



**HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES FORUM**  
**Minutes of Andover Branch Meeting**  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2005**  
**9.30am Andover Crisis Centre**

**PRESENT**

**Maggie Fisher Andover HC**  
**Judith Lee HEPs**  
**Dawn Elson TVCS**  
**Sharon Manzur Army Families Federation**  
**Debbie Parsons Parent**  
**Sharon Goodridge PLA**  
**Nicola Bird Andover Crisis Centre**  
**Liz Williams HCFE Co-ordinator, Andover.**

**APOLOGIES**

**Jaqui Olding-Portage**  
**Kath Calcroft- AFL**  
**Elizabeth Newton-AFL**  
**Diana Barnes-Andover Library**  
**Karen Duke-HCFE, Chair**  
**Shirley McIntosh-Methodist Church Andover**

**Minutes from the last meeting-Agreed and Maggie Fisher and Sharon Manzur both requested more directories.** EW

**SURE START**

**Consultation by HCFE for OCT-DEC 2004 was about deferring entry for year R children. The report and findings by HCFE were discussed. Everyone agreed what a wonderful document it is and requested it be available on the website.** EW

**The report raised many issues for parents. Discussed deferment and the effect on children and parents and having flexibility when children first start school.**

**The JAN-MAR consultation results have not yet been processed but was on childcare facilities for children aged 10-13. We discussed the difficulties in getting parents views for this age group children.**

**It was suggested that Kids Church may be a point of contact for youngsters.**

**The Scott Centre provide after school activities and Andover Leisure Centre but the cost of these may be prohibitive.**

**YHA are running a week in a hostel £100 all in for children aged 11-17yrs. This is lottery funded which is why it is so cheap. Look on the YHA (Youth Hostel Association) website for a link and further information.**

**Current consultation is looking into dental care. Many aspects of this were discussed as this seems to be a really hot topic at the moment. Everyone surveyed so far had a story to tell. The problem being there are no firm guidelines for parents to follow.. If parents are struggling to find a dentist it was discussed that the Community Dentist at Andover Health Centre will see children , although they do need to call in advance. Discussion was held about the costs and availability of dental treatments for young people.**

### **0-19 DISCUSSION**

**Following on for the proposal to raise the age limit at HCFF from 14 to 19 it was a unanimous decision to give Anne the power to vote yes for Andover at the EGM.**

### **DYSLEXIA ISSUES**

**Liz is about to start some case studies with families and their children suffering from Dyslexia. The group discussed ideas and suggested questions to be covered when doing these case studies.**

**It was suggested to ask families what part opticians had played as they seemed to give conflicting views to those at the dyslexia institutes.**

**It was felt the diagnosis at school should be covered as parents feel let down and angry . That the schools are not providing the correct materials for sufferers.**

**Parents often buy the necessary equipment.**

**It was mentioned there are some courses being run at Sparsholt College for Dyslexia Friendly Schools to give advice to schools re diagnosis, equipment etc.**

**Discussed the low levels of self esteem for youngsters with dyslexia.**

**Particular questions to be covered in the case studies included**

**What do parents understand by the word Dyslexia?**

**What help are they getting?**

**Who told them their child was Dyslexic?**

**What age was the child when diagnosed?**

**What school are they at?**

**Discussion was held on the definition of Dyslexia as the British Psychological Society have a different definition to the Dyslexia Society.**

**As well as the DEST in year R parents can also request a dyslexia screening test at junior school**

**It was suggested to approach SENCO's in school for possible case studies. EW**

### **WEBSITE ISSUES.**

**All were asked for information to go on the website. Links have been requested to the AFF and HC. EW**

### **FOCUS DAY**

**Success of the day was discussed and those who attended spoke of their experiences. The main topic of discussion was the afternoon session which although fun was not very informative. Members suggested they would have preferred more information about the workshops they were unable to attend or even workshop sessions in the afternoon. All agreed they would love to attend again next year.**

#### **NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline for articles is Friday 13 May.**

#### **LOCAL ISSUES/ INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**Info re Family Links. The Nurturing Programme courses run by Maggie Fisher at AH Centre.**

**Next courses are September.**

**Info given re HISI (Health Improvement and Social Inclusion ) fund for local projects and groups. Contact Dawn Elson for info**

**Bluebell toddler group and toy library at Burclere down is to be kept going and taken over by the pre-school 3-2-5. The new group is to be called 1-2-3 toddler group.**

**Andover Toy Library at the Bonhomie Centre is closing. Looking for a new venue and co-Ordinator. It was suggested to contact Andover Volunteer centre Tina Waterman \_Roberts for volunteer information. EW**

**Liz gave info re healthy school validation projects. Anton School have just been awarded and other schools aiming for. Discussed fruit and milk availability and suggested any school wanting further information can contact her.**

**Next Meeting to be Wed 5<sup>th</sup> OCT 2005 at the TVCS Wessex chambers, South Street, Andover. 9.30-11.30**