



## **Hampshire Children and Families Forum**

### **EASTLEIGH BRANCH**

(covering Chandlers Ford,  
Eastleigh, Bishopstoke,  
Fair Oak, Horton Heath)

### **SRN PARISHES BRANCH**

(covering West End, Hedge  
End, Botley, Bursledon, Netley  
and Hamble.)

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## **Minutes of Branch Meeting held 10a.m-12 noon, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007, Fair Oak Village Hall, Shorts Road, Fair Oak.**

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Linda Knowles (Co-ordinator), Jane Parker (HCFF Area Manager, acting Chair), Rhona Stevens (Hampshire Police PCSO), Clare Lord-Taylor (Solent Youth Action), Suzanne Watson (Extended Schools Co-ordinator), Ruth Kerr (Hampshire Museums, Speaker), Kate Harfield (Aviary Children's Centre), Jacqueline Rolls (One Community and Eastleigh Borough Council), Sue Foster (Parent Support Worker, Extended Schools), Debra McAndrew (EECU), Heather Bevis (Hampshire Childrens Information Service)

**Apologies:** Lucie Howkins (EECU) , Pat Statham (Eastleigh Borough Council), Hannah Plom (Hampshire Libraries), Mary Diaper (Homestart), Jeannie Medd (Head of Health Visiting Service), Chris Exton (Wildern Opportunity Group), Bev Wickham Hampshire Libraries), Karen Etheridge (National Childminding Association), Wendy Walsh and Angela Poole (One Community), Fran Whittington (Portage), Beverley Bennion (Usborne Books), Sarah White (Solent Youth Action)

**2. Speaker: Ruth Kerr, Hampshire Museums:** Seven years ago National Museums were made free admission access. Shortly after, research into regional museums revealed that there was no funding for them and so a programme called 'Renaissance in the Regions' was established to support them. There are now nine regions, each with a hub museum, and the museums are given specific funding to meet specific targets which allows them to employ more staff.

There are 19 sites around Hampshire. Milestones in Basingstoke is a purpose-built museum with facilities for large groups. Search in Gosport is similarly equipped. Others, located in historic buildings, are smaller and do not offer the same facilities for groups. Eastleigh Museum is the smallest in the county. The Bursledon Windmill, which was briefly re-opened in the summer, has had to close because it did not meet fire regulations but will be re-opening soon. The funding from Renaissance in the Regions provides for new staff on fixed term contracts who are able to go out and deliver to school children and provide new opportunities for schools. The museum presents both in-house and bought in exhibitions. A new comprehensive spending review may change the focus to look more at communities, but at the moment the target is to increase the number of school children through museum doors.

Eastleigh Museum does a phenomenal amount of work during school holidays and the Egyptian exhibition over the summer was very popular. Bursledon Windmill will be re-opened at the end of September. Ruth asked branch members with school children to remind their schools that she is available to do school assemblies.

During the question and answer session that followed, Ruth explained that there was no central record of numbers of visitors to the museums or how they had found out about it, though it would be known at site level. People often assume that the visitors' comment book at any exhibition is for comments about the museum rather than the exhibition. Eastleigh Museum generates a lot of visits through the gallery at the back where a variety of in-house or bought-in exhibitions can take place as well as hands-on activities. There is a large body of collection volunteers but no volunteer co-ordinator.

Publicity goes out to schools at the beginning of term and half term in the form of leaflets specifically for teachers. There is no mailshot to parents. Sue Foster mentioned that she got Museum leaflets for the Surviving Summer course she ran and they all went. Jacqueline Rolls suggested sending out a poster which could be displayed at schools

The Eastleigh Museum is putting in a bid for funding to provide resources suitable for very small children. The Museum service is also trying to encourage schools within walking distance to visit their local museum on foot. The museums are not linked to Hantsfish at the moment though Ruth is encouraging sites to put their own details on. HCFF will provide a link to the Museums website on [www.hcff.org.uk](http://www.hcff.org.uk)

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

**4. Matters Arising:** Linda reported that the Pre-school Learning Alliance had agreed to take over management of the Toy Library. .

**5. HCFF AGM:** Jane explained that at the AGM each branch must be represented by a voting member (not a paid HCFF employee) to vote on the annual accounts and other issues as necessary. The business of the AGM is conducted speedily and the focus of the day is on the invited speaker. This year's speaker is Sioban Boyce, @not Just Taloking: Promoting Essential Skills in Children for Effective Communication'. It was agreed that Jacqueline Rolls would represent both branches, with Linda Knowles be proxy if necessary. Invitations will be sent out soon.

**6. Summary of Work Done and Current Work plan** was distributed as follows:

**Work Last Quarter:**

**Representation of Parents' views and consultation with parents about the provision of childcare services:**

- Attended the Fareham Special Needs Event 28.04.07, Oak Meadow Centre, Fareham.
- Prepared for survey of parents of under fives and 5-14 year olds by identifying suitable places/groups to obtain parents' views, especially hard-to-reach parents and those not using childcare.

**Provision of local information to parents:**

- Newsletter, Directory,
- Website as usual;
- Under Fives Fun Days 5<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June in Eastleigh and Bursledon which were very successful; continued liaison with Extended Schools Programme, and attended an Extended Schools Information day at the Youth Centre, Fair Oak.
- Provided a list of suggested speakers for a local toddler group to attract new parents

**Support to Children's Centre Managers, support with the link to professionals in the area and the local community:**

- Continued to attend meetings of Children's Centres steering groups and other meetings as appropriate;
- attended Fareham Youth meeting with Rachel Ralls (Fareham and Gosport HCFF Co-ordinator) to give presentation on HCFF and assist in compiling presentation that is useable across the county;
- continued to work with other professionals, groups and volunteers to try to transfer Toy Library (closing) to a new management/venue;
- attended Locality Partnership meetings to maintain links between Children's Centres, professionals, and the community;
- attended workshops to support schools in providing Extended Services.

**Workplan this quarter**

**Representation of Parents' views and consultation with parents about the provision of childcare services:**

- Consultation into the Sufficiency of Childcare for 0-3 year olds in rural communities, providing support for colleagues in rural areas such as News Forest.
- Consultation for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) into views on help available for children who have experienced emotional, behavioural and social difficulties.

**Provision of local information to parents:**

- Continuing to maintain Database and prepare Directory
- Newsletter
- Website
- Continue to answer Parent and Professional enquiries

**Support to Children's Centre Managers, support with the link to professionals in the area and the local community:**

- Continue to sit on Focus Groups for Norwood, Bishopstoke, and Townhill Farm Children's Centres
- Attend Information Coffee Morning at the Aviary Children's Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> September
- Help with Aviary Children Centre participation in The Big Draw on 17<sup>th</sup> October
- Sit on Eastleigh Locality Partnership Board
- Sit on Common Assessment Framework Locality Steering Group
- Presentation to Social Policy Scrutiny Panel on 21<sup>st</sup> November to report on childcare in the Borough with Debra McAndrew

7. **Newsletter and Website:** Linda explained that the deadline for submissions to the Autumn Newsletter had been changed to October 18<sup>th</sup> and that the newsletter would be distributed in November. She reminded members that the content of the newsletter could include information on events up to January/February 2008.

Suzanne Watson asked if there had been a response to the Share Your Views item on Extended Schools in the last newsletter, and was told that there had been four responses, all from different points of view which would be printed in the next issue. A discussion followed and it was agreed that Jacqueline Rolls would write a brief article commenting on some of the issues raised regarding summer playschemes.

8. **Information Exchange:** **Rhona Stevens** asked for help for Netley where children as young as four are sunning around in the evenings running around on their own. Older siblings who are meant to be in charge of them are often drinking. There are no facilities for young people who don't want to go as far as Woolston Road to the youth club (which is only open one evening a week) and who prefer in any case to 'hang out' with their friends rather than engage in any organised activity. Children on the street are committing criminal damage and nuisance which is becoming a big problem and Rhona would like help to set up family games, some way of teaching parents to engage with their children. PCSOs go out on the streets and are good relationships with the children but face problems with organising events as getting insurance is an obstacle. She has had a donation of mini torches like the police wear (much admired by teenagers), but needs someone to set up an event so they can be given out. Clare Lord-Taylor agreed to meet with Rhona to look at setting up a project with Solent Youth Action Volunteers Linda Knowles asked to be kept informed and is willing to attend their meetings. **JR** suggested contacting Amanda Adams at Eastleigh Borough Council and also suggested that Rhona attend the next Community Action Network in Hamble on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Debra McAndrew** reported on the Early Education and Childcare Unit, beginning with a summary of progress by Lucie Howkins who is leading on the development of children's centres in the area. The deadline for designation in March 2008 is fast approaching, but for various reasons, chiefly to do with capital funding and approval of venues, progress has been slow. The Aviary children's centre in Eastleigh has been designated and is a full core offer with childcare available on site. Furthest along of the others is the one in Central Eastleigh expected to be at Norwood school. This is also to be a full core offer, but as there is plenty of childcare available within .5 mile of the site, childcare will be a collaborative effort, signposting parents to the childcare available in the community. There is no working model in Hampshire so this will be setting a precedent. A meeting is being set up with providers. Another full core offer centre is planned for Bursledon and Old Netley but there are problems finding a venue. There are only two sessional pre-schools in the area so the answer may be to expand their sessions and they are in discussion on this point.

Bishopstoke West is to be a graduated offer, which does not offer childcare. There have been problems finding a venue, but Wyvern has expressed an interest. Hamble and Butlocks Heath will be another graduated offer as will West End South which will be based at Townhill Farm Community Centre. The latter centre borders on Southampton which has a full core offer centre so relationships need building between the two.

There have been or will soon be information events in all areas and Focus Groups (formerly called steering groups) are being established for each centre. These are to develop into Partnership Boards.

Debra herself supports childcare across the board, liaising with Pre-school Learning Alliance, Eastleigh Borough Council, National Childminding Association and other agencies.

**Sue Foster** is continuing her role in schools. Forty parents from Fair Oak schools and fifteen from Stoke Park took Surviving the Summer courses. Sue has a stock of parenting books which can be borrowed by parents. There will be a Supporting Parents of

Teenagers (SPOT) course in October if enough parents can be found to take it. This will be run at Wyvern because there is not enough funding to hold it at Wells Place as last time. Confident Parents Confident Kids is running at Stoke Park Infants again this autumn.

**Jacqueline Rolls** will be meeting with community groups at Bishopstoke Community Centre and suggested that she meet with Sue Foster to help communicate what is going on in the Extended schools to the wider community.

**Suzanne Watson** is newly in post as Extended schools coordinator. She would like to do an information evening every half term and welcomes suggestions on where to start. **SF** suggested that a good speaker will attract parents.

**Kate Harfield** is also newly in post as children's centre outreach worker at the Aviary. She is networking and finding out what the community needs. She handed out flyers for the forthcoming Open Day at the Aviary on September 25<sup>th</sup>. She is also looking to set up a Dads/carers link and is looking for suggestions.

**Clare Lord-Taylor** has only been in post three days at Solent Youth Action. Her project is to engage 11-13s in activities that won't cause the problems that their unsupervised activities have. She too is looking to find out what the needs are in the area.

9. **Any other Business:** It was agreed that contact details of attendees be circulated with the minutes.

**Date of next meeting: To be announced**

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Early Years Development  
& Childcare Partnership



Hampshire  
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