Basingstoke , at the Beechdown Centre and in Farnborough, at

the Early Years Centre, from 10am to 3pm. There was taster pamper sessions which the parents who attended took full advantage of, information stands and a local consultation on childcare took place.

Newsletter

2,500 newsletters were distributed in Alton, Bentley, Binstead, Medstead, Four Marks, Chawton and Ropley last term. Due to an increase in funding we will be delivering 5000 newsletters in June. It is a fantastic way of passing information to children and their families so if you have any articles that you would like including in the next newsletter, please let me have them by Friday 18th May.

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

Sally Henderson – Homestart

Christine Lehegarat is leaving her post as Home Start co-ordinator and Homestart are currently in the process of recruiting a replacement.

The Easter Egg Hunt at Alice Holt took place on Wednesday 4th April at Alice Holt Forest. The Mayor attended and it was deemed to be a very successful event, with all the children wore Newbury Society T – shirts, so were highly visible!

The demand for Homestart is ever increasing , they are receiving a lot of referrals. They do need more volunteers and an advert was placed in the last HCFF newsletter. Unfortunately, the new co-ordinators course that was due to start did not have enough demand to run. More volunteers are needed.

Dawn Murphy –highlighted new guidelines that have come in for children regarding health and safety ITC. Current recommendations are 10 - 20 minutes per day for 5 year olds and 40 minutes per day for 8 year olds.

Dawn is currently in consultation with schools in Medstead regarding wrap around care. Important to remember that wrap around care does not have to

be at each school but the school needs to promote extended services elsewhere if not at their premises.

Dawn also made those at the meeting aware of a possible new nursery opening in Alton and felt it would be a good idea to advertise it in the HCFF newsletter. This has subsequently been put on hold as there has been a delay with planning concerning the nursery.

Marina Stafford – has recently taken up the post of Childcare Development Officer (EECU) and is based at the Families Centre in Aldershot. A large part of her role is developing Children's Centres in the North East of Hampshire. She is particularly interested in contacts for teenage pregnancy, midwifery, health visitors, portage and Home Start.

There will be a Sure Start event taking place in Alton on Tuesday 19th June 10am – 2 pm. For more information on this event please phone 01252 338124.

Liza Raper – After Schools Activity Co-ordinator

The after school club (Tiger Club) and holiday club at Wootey Infant school has proved to be very successful. It takes place Monday through to Friday, 3.15 – 6pm and in half of the school holidays. Currently, 35 children attend but many more would like too but due to a lack of funding, they are not able to.

Dawn Murphy suggested approaching The Rotary club or the Lions to see if they would sponsor 5 extra places in the club and then children would be able to attend on a rota system. Liza to look into the possibility of increased funding.

Date of Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday 11 July 2007

Time: 10am – 11.30am

Place: Alton Fire Station