



Hampshire Children and Families Forum

Gosport Branch, Haven Early Years Centre,

Harris Road, Gosport, Hants. PO13 0UY

Tel: 01329 823234

Fax: 01329 823977 Email: gosport@hcff.org.uk

Website: www.hcff.org.uk

Gosport Branch Meeting Minutes Monday 11th January 2007

ACTION

1. Apologies: Karen Brotherton (KIDS), Pam Conway (GBC), Jodie Bond (GBC Leisure), Karen Merrit (It's Your Turn Project), Alison Marlowe (Pace of Life Coaching), Katherine Marsden-Broad (PUEF), Janet Wildman (SEARCH), Alison Walton (Explosion), Tracey Matthews (HSLW Grange Infant School and Bedenham School)

In attendance: Jane Parker (HCFF Area Manager), Rachel Ralls (HCFF Branch Co-ordinator, Gosport and Fareham), Dave Jenkins (Drug Prevention Adviser), Louise Martin (Oral Health Educator), Sue King (Heathfield School), Sue Wing (NCMA), Kathy Leigh (Home-Start), Scott Hickman (Development Officer, EECU), Mary Jones (Early Years Library), Kim Wearne (Haven Early Years – Community), Rosellen Lambert (Bridgemary School), Zandra Ranger (Brune Park School), Jackie Lewis (Gosport Discovery Centre), Georgette Purches (Business Link), Jenny Hollington and Caroline Devlin (Partnership for Active Leisure Scheme (PALS))

2. Welcome and Introductions:

Jane Parker HCFF Area Manager and chair of this meeting welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming along, despite the horrendous weather outside!

3. Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising:

Rachel Ralls updated Branch members on the law relating to car seats being used in mini buses. Refer to:

www.thinkroadsafety.uk/campaigns/childcarseats/childcarseats.htm

The minutes were approved, as there were no further matters arising.

4. Presentation from Partnership for Active Leisure Scheme (PALS):

Jenny Hollington (Development) and Caroline Devlin (Funding) from PALS gave a very interesting and informative presentation, which provided Branch Members with a good understanding of PALS and the services they provide. PALS are currently expanding their services into Fareham and Gosport and are looking for suitable venues to hold planned activities. In addition to venues, PALS are looking for local volunteers to help with collection of children by mini bus or car.

PALS are funded by Social Services in Havant and Portsmouth, Sport England, Hampshire Youth Service, Local Network Fund and Awards for All. PALS also receive donations and organise sponsored events. They would be pleased to hear of anyone interested in organising a sponsored event for PALS.

During February half-term PALS are hoping to run an event at Explosion in Gosport for families to find out more about PALS. Parents must stay with their child/ren for the event, as PALS will not have carried out assessment checks for these potential new members.

Further details about PALS can be found on their website
www.wearepals.org.uk

5. Update on HCFF Workplans:

Rachel Ralls provided the Branch Members with an overview of what work she had done for HCFF in the last quarter (Sept to Dec 2006).

Refer to Gosport and Fareham Branch Co-ordinator Report.

Rachel also highlighted on the next Workplan (Jan to Mar 2007) that HCFF are working in partnership with Janet Hoff, Chair of the Vulnerable Children Sub Group, consulting parents of children aged 5 to 13 years with Special Needs. The event will be held in Fareham on a Saturday at the end of April, beginning of May 2007 between 10am and 3pm for 160 parents and will take the form of a "Pamper Day". Rachel is required to book a suitable venue and arrange publicity for parents as well as invite along special needs partners in the area who would like to have an information stand.

PALS have offered to come along to assist with the care of any children with special needs who may be attending with their parents. In addition, PALS will have the opportunity on the day to make contacts with the local families in Fareham and Gosport, and to promote their services.

6. Local Network Fund:

Rachel Ralls informed Branch members that the Local Network Fund have confirmed that they will now accept applications for printing the HCFF Directory. It was agreed that the Directory is a valuable document and should be reproduced. Jane Parker explained that in order to apply for the funding, a few Branch members are required to form a Management Group. An application would then be submitted through the Group. (HCFF hold all the necessary forms and can assist with application and also be the "money holders" on behalf of the Group.) No Branch members came forward to join the Management Group at this meeting.

7. Information Exchange:

Rosellen Lambert talked about the Supporting Parents of Teenagers (SPOT) Programme at Bridgemary School and mentioned that there had been a parents' information session last night. She was also hoping to set up Family Learning.

Zandra Ranger informed the Branch that their Coping with a Teenager Course had been very successful and that they had 16 parents attend. Also their Family Health and Fitness for Fun had attracted 55 people ranging from 5 years of age to 3 generations from one family. Spaces are still available and if more families would like to attend they will be very welcome. The Family Learning Programme is continuing but the Literacy and IT is currently postponed for Level 1 Learners.

Sue Wing explained that she supported Registered Childminders who had received an inadequate OFSTED report grade. Sue links in with the Haven and Oak Meadow Children's Centre and generally offers support to Childminders as well as raising the profile of Childminding.

Kim Wearne informed Branch members of a new Lone Parent Group (which links with the Job Centre) meeting on a monthly basis on the last Saturday in the month from 10am to 12pm. The first session will be 27/01/07. Also there is a Young Parents Group running between now and Easter on a Friday from 1.30pm to 3.00pm, for young parents who are under 23 years. Jane Parker to give details to Kim so that she can link up with other groups around the County.

Scott Hickman explained his role as Development Officer within the EECU. He is based at the Mill Hill Early Years Centre, Waterlooville and covers Havant, Gosport, Fareham and Waterlooville. His role broadly stated involves supporting the development and sustainability of Early Years and Childcare Provision. He is also supporting the development of new and existing Children's Centres.

Kathy Leigh informed the Branch that Homestart were not actively seeking volunteers at the moment as they were currently running an accredited training course.

Sue King reported that the SCSP Course running on the 28/02/07 was full. She also mentioned a Cerebra Children's "Sleep Talk", taking place on 16/01/07.

Louise Martin reported that Hampshire PCT had seen big changes. Her role supports Children's Centres and under 5's and all schools within Fareham and Gosport.

Dave Jenkins explained that he is funded by DAAT and is a tier 2 drug advisor, based with health. His contract ends at the end of March 2007, which he is hoping will be renewed. He works to reduce the harm that is caused by class 'A' drugs. He works with local teenagers who are using drugs as it effects their quality of life and costs money. He works with children whose parents are drug takers. Dave also informed branch members that there is now a tier 2 drugs forum of drugs workers, which he attends with other agencies/depts such as Prism and Cranstoun.

Mary Jones reported that she is running Childminder drop-in sessions the 2nd Tuesday in each month at Elson library. She also said that there was funding for "looked after children" (in foster care) from Bridgemary Library. She is liaising with Kent Road to increase library use and to launch the event.

JP

Jackie Lewis Provided a typed document for the information exchange outlining various issues currently happening in libraries locally. **Refer to HCFF Library Info Exchange document.** Jackie also brought along some of the new Discovery Centre Events Guides for Spring 2007.

Georgette Purches joined the meeting at this point and provided the following information about the Work4Yourself Project. "The **Work4Yourself** project to bring free self-employment training to women in the deprived areas of Gosport, Havant, Fareham and Portsmouth completed its first cycle of training in November 2006. In Gosport 43 women expressed interest in the programme of workshops. 39 signed up to start training. 12 did not attend but 3 are now waiting for training in the next cycle, which starts in Rowan on 18 January. 4 completed over 4 hours of training and 20 over 6. Eight of these women completed over 24 hours of training, undertaking all the workshops that were available. Of the original 43: 2 women are studying at College; 2 have found full time employment, 4 are trading part-time alongside other paid work and 2 have become fully self-employed successfully running *Spring-a-Lings*, music and dance for under 5's and *Toesycoes*, making unique covers for pushchairs and wheel chairs, called coseytoes. The second cycle of training in Gosport has a further 39 women booked onto the training workshops. The project will return to Gosport one more time, in November 2007. All the training is free with assistance with child care."

8. Any other business:

Rachel Ralls gave details about the Gosport Play Strategy on behalf of Pam Conway and invited anyone interested in becoming a play partner to get in touch with Pam via e-mail pam.conway@gosport.gov.uk

Rachel also gave an update from Tracey Matthews as she was unavailable to attend the meeting. Firstly, a CPCK course will be starting 1st February at St Mary the Virgin Church Hall, 12.00pm to 2.00pm until 29th March. Also the Behaviour Support Team will be presenting another two Parent's Workshops in Grange Inf/Jun and Bedenham Schools on Child-centred Interaction Skills 14th/21st March and "2nd/9th May, please contact Tracey on **07952 749359** for further details.

9. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 26th April 2007, Haven Early Years Centre, 9.30am – 11.00am in the Large Hall.



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