

Hampshire Children and Families Forum – Basingstoke Branch

Minutes of the Summer Term Branch Meeting of Hampshire Children and Families Forum, Basingstoke Branch held at Marnel Early Years Centre Shetland Road Popley Basingstoke Hants on Friday 29 April 2005 at 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Present: Brigid Bell – HCFF Co-ordinator
Debbie Bonner - Area Senco
Jill Corbett - PCT
Jo Whitfield – HCFF Area Manager
Helen - Parent

1. Apologies were received from Kim Taylor, Evelyn Askew and Bernadette Cole
2. Minutes of last meeting were agreed.
3. No matters arising.
4. Discussion took place regarding the EGM to extend HCFF to include young people to 19 years. Brigid advised attendees that they could be the nominated person at the meeting or agree to Ann Hammond, Chairperson of HCFF to act as proxy on Basingstoke's behalf. Brigid to e-mail members to see if anyone wants to attend otherwise it was agreed that Ann Hammond should act as proxy.
5. Brigid spoke about the dental consultation, taking place during this term and the SEN consultation planned for next term. Basingstoke and Deane are staging information events at new parents induction days at schools on 29/30 June. Brigid to attend one with Q2 consultation and possibly put dental questionnaire out through schools.
6. Brigid advised that the deadline for the next newsletter was beginning of October. Brigid to report on the changing status of Gingerbread in the South East, Area Sencos would send details of Positive Handling.
7. Brigid reported that she attended a meeting for Lone Parents Groups chaired by Mark Thorpe. It was reported that Welcare has closed and it was unfortunate that a representative from Social Services did not attend but the meeting was left with the question 'Does Basingstoke need a lone parent group?' The South Ham arm of Welcare was still meeting in private houses, it was difficult to know whether this would be accessible to new parents joining this group Brigid to investigate. Gingerbread South East office has closed but parents still have access to the website and free phone line. They will provide details of children's groups, family groups and advice facilities are multi-lingual.
8. Brigid reported that she had set up a meeting with Mike Reynolds of Home Start on 17 May 2005. Jill interested to see this project move forward and wanted Health Visitors to be involved. Brigid explained Home Start's role. Committee needs to be a larger group from the local community. It is necessary to apply to Social Services for the allocated money (about £3,500) Janet Feat at Hampshire County Council. Brigid to try to motivate parents and professionals and possibly a local councillor, Jane Frankum, local churches in Popley could also be a possibility. Jo agreed to look at other forms of funding.

9. Debbie reported on Positive Handling of Children, people working with children were showing concern regarding it's meaning. A working party has put together some guidelines, which will be delivered in June. If anyone you know is interested contact Debbie Bonner by email Debbie.Bonner@hants.gov.uk or telephone 01256 395095. Dates of sessions 22 June 10.00 – 12.00, 23 June 10.00 – 12.00 and 12.30 – 2.30.

Jill Corbett reported that there were lots of changes afoot within the PCT.

Helen was attending for the first time with her two SEN children. She was feeling unsupported at present. She said initially there was lots of support for her and the children but as time passes and the older child attends a special needs school everything is completed at school and the parent is isolated. There are few opportunities for parents to take part in school life, meeting other parents, etc as children go to school by transport. She felt there is a real need for local support for families with children over 5 within the special school system.

Brigid explained about the SEN consultation to take place in the Autumn term and also agreed to give details of Maple Ridge play scheme for the summer holidays.

10. Discussion took place about the Government's initiative on Children's Centres and if one was planned for Basingstoke. Brigid to find out more about this and report back at next meeting.
11. The date of the next meeting was arranged for Friday 23 September 2005 at 12.30 – 2.30pm at Marnel Early Years Centre, Shetland Road, Popley.