



Hampshire Children and Families Forum c/o Hart Voluntary Action, Civic Offices,
Harlington Way, Fleet, Hants GU51 4AE Tel: 01252 624036 Email: Hart@hcff.org.uk

**MINUTES FOR HCFF HART BRANCH MEETING
HELD AT YATELEY MEDICAL CENTRE
ON 6TH OCTOBER 2004**

Present: Kate Philpot, HCFF Hart Co-ordinator, Joanna Whitfield - HCFF Area Manager North, Nickie Pocock - Yateley Area Senco, Margaret Baldwin - Portage, Cay Byford - Contact a Family, Allan Gibson - Fleet Hants Website, Janet Turnbull - Health Visitor, Sam Wilson - Traveller Project Worker, Sharon Weaver - Health Visitor, Carolyn Smith - Traveller Education Service

Apologies: Ann Norton - Fleet Area Senco, Rhian Lane - Fleet Library, Gillian Beaumont - Pre School Learning Alliance, Louise Wilby - CAB, Kandy Redwood - Young Carers, Audrey Wood - Health Visitor, Camilla Bailey - Potley Hill School, Mark Blackwell - Hart & Rushmoor Youth Office.

The meeting was opened by Joanna who explained that she had now moved into her new role as Area Manager North and that Kate Philpot had taken over as Co-ordinator for Hart Branch.

Hart Co-ordinators Report

Kate went through the coordinators report, which everybody had a copy of. Kate mentioned that she had some Hart directories still available and to please let her know if anyone would like some.

Sure Start Programme

Joanna explained that the consultations were now happening on a quarterly basis. HCFF consultation topics for 2004/2005 are as follows:

- Q1 - After school clubs
- Q2 - Children's Information Service
- Q3 - Delayed Admissions for 3 and 4 year olds
- Q4 - Services for children 10 -13 years

Joanna mentioned that Hart have not been given any research topics by the unit and asked that if anyone has any local issues to let Kate and Joanna know and these could possibly become research topics.

Ideas from the meeting participants included provision for counselling for children and CAMS.

Traveller Project Update

Sam Wilson, Traveller Project Worker gave an update of the last 6 months.

The Forest Bus now attends the Star Hill site every Thursday for the whole day. Throughout the day the bus is used for various groups, for example a pre-school session, a family time for parents with older children and after school clubs.

Sam explained that Southampton Council have donated 2 cabins for use as a community centre on the Star Hill site and this is planned for q1 2005. Once the community centre is in place, the forest bus will cease to visit the site.

Sam explained that the traveller project aims to increase school attendance via inclusion and he introduced Carolyn Smith of the Traveller Education Service. She will be supporting traveller children in schools.

Sam went on to say that this new role has made a real difference to both parents and children. It has helped in breaking down barriers and alleviating concerns from both the traveller parents and the schools.

Sam mentioned that the Traveller Forum has been rescheduled for 23rd November at Victoria Halls, Hartley Witney. The programme would include workshops covering 'how to help and support those working with travellers' and a number of speakers.

Sam discussed a cultural awareness training programme that is on offer to agencies working with travellers. Sam mentioned that Hampshire Constabulary, the Fire Service, schools and the PCT had already made use of the programme. If anyone would like further information about the course, please contact Sam at swilson@hartvolaction.org.uk.

Sam talked about the Learn to Read group which has been a big success, so much so that another course has started already. The group uses traveller materials so they are relevant. He also discussed the IT project which has recently run a 10 week basic IT skills course which was well attended. The attendees will now progress to following the CLAIT or EDSL course which Sam believes will be a good incentive to others to join the basic course.

Sam also mentioned the Homework club which he has set up so the site children can do their homework in a supervised environment and also access the internet.

Website Issues

Kate asked for any items for the website to be sent to her and also mentioned that the minutes of the meeting will be available on the website.

Joanna mentioned that as the minutes of the meetings are displayed on the website, if there was any information that they preferred not to go out into the public domain, this should be highlighted at the meeting and would be omitted.

Preliminary Discussion on Constitutional Change

Joanna explained the reasons behind the proposed increase in the age range covered by HCFF to 19 and presented the position paper to the meeting. Preliminary thoughts were that this would be a positive move as no other agency covers the whole 'family' age range and that this would make HCFF more accessible. If anyone wishes to see the position paper, please contact Kate Philpot on 01252 624036 or email hart@hcff.org.uk

Items for the Newsletter

Kate explained that the deadline for articles was today and also gave the date of the next newsletter deadline which will be 21st January 2005.

Local Issues/Information Exchange

Nickie Pocock mentioned that a new course called 'Index for Inclusion' has been piloted which covers inclusive practice. Nickie also explained that a new policy on Positive Handling of Pre-School children is currently being agreed by Hampshire County Council and should be rolled out early 2005. Pre-school staff will be provided with training and materials to support the new policy.

The Health Visitors, Janet and Sharon discussed their concerns at the nationwide health visitor reviews. There have already been cut backs in health visiting hours which has meant that most health visitors are now unable to carry out checks at 18 months to 2 years and 3 ½ to 4 years as standard practice. They also expressed concern that they no longer have funding for hiring venues which will pose problems for running parenting courses. Further discussion followed where other meeting participants gave ideas of how funding might be obtained for these type of courses.

Margaret Baldwin said that she had now moved back into the office and was currently re-stocking equipment. She also mentioned a 'Quality Play' course, which is proposed to run in March/April 2005 and is aimed at pre-schools. Unfortunately the information printed in Horizons regarding the course is incorrect. Please contact Portage on 01276 38331 or hantsportage@aol.com for further information or to book a place.

Cay Byford talked about 2 new CAF packs which have been launched: A support pack for health professions on 'Working with families affected by disability' and a parent

participation guide on 'Improving services for disabled children' – both a parents and professions pack are available for the latter. Copies of all of the above are available from Contact a Family on 0808 808 3555 or at <http://www.cafamily.org.uk>

Allan Gibson reported that Fleet Carnival did not make any profit for charity last year, partly due to bad weather conditions affecting turnout. He mentioned that next years carnival will be the 50th celebration and that the format will change so that the Children's procession and fun day are moved to separate days. He said that the main procession would be on 9th July 2005 and the fun day on 10th July 2005. Allan also talked about a Guy Fawkes competition, which is currently going on for Fleet children. Further details will be posted on the HCFE website.

It was good to see you all at the meeting and I hope to see you all again next term. The details for the next meeting are as follows:

Date: Thursday 13th January 2005

Time: 10.15am - 11.30am

Place: Yateley Medical Centre

Early Years Development



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Early Years Development



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