

Minutes of FARNBOROUGH BRANCH Meeting held on Tuesday, 24th February, 2004 at Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough.

Present:

Debbie Wall	Chairperson, Rushmoor Leisure
Caroline Keith	Co-ordinator
Audrey Greenway	Secretary
Margaret Baldwin	NE Hants Portage
Gillian Beaumont	Pre-school Learning Alliance
Karen Evans	Co-ordinator (HCFF – Aldershot Branch)
Catherine Gobart	KIDS
Sue Hathaway	Rushmoor Voluntary Services
Sarah Lees	Insight/Parent/KIDS Rushmoor
Liz Morley-Smith	KIDS
Ann Norton	Area SENCO
Niki Pocock	Area SENCO
Rachel Tallon	Disability Challengers

Apologies:

Cay Byford	Contact-a-Family
Sue Dyer	Parent

1) Matters arising from Minutes of 26th November, 2003, plus Out of School Support Group Minutes of that date – Sue said Crossroads had received a cheque for £5,600 from a fund raising day at Southwood Golf Club. Basingstoke Voluntary Action is trying to move the project forward and they have had positive feedback from the Newbury group who they will be meeting with. Karen has been unable to locate a source able to type Nepalese script so will be handwriting the translation of the Aldershot Branch Newsletter. In response to a question from Debbie Sue said she has sent out letters and leaflets to raise awareness of the Local Network Fund. Applications for the next round have to be in by the 17th March. Three applications have been received so far and she hopes they will be successful. Debbie reported that Carol James, the Play & Childcare Development Officer has now left, it has been decided to re-advertise the vacancy. The Hampshire Basic Playwork course was held on the 6/7th January, 8 people attended, they are planning 2 courses per year and the next one will be on the 21/22nd July.

2) Co-ordinator's Report – copy attached. Caroline said Rushmoor Borough Council have now agreed to fund the shortfall for the U-14's Directory, so printing will go ahead in April. She has been asked that our Minutes be sent to HCFF for publication on their website.

3) KIDS Rushmoor Playscheme – Catherine said they are hoping to use the premises at Cove Manor Infants School for 3 weeks from the 2nd August for the summer playscheme but this is proving difficult to confirm as the builders are still carrying out work there. Liz said money has been received from BAE Systems and this enables them to run all year round – 2 fun days are to be held in the May half-term and there will be monthly Saturday schemes.

4) Sure Start – Debbie said The Children's Fund has £3,000 to spend by the end of March and KIDS Parents Action Group have been asked to come up with ideas for equipment. Parents will be able to use it when it is not required for group activities for which there would be no charge. However, if an item is damaged the parent would be asked to replace it. Sarah said toys can be borrowed from the Merry-Go-Round Toy Library at Frimley, the annual subscription is £2 plus a small monthly charge per toy borrowed.

5) **Training – Debbie** stated that the new Horizons booklet has been issued with a programme of training covering this area, but has not included First Aid or Health & Safety. Any requests and feedback should be forwarded to the NE Hants Training Group.

6) **Hampshire Play Network – Debbie** informed that there is a meeting tomorrow and asked if there are any issues to take there. **Liz** said the new Sure Start funding does not apply to special needs children attending Saturday schemes and this needs to be addressed.

7) **Any other business – Karen** said Tri-Lakes at Yateley have introduced a new soft-play warehouse. The Steering Committee of Parentaid in Aldershot is meeting next week and it is hoped a group of parents from St. Augustine's will be interested in making the Directory and take this project on. Park School has also shown an interest. She has been invited to a conference 'Raising Attainment Through Attendance' to be held at Oak Farm School on the 25th March.

Ann informed that Mandy Prentice would be commencing employment on the 15th March as Senior Development Officer based at the EECU.

Liz said KIDS now have an office in Aldershot based at Union Building and hope to have it manned for some of the week.

Gillian with her two colleagues had put on an under-fives event at Southwood which was very successful – attended by 31 adults and 53 children. She had recently organised a First Aid course for parents in Aldershot, there are still 30+ names waiting for another course. St. Augustine's Parent & Toddler Group will carry on until July with her assistance and PLA will try to help the parents to run it. Councillor Keith Dibble is interested in keeping the group running and hopes to secure funds from September. Parents have been asked to pay £2 each to cover costs at present and it is hoped to reduce this with funding.

Rachel said Disability Challengers are still trying to purchase an old school in Farnham, they are putting in a bid on the 1st March which they hope will be favourable. They are running several playschemes etc. at Easter which are open to people in Rushmoor – details attached. Their Saturday Playscheme in Camberley closed in September but they are hoping to run Family Days in new premises.

Sue stated that the RVS Newsletter will be published in March, any entries should be forwarded to her by phone or e-mail. There is a new group called Coffee, Chill & Chat which meets at Union Building in Aldershot on Fridays in term-time – it has been set up by two mothers of children with special needs whose fathers are in the army. They have arranged a fund-raising event at the Connaught Centre as they are in need of funds, also a more appropriate building. The RVS Trustees have given them a donation. Community buses are available for hire from RVS, cost is 61p. per mile and voluntary drivers are available if needed.

Sarah said she had attended the Mayor's Civic Reception for Volunteers, and it was a good event.

ADDENDUM

£100,00 each has been allocated for children's play areas in King George V Playing Field and Queens Road Recreation Ground both in Farnborough, and jointly to Kingsway and Greenway, Aldershot to make them accessible for children with special needs. The Water Lane Project is finished and open for children up to 14 years and providing a wonderful facility.

NEXT MEETING OF THE HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN & FAMILIES FORUM – FARNBOROUGH BRANCH:

**Friday, 7th May, 2004, 12.30-1.30pm, Council Offices, Farnborough Road,
Farnborough.**