



Hampshire Children and Families Forum

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Gosport Forum Branch Meeting Minutes Thursday 14th September 2006

1. Apologies: Jane Parker (Southern Area Manager HCFF), Beverley Garland (Portage Haven EYC), Janet Wildman (Search Museum), Sue Clodfelter (Sure Start Librarian), Lauren Stevens (Brune Park), Alison Walton (Explosion), Rosellen Lambert (Bridgemary Centre), Alison Danaford (Life Long Learning Centre), Maria Calway-Kennedy (County Youth Service), Louise Martin (Oral Health Educator), Sue Wing (NCMA)

In attendance: Karen Brotherton (KIDS/HCFF Chair), Zandra Ranger (Brune Park), Tracey Matthews (HSLW Grange Infant and Bedenham), Jackie Lewis (Gosport Discovery Centre), Alison Jones (St. Vincent), Kerry Ellis (St. Vincent), Jodie Bond (GBC Leisure), Georgette Purches (Business Link), Lorna Danter (Youth Service), Kirstie Hope (Youth Service), Dave Jenkins (Drug Prevention Adviser), Rachel Ralls (HCFF Co-ordinator, Gosport and Fareham), Sue King (Heathfield School)

2. Welcome and Introductions: Karen Brotherton, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She introduced herself and explained her role within KIDS.

3. Introduction to Rachel Ralls – new Gosport and Fareham Branch Co-ordinator: Rachel Ralls introduced herself as the new HCFF Branch Co-ordinator for Gosport and Fareham, outlining her personal background and what qualities she felt she would be bringing to the job.

4. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:
There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved.

5. Co-ordinator's Report/Update of HCFF Workplans:
There was no Co-ordinator's report this time as Rachel is new in post. Rachel did however talk through the HCFF Workplan and outlined a report she was writing about Parental Preference to Early Education and Childcare in the Gosport and Fareham areas. She also said that the Early Education and Childcare Unit have produced details on how to advise parents or how to deal with complaints about childcare. There is an internal HCFF document, more details will be on the next Workplan.

6. HCFF AGM: Rachel notified the forum that the date of the HCFF AGM is Thursday 5th October from 10-12 at Shawford and Compton Village Hall.

7. Information Exchange:

Alison Jones/Kerry Ellis informed the forum that St.Vincent College will be running "It's Your Turn Courses" for people aged 19 and over to get them back into education and into work. St.Vincent will also issue certificates for the free courses aimed at raising peoples self esteem. The courses will be held out in the community and people in the 5 areas of Gosport, who are not already on a course, can apply (min of 4-5 people for course to run). Childcare and travelling expenses can be paid for.

Jodie Bond reported that the Open Access Summer Play Scheme held at 12 locations saw 13,500 attendees. Jodie also updated the forum on her work with Extended Schools Initiative and said that she was finalising her report within the next month. Once completed, she would arrange individual cluster meetings with schools and attend the Network Meeting for Out of School Providers on 14th November.

Tracey Matthews informed the forum that Competent Parents Competent Kids Courses would be starting in October and that a flyer would be produced for inclusion in the HCFF Autumn Newsletter.

Jackie Lewis brought a Discovery Centre Events Brochure to the Forum outlining activities taking place between now and Christmas. She also mentioned the Family Learning Week from 7th to 14th October. This will be a family trail with a free prize draw. The Bookstart Plus pack, which is for children aged 18 to 30 months are available at any library. These will be given out if the child's Health Record Book is brought in so that it can be signed to say the pack has been received. The pack contains information, posters, books, crayons and an invitation to join the library. (Posters are available from Jackie if you wish to advertise Bookstart). Also a Bookstart Treasure Box is given out the term before they start school and is distributed by schools. There is also a Baby Pack for children age 0-2 years (contained in a canvas bag) distributed via Health Visitors. Jackie reported that the Summer Reading Mission saw over 1,000 children taking part at Gosport Library, of which 100 joined as a result. Roles of Honour will be displayed in schools at the end of September.

Georgette Purches spoke about the Work for Yourself, Self Employment Training for Women, a 3-year pilot project finishing June 2008. There are currently 40 women in Gosport taking part, who also have the opportunity to network through Business Link. Business Link will give it permanent funding if it is successful. Next course will be delivered in Fareham.

Zandra Ranger spoke about the Family Learning Courses at Brune Park. A 6-week course currently running for parent and child to find ways to support their children in areas such as maths and English saw 38 families turn up for an evening of fun on the 13th September. "Coping With The Teenager Course" starts 1st November. The course is free and runs for 6 weeks ending 6th December. Different topics will be covered, for example law, drug misuse, and emotional behaviour. Zandra also mentioned extended schools and that Barbara Cooke (Parent Development Team HCC) was managing a Steering Group at Woodcot School on Tuesday 19th September. She said that there was a need to bring all aspects together within clusters, as there were lots of groups, which had lots of on-going projects.

Lorna Danter reported that they had 8-10 mums doing a First Aid Course and baby massage and that they had been on a trip and were half way through their Youth Achievement Awards. She also said that a "Condom and Curry Night" was being arranged for young men and dads through "Y Dial". Surestart have a dads group running and it was suggested that Lorna contacted Hayley Bell for more info.

Judy Stokes reported that they hoped to be running courses in the future at special schools entitled "Special Parents, Special Children". Karen Brotherton (KIDS) requested course details to be given to her once they were ready so she could promote them.

Dave Jenkins spoke about the “Substance Misuse” course running for 5 to 6 weeks from 10th October on a Tuesday evening from 7-9pm at Henry Cort. The course is for people in Gosport and Fareham. Paul Bristow at Henry Cort is the Chief Co-ordinator.

7. Any other business:

KIDS: Karen Brotherton spoke about her role within KIDS (S/E) as a Short Term Breaks Manager and Respite Care. She said that there were currently 35 projects across the South East.

Newsletter: Rachel Ralls requested that all information for inclusion in the HCFF Autumn Newsletter be sent to her by 22nd September. Newsletter will be ready for distribution the week after half term. She also spoke about the new Car Seat Law coming into effect on September 18th and will find out what the situation is regarding mini buses.

Here to Help Awards: Save the Children Fund and British Gas have launched a new round of their funding scheme, the Here to Help Awards, to fund projects that make where young people live a healthier, more engaging, safer place to be. The Here to Help Awards are designed to get young people in Great Britain more involved in their communities through speaking out on issues which affect them and get them more involved with local decision making. For access more information log onto the website: www.helpyourselves.org.uk Email: helpyourselves@savethechildren.org.uk Website:

www.helpyourselves.org.uk/helpyourself/funding/caniapply.html The deadline for applications is **20th October 2006**.

Playwork Recruitment Fair: On October 23rd there is a Playwork Recruitment Fair at the Winchester Guildhall. All the info has been put on the branch pages.

8. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 11th January 2007, Haven Early Years Centre, 10.00am – 12.00pm in the Small Hall.



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