

Gosport Branch

Haven Early Years Centre, Harris Road, Gosport PO13 0UY 01329 232095

Thursday 29th January 2004

MINUTES

Present

Pam Morland - Haven EYC
Kay Bunney - HCFF Co-ordinator
Rosellen Lambert – Bridgemary School
Karen Brotherton - KIDS (Chairperson)
Gail Tong – Face Us project

Sue Clodfelter – Surestart Rowner
Kathryn Cornish – HCFF Fareham
Alison Marlowe - parent
Bev Garland - Portage
Pam Conway – Gosport Borough Council

1. Apologies

Katherine Tyler – Library Service
Louise Martin - Oral Health
Helen Ryder – Parent Development
Mary Jones - Library (Early Years)
Katie Sheehan – Family Support Worker
Janice Groves – PLA

Rev Peter Sutton - St Faith's Church
Angela Tyreman – Health Visitor
Dawn Bishop – Family Support Worker
Briony Higgins – RNIB
Ann Carnell – Behaviour Intervention
Becky Quew-Jones – CF Project Officer

Karen Brotherton chaired the meeting.

2. Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed all new members to the Forum and brief introductions were made.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Copies had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed to be a correct record.

4. Presentation by Gail Tong of the Face Us project

The Face Us project is based in Basingstoke, but covers the whole of Hampshire, Portsmouth & Southampton and works with families with a child (aged 0-19) and/or a parent who is deaf/hard of hearing. There are 4 categories of deafness – mild, moderate, severe and profound.

In 1998 children were being diagnosed with hearing difficulties, but there was very little information or support for parents following diagnosis. A conference in Winchester that included workshops for parents and information for professionals was very well supported, but it was recognised that ongoing support was needed once the problems had been highlighted. Social Services and the Health Authority provided funding for an Information Pack for parents.

In 1998 Gail started in a 5 month job, working 18 hours a week and with 6 families on her books in Basingstoke. The workload of the service has grown through word of mouth, referrals and improved information. There are 400 families in Hampshire in touch with Face Us today. Some children have a temporary hearing problem caused by glue ear, for example, which affects them in pre-school and infant school. Face Us provides information to parents and signposts them to services offering practical support.

A video has been produced at parents' request to show how parents feel about diagnosis and how they cope with the consequences. Ten families talk about their experiences. The video was designed for local use in Hampshire, but there is nothing comparable at a national level and the video is known to have gone as far as New Zealand.

The importance of early diagnosis has been recognised and in the near future all babies are going to be screened at birth. Children's hearing can deteriorate and there is a need to be aware that behaviour problems may indicate a hearing problem.

Face Us produces a Newsletter and organises events across the county.

Contact: Gail Tong, Face Us project, Basingstoke Voluntary Services, The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke RG21 4AF 01256 334959 gail.tong@voluntaryservices.com

5. Co-ordinator's Report

Copy attached.

Following her written report the Co-ordinator announced that she had resigned from her job and will leave at the end of the term on 2nd April 2004 after 5 years in post. Karen Brotherton, on behalf of the Forum, thanked Kay for all that she had done as Gosport Co-ordinator. Pam Conway asked about the recruiting procedure and was keen that there be a smooth hand over to the new Co-ordinator. Kay agreed to relay this to HCFF staff in Winchester. Karen would enquire about this process also.

6. Information Event

A joint event with the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA) has been arranged on 1st March 2004 at Haven Early Years Centre at 7.30pm. Educational Psychologist, Jeanie Low Ying, will be speaking on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Places are limited and need to be booked through Jenny Hardman on 01329 281927 (9.30-10am weekdays).

7. Gosport Local Directory 2004

The Co-ordinator explained that the Children's Fund 'Access to Information' research was incorporating the Directory since it is a major source of information for parents in Gosport. The finance available will cover the cost of printing. The deadline for completion is 31st March, so corrections must be submitted to the Co-ordinator as soon as possible. Rosellen Lambert had provided updated information for Bridgemary School. A small group from the Forum will proof read and agree the final script prior to publication.

8. Information Exchange

A) Portage – Bev Garland introduced a new scheme being funded by Portage called Portage Plus that supports pre-school children with behavioural difficulties. Parents are becoming isolated at P&T groups, pre-schools etc through their child's behaviour. Portage workers will identify a specific problem and help parents to see a way forward. Support is provided during transition to school and there are links with the Behaviour Support Team.

Contact Portage on 01329 283498 Details to be included in the Spring Newsletter.

B) Surestart – The Surestart Rowner building is making good progress and the topping out ceremony will be on Thursday 19th February. Bookstart Plus, an extension of Bookstart (provided at 8 month check), gives 18 month old children 2 books and a leaflet in a red book bag. Each month groups are invited to the Surestart library. Bookstart is being taken over by the County Council and in future the Health Visitors will give out the books.

C) Bridgemary School – Rosellen Lambert reported that the new Learning Resource Centre has been completed and is due to open soon. A Multi-Use Games Area, an outdoor facility, is due to open soon. The school runs after school activities for its own pupils, but will be opening these to the community in the holidays.

D) Gosport Borough Council- Pam Conway announced that Sandy Barnett, Childcare Development Worker, is leaving at the end of February after 2 years. The post is being evaluated and regraded. It is a 30 hour a week post and is funded until March 06. Only 3 schools don't have some interest in out of school provision, so there is good coverage. The next Basic Playwork course is in March on Saturday 6th & 13th and is designed for those wishing to work with children aged 5-15. Volunteers aged 14 plus can attend the course. The June course will be for summer playscheme workers. Contact Pam Conway for details 023 92 545722. There will be a Playwork stand at the HCFF Focus Day at INTECH on 11th March. PC reminded members of the GBC Children's Fund support of £20,000 for 3 years to sustain out of school activities. £3,500 is available for children needing support to take part in out of school provision due to Special Educational Needs or financial difficulties. Contact Pam to apply.

E) KIDS- Karen Brotherton announced the appointment of Kathryn Gobart as Play & Leisure Services Co-ordinator. She will run the Saturday Fun Club and playschemes. PALS (Play & Learn Scheme) is a service that currently involves two workers from KIDS and one from Health at Surestart with a health visitor co-ordinator. Staff will offer one hour a week which will be available to every child under one in their own home. The Saturday Fun Club, due to be launched after February half-term, is an Inclusion project within Surestart. Home visits will be made initially and a 10 week block of sessions on a rotational basis will be offered to give all selected families the opportunity to benefit from this facility.

Date of the next meeting

Thursday 6th May 2004 at 1.15pm at Haven Early Years Centre.

Newsletter:

Deadline for articles Friday 7th May 2004