



Julie Cunnah, East Hants Admin Assistant, 3 Kille Cottage, Coombe Cross Farm, East Meon, Petersfield, Hants Gu32 1HJ

Minutes for Branch Meeting Tuesday 22nd January 2008 at Petersfield Library 12.15

Present: , Julie Cunnah, Matt Healey (Connexions), Karen Cunningham (Portage), Sarah DeMarcos (HCFF), Ann Hammond (HCFF), Brenda Pullen(Petersfield Library), Linda Groves (Rkdia)

Apologies: Claire Coxwell, Trish Biggs, Alison Hemmings, Lisa Rose, Marina Stafford, Heather Bevis.

Welcome and review minutes.

No matters arising from last meeting.

Co-ordinators Report - Julie explained the new set up for the East Hants area and Sarah gave an overview of what she had done so far and who she had managed to meet- copies of report attached.

Julie requested items for the newsletter to be sent to her asap - preferably for events late March or Easter.

Julie read a statement from Marina Stafford on the Petersfield Children Centre:

Petersfield and Liss Children Centre Update

The proposed Petersfield Children's Centre is one of a second phase of centres now being developed. Phase 2 will see a further 53 Children's Centres created in Hampshire, providing services to a further 42,500 children under 5 years of age.

Petersfield Children's Centre is proposed as a 'graduated' model, providing parental and family support services, located in Readon Close, Petersfield. The services provided will be developed to meet the particular needs of the families living within the Petersfield wards and will include:

- Parenting support and advice

- A crèches for up to 10 children, when required, to enable parents to attend a course or meeting at the centre
- Access to child and family health services
- Drop in sessions including parents/carers/childminder groups
- Links to local day care, extended services, out of school activities, holiday play schemes etc
- Links to local individual and networked childminders
- Home visiting services

The new centre is expected to serve approximately 960 under 5's living in the local communities, based on the 2004 census figures. This is the number of children of that age living within the centre's notional catchment area, this is not an indication of how many will attend the centre at any one time.

The centre will also serve as a base for managing and supporting further outreach services to an additional 1360 under 5's across a wider geographical area, including Headley, Grayshott, Bramshott, & Liphook, The Hangers & Forest, Whitehill Walldown and Liss wards. Some services will be delivered using a mobile vehicle-based service.

Readon Close has been selected as the most appropriate site within the notional catchment area in which to locate the new Children's Centre. Activities and service will take place in the centre for those living locally, with events organised at other local venues in the notional catchment area for those living further away. The intention is to make the services as accessible as possible to young families, preferably within half a mile of their home i.e. 'pram pushing distance'.

A key role for the centre will be to act as a base from which outreach services will be delivered across the whole of its notional catchment area.

Construction work for the building on planning approval is scheduled to begin April 08 and estimated completion date of June 08.

Penny Driver from Supported Lodgings spoke to the group for about 20 minutes:

Supported Lodgings covers the whole of Hampshire - It started 12 years ago in Bordon area. They recruit members of the community who are willing to take a young person into their home and offer support.

Referrals are taken from Councils. Traditionally East Hants has always been difficult to recruit volunteers. Young people can find a direction in life and are encouraged to follow education or training. There is a payment to the householder of £160/170 per week. For further details contact Penny Diver on 07725 952288 - see newsletter for article Spring 2008.

Information Exchange:

Portage - continues as normal - they have a waiting list of 6 families - see newsletter for more info Spring 2008. Portage is a home visiting service which offers support help and advice to families with a young child with additional needs.

Connexions - going through drastic changes afoot - further details to follow at next meeting as unsure yet how it will be affected - likely to be merged into community centres/libraries. Will be called Hampshire Connexions.

Library - Have activities set up for half term (Brenda to forward details to Julie for newsletter).

Rkdia - Giving talks to year 11 at Horndean Technology College on what its like to have your own flat and support yourself. They are starting a new youth club on Fridays from 5 to 7.30pm.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th May at 12.15 Petersfield Library