



HCFF HAVANT BRANCH FORUM MEETING

17th January 2005
10.00 am -12.00 noon
Mill Hill Early Years Centre

Minutes

Present:

Jayne Ashberry - Branch Co-ordinator (HCFF)
Judith Woolley – Chairperson (Trospacc Early Years Centre)
Sandra Alexander - (HomeStart Havant)
Wendy Osgood - SDO (Children's Fund)
Lorraine Boyes – East Hants PCT
Anita Taylor – Manager (Mill Hill EYC)
Lydia Armstrong – Mengham Community Room
Sue Pareas – Learning Links
Pam Nelson – Health Visitor
Lorraine Boyes – East Hants PCT
Tracey Strowger – Oral Health Promotion EHPCT
Marina Stafford - HBC
Anna Lewis – Havant Portage
Regina Ansah- Boateng – EECU Mill Hill
Barbara Cooke – HCC Parent Development Team (CPCK) - *speaker*
Tesni Mason – Parent Partnership - *speaker*
Julie Riley – Parent Partnership - *speaker*

1. Introduction & Apologies

Apologies were received from: Alison Brooker, Helen Noice, Bob Coleman, Emma Davis, Sandra Parkinson and Jane Perkins

2. Minutes and Matters arising

Wendy Osgood asked for the sentence “There is hopefully going to be FASST in Bordon too.” to read “Work is currently in progress for a FASST in Bordon”. Jayne reminded everyone of the facility to have local links from the HCFF website. Judith explained that the 0-19 paper would be voted on during this meeting. There were no further matters arising and the minutes were agreed as correct.

3. Branch Co-ordinators Report including Sure Start Programme

Jayne read her report (attached) explaining what she had undertaken since the last meeting. Marina Stafford suggested meeting with her in regards of the 10-13 consultation on Out of School Care.

ACTION: JA and MS to arrange meeting

Jayne mentioned the HCFF Focus Day on 20th April 2005 at Intech and made available leaflets for anyone who wishes to attend. She asked that leaflet be taken for colleague or other parents who may also wish to attend.

4. 0-19 the future for HCFF?

All present were asked to read the discussion paper on extending HCFF remit to include young people. Jayne explained that an original paper had been discussed at the previous meeting and that today it was the intention to gather thoughts from people present and to then vote on whether HCFF should proceed down this channel.

JW stated that the age range 0-19 fits in with everything that is going on at the present. It is good to see HCFF embracing this early. It could be interesting and challenging to staff. Other services are already doing it so it should fit nicely. She supports the proposal.

SA said she was in support of the proposal.

Jayne mentioned that there was a couple of approaches to the change mentioned previously, they were increasing the hours of the current co-ordinator or two co-ordinators specialising 0-11 and 12-19 years.

PN mentioned that Health Visitors work with 0-19 for Special Needs, her initial thoughts were that splitting workers 0-11 and 12-19 would be a good idea as they could then have specialisms required for the age ranges concerned, i.e. 12-19 may have teenage pregnancy and parenting issues. She supports the proposal.

LB supports the proposal, she feels 0-19 is a good strategy for the future, she is concerned however that the transition should be managed correctly so that children benefit.

AT stated that Jayne has just explained the additional resources that were possible, as she would have questioned how a co-ordinator on 10 hours could cover these additional requirements. She went on to state that she was in agreement with the proposal.

TS supports the proposal and her initial thoughts were for 2 co-ordinators split 0-11 and 12-19 as she deals with clients 0-100 and the advice they require does change, as they get older.

WO stated that she strongly agreed with the proposal, that this would bring a cohesiveness of services together under the one umbrella of HCFF. It will also link with the Government's directives of creating children & young people's strategic groups/0-19 groups within each District / Borough Council throughout the County. This then links with the Preventative Strategy and the Information Sharing Strategy that the District / Borough Council will need to address in 2005. It will also encourage the engagement with the Youth Service & Connexions. She stated that she felt it would be more beneficial to see two workers both responsible for 0-19 to give continuity throughout HCFF.

LA felt it was an excellent idea, especially as there is such a gap in the teenage years. She felt it was a positive way forward and supported the proposal.

SP is in support of the proposal and would prefer to see 2 workers both covering 0-19 yrs.

BC felt that she wasn't qualified to give an answer, however stated that she felt that the 11-12 yrs stage of a child were critical and a seamless provision is essential. Therefore she felt drawn towards 2 workers both covering 0-19 yrs.

RA was in support of the proposal.

MS stated that she supported the proposal, felt it was in line with the 0-19 Strategy (Havant) and would give a steady flow of information to parents throughout a child's life. She mentioned also that some young people could be supported twice as they may be parents themselves but still under 19yrs. She felt it was a good move for HCFF.

A comment was made with regards to the fact that parents of children 11+ feel quite alone and that it would be of benefit to see more work undertaken in this age range.

AL felt that 2 workers both responsible for 0-19 would give consistency.

A formal vote was taken, it was unanimous that HCFF should change from 0-14 to 0-19 years old. It was then voted on what approach should be taken. For those who felt 2 workers one who should be 0-11 and the other 12 – 19 there was a vote of one and for those who felt two workers both concentrating on the whole spectrum 0-19 the vote was 13 for.

JW stated that a representative would be required to attend a EGM planned for April 2005, but no fixed date as yet. She told the group that JA or herself were willing to be this representative with their approval. The group unanimously agreed.

5. Speakers

Tesni Mason & Julie Riley from Parent Partnership - Hampshire Education Department an impartial service 0-19 to parent and children with Special Needs.

Bulk of help is for 4-16 year olds. The service has been running since 1994. It has gone from one worker to 3 full time equivalents and Elaine King who is the Admin. Officer, she is responsible for newsletter and info days etc.

They cover a wide range of issues and get referrals direct from parents – they give

- μ Advice and information on special educational needs
- μ Advice on home/school contact.
- μ A befriender service for parents of children undergoing statutory assessment.
- μ Disagreement resolution.
- μ Information on support groups (local/national) and other sources of help.
- μ Represent parents' and children's views within Hampshire Education Service.
- μ Assistance with parental/child contributions towards the Annual Review/Transition Plan.
- μ Information day, 1 a year to get voluntary organisations together – workshops have been arranged for April at Basingstoke.

The service is available during school holidays too. Initial response to an enquiry is aimed to be within 24 hours. Home visits are arranged by appointment. They have redesigned leaflets to go into GP clinics in order to reach more people.

JW stated that she felt it was a useful service to use particularly for mediation. It can be used to help with completing the statement forms. She said that it would be useful to have input into HCFF newsletters and visa versa.

WO asked about FASST and whether they had contacted them and mentioned that FASST would be operating in Gosport too. It was explained that the Partnership has only in the last year expanded and have been inundated. The partnerships are still building up relationships with other organisations. They explained that Hampshire is a huge county and visiting parents can be difficult they are looking at local drop in facilities and searching for ideas on where to start and where to locate themselves.

Referrals from portage workers have been made via Eastleigh and Romsey this hasn't happened in Havant as yet however they would be happy to talk to the team here.

Information Sharing was also raised.

Barbara Cooke – CPCK Co-ordinator, Parent Development Team HCC

Barbara explained how the team is made up. She went on to discuss the Confident Parent Confident Kids (CPCK) and explained that it is a course for parents of children 18mth – 7 years. At Mill Hill Anna Lewis facilitates it. It is an eight week course 2 hours a week and referrals can come from behavioural management, self-referral, Portage, schools etc. Throughout Hampshire the courses are facilitated by personnel in Portage, Schools, Community nurses and health visitors and therefore courses can be different in each area. Barbara said that she had met with Lydia Armstrong and that they are talking about starting a course on Hayling Island however they are looking for a facilitator at present.

Barbara role as co-ordinator is to encourage courses, train facilitators and be a point of contact for courses. She travels around and identifies where there are gaps in provision. There is a small amount of money for facilitators, crèche and venue. Applications direct to Family Learning Unit for £800 to run these courses is available and particularly encourage from schools. Barbara mentioned that programs now focused on parent skills like "Little Angels" are helping to encourage parents to undertake training of their own. Where courses are running there are waiting lists. The course empowers parents so they have a box full of tools to help cope with being a parent. Courses offer a support network for parents too. Many parents exit courses with raise confidence, which encourages them to explore Further Education. During June there will be 2 courses to train facilitators – there is a shortage of facilitator particularly in Havant. It is a good use of professional's time to meet the needs of many. There are facilitators around that have done the training but maybe haven't done a course for a while.

JW mentioned that there is a need for CPCK courses in the Wecock Farm area – some parents would benefit from being escorted to help boost confidence to attend. She mentioned one parent who had been on a course via Tropacc that hadn't been read to as part of bedtime routine as a child and therefore wasn't it in her routine to do with her children, but by being on the course she now has it part of her children bedtime routine. It was also mentioned that there had been a few difficulties in the Havant area due to there being a number of courses running at the same time.

Barbara explained that she needs to be informed of the courses running so that she can co-ordinate, as some are run by Family Learning and Health Visitors etc these need to be known too. It was suggested that a small piece be put into the HCFF newsletter to highlight this in Havant.

WO mentioned the 7-11year old, Children's Fund pilot at Riders Junior School a course that is the next step from CPCK and will be called STEP/Growing Together. Again like CPCK this course has been written in Havant.

Barbara was asked whether there would be an updated video for CPCK. She said that the cost was likely to be £25,000 – 30,000 however it was noted. Park Community School BBC media project was mentioned as a method to get a video made. Facilitator from the forum stated that when they play the current video it is done with humour!

AL felt that baby's coming out of Maternity Wards should have the date and venue of the next CPCK course on their little toe!

It was also stated that the paperwork with Family Learning is quite difficult. Barbara asked whether this was in reference to the Parent Evaluation Form and if so there is now a new form all on one sheet with lots of boxes to tick.

To contact Barbara Cooke telephone: 01962 876336 or email barbara.cooke@hants.gov.uk

6. Information Exchange

AT mentioned the Mill Hill Newsletter and leaflets advertising the SPOT course.

WO made available Calendars produced via Hampshire Children's Fund and mentioned a Support Group meeting to be held at Littlefold Centre on 20th January 2005.

AL explained that she had been in contact with a baby that had MRSA and to reassure anyone who is faced with the same concern, she had contacted environmental health and was advised to use spirit wipe to wash hands and to encourage parents to dust. Do not be concerned.

SA told the forum that Homestart now has a new chair – Monica Jacobs and new Vice-chair – Diana Nottingham.

LB mentioned that Mill Hill now has a Child and Family Health Team – Waterlooville South based here. It will be beneficial for the team to be in a multi-grouped environment.

7. Any Other Business

Nothing additional was raised.

8. Date of next meeting

25th April 2005 – 10.00 to 12 noon at Mill Hill Early Years Centre.

9. Network Opportunity

There was an opportunity for people to network at the end of the meeting.

Please note that if you took any Focus Day leaflets for 2005 scheduled for 20th April 2005 that there has been a change on one of the details for the focus day workshops. Workshop 4 (Creative Play) will now be aimed at age range 5-13 years (and not 0-5yrs as detailed on the leaflets). Sorry for any inconvenience.