



Julie Cunnah, Petersfield and Liss Co-ordinator, 3 Kille Cottage, Coombe Cross Farm, East Meon, Petersfield, Hants Gu32 1HJ

Minutes for Branch Meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at Petersfield Library 12.15

Present: Linda Groves (Rkdia), Cay Byford (CAF), Debbie Ravensdale (CAF), Marina Stafford (EECU), Margot Power (HCFF), Karen Cunningham (Portage), Lisa Rose (Connexions), Julie Cunnah

Apologies: Ann Hammond, Jenny Hollington, Carey Owen and Trish Biggs

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

Copies of the co-ordinator report handed out and will be forwarded by email. The consultation from the pamper day was discussed and Cay and Karen will be sent copies by email to see if any parents from their groups would be able to complete. Karen brought up the question of whether the directories would be reprinted. Margot explained that all the details were on the web, and that at present we did not have the funding to reprint, however we could if a voluntary group applied for the funding ie as the extended services group have in Horndean. Margot explained that we did have parental development money which perhaps could be used to produce some kind of local parent information sheet. It was felt that the directories were very well received as not everyone has access to the internet.

No news as yet on the Children's Centre for Petersfield or Horndean. Marina explained there is a meeting in May and further details would hopefully be known after that. The main problem seems to be because Petersfield is such a rural area, and as yet no venue has been identified. Julie explained that the Kings Arms Youth Centre was also under threat of closure, and there was no real alternative for the youth. Margot suggested that it might be worth asking the school council together with Connexions to forge a link with EHDC to ask the youth themselves what they actually want. Lisa was going to take the idea back and see if there could be any interest. Lisa was also going to see if any youth would be interested in the YOP project, and forward article to Julie for the newsletter to try to get some interest going.

Future Consultations – Cay pointed out that while the pamper days were a good idea parents with special needs don't want to travel or they can't travel. They are unlikely to attend any events over a five mile radius. For future consultations we need to go to the parents rather than them come to us. Cay had a very useful leaflet which may be wise to give out when carrying out our next consultation. It is called Finding and Paying for Childcare – available from Contact A Family.

Julie asked for items for the newsletter – Lisa, Debbie and Linda all have articles to send in by the 10<sup>th</sup> May please.

Speaker – Linda Groves from the HOME project:-

The Rkdia Project is run by Drum Housing and the new HOME project is aimed at 14 to 25 year olds in the HOCROC area. They have 3 years funding from EHDC and Comic Relief. Rkdia is a community centre/youth group/café/and housing centre. People in the flats are supported by a Housing Officer, and they have certain issues which make them vulnerable ie. Drugs issues, debt issues, homelessness, family breakdown. The HOME project itself is run by volunteers, and the idea is to promote independent living/the next step to a place on your own/usually stay 6 months to 2 years. The aim is to go from a supported environment to a non supported living. The age range was extended to 14 years to help youngsters from getting kicked out of home. At present there are 9 volunteers. The target is for 25 to 30 to be supporting 60 young people. The project only has funding for the co-ordinator and that is why volunteers are used to support. Referrals are taken from education, health, self referral. Linda assess the young person for acceptance on to the project. They then meet their volunteer to ensure they can work together. Further details can be sought from Linda on 02392 595158.

Information Exchange:

Marina – Petersfield Children Centre still on red on the traffic light system. It will be a graduated model . As soon as any news she will let us all know as parent forums and steering groups will need to be set up.

Cay and Debbie – Family Support Service – A nationwide service to support parents with siblings with special needs. They are an information, support and signposting service, and are happy to work directly with parents and carers. They can help with access to benefits/educational statements etc. Whatever parents are struggling with at the time. Julie to put details of the Family Support Service in the newsletter.

Lisa – Connexions now have a drop in on Thursday afternoons at the Job Centre.

Karen – Portage are still looking for a centre/venue in Petersfield so await news of the Children Centre.

Date of Next Meeting:

18<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at Petersfield Library at 12.15 midday

Speaker Faye Rowe - she will be speaking about improving childrens  
behaviour, motivation and attainment through effective communication.