



Hampshire Children and Families Forum

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Gosport Forum Branch Meeting Minutes Thursday 27th April 2006

1. Apologies and introductions.

Jane Parker (Southern Area Manager HCFF) was welcomed as the chair due to the unavailability of Karen Brotherton.

Apologies: Karen Brotherton (HCFF Chair), Beverley Garland (Portage Haven EYC), Mary Jones (Early Years Co-ordinator, Waterlooville Library), Janet Wildman (Search Museum), Janine Leslie (YISP), Elle Wagnell (YISP), Sue Clodfelter (Sure Start Librarian), Julie Edwards (Hampshire Autistic Society), Regina Ansah-Boateng (EECU)

In attendance: Alison Jones (Gosport TLC), Sue Wing (NCMA), Alison Tyreman (Health Visitor), Zanda Ranger (Brune Park), Tracey Matthews (HSLW Grange Infant and Bedenham), Jackie Lewis (Gosport Discovery Centre), Karen Billingham (HSLW Rowner Infants and Peel Common Infant and Junior), Alison Walton (Explosion), Pam Conway (GBC Leisure), Jodie Bond (GBC Leisure), Lauren Stevens (Brune Park), Georgette Purches (Business Link), Jane Parker (Southern Area Manager HCFF), Jane Thicknesse (HCFF Co-ordinator, Gosport)

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved.

3. Speaker: Georgette Purches, Business Link, spoke about a new programme of free support and training for women called Work 4 Yourself. This is a three year project specifically for women from disadvantaged areas in Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport and Fareham. The aim is to run a series of courses which will build confidence and equip women with the practical 'know how' of how to work for themselves. There are no eligibility criteria; the programme is open to women of any age whether currently employed or not. Childcare is either provided or paid for. Each area will receive three cycles of training and support during the life of the project which completes in June 2008. The first course is currently taking place in Gosport but it is possibly not too late to participate. ([More details available in attached fact sheet.](#))

Georgette asked all Forum Members to spread the word about the programme. The aim is to reach 720 women throughout the disadvantaged areas during the three years so she would greatly appreciate women being signposted to the programme. For further information please contact Georgette directly on 07989 579545 or Georgette.purches@businesslinkwessex.co.uk

4. Co-ordinator's Report

([see attached](#))

On completion of the Co-ordinator's Report JP confirmed that 2500 copies of the Newsletter would be published this term.

There was also discussion about the timing of future meetings and it was agreed that the Forum would continue to meet at a variety of times to give all members a chance of attending at least some of the meetings.

5. Information Exchange

Jane Parker informed the forum that the HCFF research and consultation work for this quarter would be based around two subjects:

1. Vulnerable Children – what services are provided for vulnerable children in Gosport? (Before beginning this work a definition of vulnerable children was being sought from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.)
2. Children's Centres – what is happening within Gosport. Co-ordinator will be liaising with other local organisations to build as full a picture as possible.

Alison Walton informed the Forum that she was the Education Officer for Explosion. She brought along details of the activities happening at Explosion between March and June. Alison thanked the group for inviting her along and looked forward to further meetings.

Sue Wing reported that she continued to support childminders throughout the SE Hampshire. From April 1st she has taken on a new role which involves supporting new childminders from the time they express an interest until they become registered. The idea is to help with the mountains of documentation as well as offering practical support until they commence work. Once they start work new childminders are buddied up with existing ones who provide ongoing support. This new scheme had started well and is proving popular. It is hoped that it will help to decrease the number of potential childminders who become demoralised during the early stages and therefore do not complete their registration.

The Childminders Drop In group continues to meet on alternate Tuesdays in the HEYC from 9.30 – 11.30am. Childminders, parents/carers and possible new childminders are all welcome. The next meeting is on Tuesday 9th May.

Sue also told the Forum that she had run a stall in Gosport Market on February 11th which received more than 60 visits. The result of this is that at least 3 children have been placed with local Gosport Childminders.

Sue mentioned that 19th – 26th June is National Childminders week and she will be in Fareham Shopping precinct during this period.

Jodie Bond introduced herself as the new Childcare Development worker for Gosport (the role previously done by Brian Matthews and Sandy Barnett). Jodie's role is to develop new opportunities for children's play and childcare and to support those who already provide this. She is currently working on a number of things including the needs of parents for childcare and play which is part of the Extended Schools Initiative, a What's On guide for children in Gosport which is due for publication just before the summer holidays (10,000 copies are being funded by HCC and GBC) and the free summer open access play scheme which is provided by GBC. (Jodie mentioned that there is a little Children's Fund money available to enable children with special needs to access the play scheme or other activities during the summer.)

Jodie would be delighted to hear from any Forum Members on any of these subjects. She can be contacted on 023 9254 5731 or bondj001@gosport.gov.uk

Pam Conway reported that Gosport had been allocated some money from the Big Lottery so was now looking to build a Play Strategy for the Borough. Partners were required for this. Pam also told the group that a sub group had been established to work on the CYPP with the aim of developing a specific plan for Gosport. The first meeting had already taken place and an initial response to the Hampshire CYPP had been submitted. The next meeting of the sub committee takes place on Monday 8th May at 11.30am at St Vincent's College.

Alison Jones told the Forum that the "It's Your Turn" project was progressing well and that the first beginner courses were due to be held in June in local venues ([please see attachment for scheduled courses](#)). She reminded members that the project is aimed at over 19's living in one of the following areas – Bridgemary, Forton, Leesland, Rowner or Town. Participants must be in employment or planning to re-enter the labour market, not already in a training programme or funded education and must be below Level 2 qualification level. For further information please contact Alison on 023 9260 3589 or ajones@stvincent.ac.uk

Lauren Stevens informed the group that Adult Education Week was running from 22nd – 28th May. During this week Brune Park Community College would be running two events:

1. Silver Surfers Day - Monday 22nd May from 10.00am to 4.00pm – a day of fun activities for those over 50 who want to learn a little about computers and the internet.
2. Media Evening for Adults Only - Thursday 25th May from 7.00 – 9.00pm – a chance to play with MP3 players, digital cameras, find out about music sites and learn about phone texting.

For more information contact Lauren on 023 9261 6000 or lstevens@brunepark.hants.sch.uk
Zandra Rogers spoke about the Family Learning Courses at Brune Park. The recent 'Coping with Your Teenager' course had been very well supported and Zandra hoped that the next one which is based around families working together to produce a family album would be as successful. The 6 week course starts on Wednesday 7th June and is open to all family members from Yr 5 upwards.

Tracey Matthews and Karen Bilinghurst continue their work as HSLWs. They are both happy to circulate any information from Forum members. They are planning a number of courses eg CPCK and will send information to the forum when dates are confirmed.

Jackie Lewis demonstrated a Bookstart Plus pack which is being aimed at children born in 2004. The most attractive packs are available in libraries (child health record book required when collecting pack if possible) and JL is keen for them to be distributed far and wide so asked members to tell people about their availability. Also a Bookstart Treasure Box which is aimed at children just starting school. It is distributed by schools to children in the term before they start school. ([See attachment for further library news](#))

Angela Tyreman gave a very useful explanation of the changes that are occurring within the health visitor services. These include every child having a named HV until the age of 1 and the Development Check being moved from 8 months to 1 year. After the age of 1 there are no further regular assessments unless the child is targeted. Health Clinics will still run regularly. HVs will liaise with pre-schools and nurseries which will enable concerns to be raised but children could very easily slip through the net eg if they do not attend a pre-school. These children could therefore start school with language and development difficulties which had not been recognised prior to their admission.

In addition HVs will no longer be attached to specific doctors but will be spread geographically. In Gosport there will be four teams – South, Central, Alverstoke and Solent. It is hoped that in future the HVs will be found in Children's Centres.

7. Any other business

There was no other business

8. Date of next meeting

Thursday 14th September, Haven Early Years Centre, 10.00am – 12.00pm. Please bring any information for the newsletter.