



Sarah DeMarcos, East Hants Co-ordinator,
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Minutes for Branch Meeting 15th January 2008 at Chase Children's
Centre, Community Room 11am

Present: Karen Cunningham (Portage); Glynis Blake (Extended Services);
Marina Stafford (Children's Centres); Eileen Torbet (Family Support
Worker); Tony Sharp (Connexions); Lynda Heelis (Health Visitor); Angela
Small (Home-Start); Jan Scard (Youth Service); Katy Shiers; Cay Byford
(Contact-a-Family); Karen Mabbott (PLA); Doreen Steel (Chase Children's
Centre); Janet Easton (Community First); Julie Cunnah (HCFF); Sarah
DeMarcos (HCFF)

Apologies: Alison Joy; Alison Hemmings; Claire Coxwell; Kate Fryatt; Ella
Palmer; Ruth Kerr; Sharon Goodchild; Anna Scheutz; Karen Strudwick;
Sheena West; Avelyn Askew; Caroline Trimmer; Anne Wright; Linda
Pearcey; Jane Wilkinson; Liz Raper; Jayne Baynes; Amanda Steward; Sam
Fellows; Diana Wilson; Mandy Batten

Welcome and introductions.

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

Co-ordinators report - copy attached.

Sarah asked if anyone who could help with the CAMHS Survey - copies of
which were made available. Sarah works 20hours per week on a Tue, Wed
and Fri and can be reached on 01420 477079.

Glynis gave the following update on Extended Services - she is currently
visiting schools in the Area with a detailed questionnaire, finding out what
is available/what is currently being provided/what needs to be provided.
The main difficulty appears to be funding. The voluntary sector will play a
large part in providing services. There is certainly lots to do but the
restraints are the location, and contact with parents.

Website - Sarah explained that the website is available for all to
advertise any events and details can be sent to her or Julie on

julie.cunnah@btinternet.com.

Directory - our databases are currently being updated so Julie will contact everyone in time to clarify if their details are still correct. As yet we do not have the funding to print the directory.

Newsletter - please can any items for the newsletter be sent to Sarah or direct to Julie on the email address above (by 12th Feb). Thank you.

Information Exchange:

Janet is the new Rural Outreach Worker for Community First. It is a charity set up to help other charities and she is currently trying to attend all forum meetings to forge links.

Angela - Homestart did have 20 unsupported families but things are starting to look better. New volunteers have just completed a Preparation Course and another is planned for late Jan. A coffee morning attracted another 18 volunteers!

Jan - Youth Service works with children aged 11 to 19 years with a target group of 12 to 16 years. Now sharing space and working with Connexions, and been working with the police on an Environment Visual Audit.

Cay Byford - CAF (Contact-a-family). Cay is always willing to come and give talks on her work with children with special needs. Currently all their literature is being updated. If you require any assistance contact Cay on cay.byford@cafamily.org.uk. Cay is holding an open day in October and will be contacting agencies to have a stall - if you would like to take part please contact her direct.

Karen Mabbott - PLA - provides support to childcare settings. Preschools are currently undergoing a lot of changes and are now required to do a self audit for which the PLA offers support.

Doreen- Chase Children's Centre will soon be losing its community room and in March will be moving to the other side of the school, which will then mean more space! They are now open 48 weeks of the year providing help and support. Leaflets available for all services.

Eileen Torbet - Family support worker - this is a key role in the community with hard to reach families - they have had a grant for a healthy families group which has meant being able to take children swimming etc. Works with children by home visiting for a temporary or ongoing need. She is based at St Marks.

Sarah - HCFF - information given regarding 'Free Workshops' aimed at voluntary groups working with children covering Child Protection, Common Assessment Framework and Safer Recruitment. Workshops around Hampshire with nearest at Liphook Milleneum Hall on 18th March. For further info please email/phone Sarah @ HCFF or access the Alliance website direct on www.hants-alliance.org.uk. Please promote to any voluntary group you may know that this might be of interest to.

Karen Cunningham - Portage work with young children with special needs both at home and pre-school setting. They also work with children at risk from exclusion. They offer an Outreach service to promote inclusion. Referrals to this scheme are open.

Marina Stafford- Children Centres - Marina spoke at length about the proposed children centre in Petersfield and handed out literature on what a Children's Centre does. She invited everyone to an information event on the 8th February at Petersfield Library. Anyone wanting further information can contact Sarah or Julie.

Lynda Heelis - Health Visitor - Constantly reviewing the services provided, and now offer a very limited service which all HV are not happy about. There has been a huge reduction in staff and now everything is targeted.

Date of next HCFF Branch Meeting (Bordon & Alton):-
Thursday 24th April - Alton Community Centre - 11am to 12.30