

Report from Jayne Ashberry – Havant Branch Co-ordinator, Hampshire Children & Families Forum – 17th January 2005

Consultations & research

After School Club consultation was undertaken in Qtr One with children throughout Hampshire. Final report hasn't been received yet however feedback from the unit has been that our research mirrors that found nationally by the Daycare Trust research.

Initial result showed

1. most children commented that they enjoyed being off their school site to attend a club
2. majority of respondents preferred the club not to be run by their teachers
3. sport was the main request

Qtr Two was the Children's Information Service consultation. There has been a draft paper circulated to Co-ordinator and it is hoped that the final report will be published in Horizon.

In this Qtr 3, which has just finished, I have been questioning parents of children who have just started in year R or are due to start in September 2005. The main area I have targeted with the permission of the headteachers has been local infant schools, by catching parents in the playground whilst waiting for their children to come out of school. I also went to the do-drop in P&T group to gather information for this consultation and also to offer support as they may fold. Later this month there is a meeting to assist this group, which I plan to attend.

In this Qtr (4) questionnaire are based on Out of school care for 10-13. I would like the forum to suggest venues that would be suitable to source parents in Havant of this age group. Research has also been set to find out what provision in havant there is for this age range too.

Other tasks

Since the last meeting I represented Havant – HCFF at the HCFF AGM held at Compton. There was a brief AGM followed by speakers Hilary Loder – "Every Child is Special" and Robin Thomas – "The Children's Bill"

I have also been attending the Havant 0-19 strategy meetings and have been asked to be the vice-chair, however, I am still deciding which role to undertake as I attend the Havant children's Fund meetings in which I have also been asked to be the vice-chair.

I have recently been contacted by Jenny Templeman to be the representative for the voluntary sector on the East Hants Children and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy (CAMHS) Local Implementation Group and have agreed to attend a meeting once a month to feed into this group.

As you are aware the PLAYAWAY Parent & Toddler groups have no longer got funding, I was therefore asked to assist in creating a questionnaire which has been distributed to all registered parents who no longer attend. The analysis of these questionnaires will be undertaken in this quarter and will help to hopefully back future bids for such projects.

Havant hosted the Hampshire Children's Fund stakeholder day at Staunton Country Park, which I assisted with and attended. This included helping question the Hulbert Heroes on their wishes, having a stand on the day and then suggesting a tree planting ceremony to mark the event that I then attended.

The Havant HCFF Directories are slightly out of date and I have had many request for copies, so there is now an update sheet available and an up-to-date copy available direct online via the HCFF website – www.hcff.org.uk . Please could you keep me informed of any changes that affect the directory so that I can keep up to date?

Newsletter

All 2500 Autumn newsletters were distributed throughout Havant to parents, carers and practitioners, I will be working on a Spring 2005 Newsletter and would appreciate articles. Distribution will be after the February half term and in time for Easter. If you haven't received a newsletter before please let me know. It is likely that I will be asking questions of readers on what they like, dislike and would like to see in our newsletters in this quarter too.

Training

Child Protection Training (2.5 hours session) via Horizons courses.
Questionnaire and Focus group training via Daycare Trust.

Havant & Petersfield Special Needs/Disabilities Forum

Attended Carers Together meeting
Child Protection training
Created a leaflet to encourage parents to attend Forum meeting – distributed them via local special needs schools
Visited KIDS, at Fareham
Attended SENCO groups to talk to practitioners and ask them to distribute leaflets too.
Attended Information sharing meeting too