



Hampshire Children and Families Forum
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MINUTES FOR HCFF HART BRANCH MEETING
HELD AT YATELEY MEDICAL CENTRE
ON 6TH MAY 2004

Present: Joanna Whitfield - HCFF Co-ordinator, Sarah Franklin, Jackie Burgess – Family Learning, , Niki Pocock – Yateley Area Senco, Margaret Baldwin – Portage, Cay Byford – Contact a Family, Lucy Ellis – Parent and Toddler Development Worker, Debbie Greatrex – Connexions, Mary Strudley – Health Visitor, Maggie Woodcott – Health Visitor, Allan Gibson – Fleet Hants Website and Sheila Company – Health Visitor

Apologies: Janet Turnbull – Health Visitor, Ann Norton – Fleet Area Senco, Evelyn Ball – Community Development Officer, Karen Thomas – St Peters School, Barbara Billington – Oral Health, Camilla Bailey – Potley Hill Primary School, Rhian Lane – Fleet Library, Helen Ledger – Yateley Library, Sam Wilson – Traveller Project Worker, Nicky Newman – Childminder, David Price – Church on the Heath, Kandy Redwood – Young Carers and Tammy Ford-Whyte – Health Visitor

Joanna opened the meeting by explaining that due to restructuring within HCFF, she was moving into the role of Area Manager, which left a vacancy in the Hart Branch. The position has been advertised and they are hoping to recruit by the end of June 04.

Sure Start Programme

Joanna ran through the local delivery of the Sure Start Programme and how HCFF propose to support the Sure Start subgroups. Next term branch members will be updated on the coordinators work during the last quarter.

Connexions

Debbie Greatrex came and outlined the aims and objectives of Connexions and the sort of services that they provide. Connexions is a new youth service providing advice, guidance, support and personal development services for all 13-19 year olds. Most schools now have a Connexions Personal Advisor and although the children can be referred by a professional, it will only be taken forward with the child's consent.

Website Issues

If anyone would like any information posted on the HCFF website, please forward to Joanna. Allan Gibson asked for us to ensure that there was a link to the Fleet/Hants website. Joanna also mentioned that the minutes of the meetings are displayed on the website and 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.

Items for the Newsletter

Please can you let Joanna have any articles before the 10th May 2004

Allan Gibson – Carnival competition results

Cay Byford – details of the tax credits facts sheet

AGM Representative

Joanna asked if anyone would be willing to represent the Hart Branch at the AGM at Compton and Shawford on the 23rd September. Nobody came forward for this.

Local Issues

Margaret Baldwin reported that the Portage Plus scheme is now up and running and in its second year. This scheme aims to work to support children to remain within their pre-school placements. It was noted that some parents were finding their child's behaviour difficult to manage at home even though the child was in a successful pre-school placement. Information regarding parenting skills available through the health visitors was recommended.

Cay Byford introduced the summary of the "No Time For Us" report. The report includes an insight into the issues of parents of a child with a disability. Cay informed the group that the report promotes parents and health professional working together and highlights need for further understanding of the needs of parents. The study can be obtained from Lucy Arnold on 0207 6088712 or by email on lucy@cafamily.org.uk.

The group was also informed of a consultation provided by Mencap named "Breaking Point". This report included a study into the minimum standards required for parents with a child with a disability to include respite, local provision and whether or not these are appropriate. Copies of this consultation are available from Susan Body, Mencap, 123 Golden Lane, London. EC1Y 0RT. 0207 6966916.

Jackie Burgess gave out leaflets regarding the Family Learning at Frogmore Centre for Advanced Studies.

Lucy Ellis reported of a service she is keen to provide which will include support for children with special needs to access local mother and toddler groups.

A report from the local libraries was received to be passed on.

Fleet library, the upstairs section of the library is closed for 5 weeks from 26.4.04 to create a local history area, the library service is taking the opportunity to create a Teenzone area as well. This will be an area with new comfortable seating, teenage book stock including university prospectuses, revision guides etc.

Yateley library is closing for a major refurbishment from 19.06.04 for 4 months. There will be a mobile library situated outside the current library during the summer holidays. During Yateley's closure there will still be regular Storytimes Tuesdays 2.30 – 3.00 and Baby Rhymetime held in Yateley School drama hall adjacent to the library. Details on 01252 873880.

A report was also received from Karen Thomas regarding the work at St. Peters Junior School on the Healthy Schools Award and the Get Fit Kids scheme, which are both going very well.

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: Wednesday 7th October

Time: 10.15am – 11.30am

Place: Yateley Medical Centre

