



## **5. Progress Reports from Co-ordinator**

A summary of last Forum's discussion regarding the proposal that HCFF should extend their age range up to 19 years instead of the current 14 or 16 years for children with special needs was held for the benefit of those that did not attend. Lyn asked if the vote was wanted by ballot but it was agreed that all were happy as a show of hands. The verdict was unanimous in favour with Lyn recording an interest and therefore abstaining.

The Toy Library continues to be very popular but is in need of extra help as a parent volunteer now has other commitments on a Monday. Di offered to help which was gratefully received. A social and learning event was held before Christmas which was very successful. The rhythm and rhyme sessions held downstairs are now held between 10 and 11 and again 11 to 12. These are free and have resulted in parents and cares being able to combine the two resulting in new members for both groups. The evening sessions are gradually building up. These are held on the first and third Tuesdays 7.30 - 8.30pm in Term Times only.

## **6. Children's Fund Projects Update**

**NSPCC – Suzanne-** Work with the North Baddesley Schools continues in the School Councils and Peer Mediation training. This has also been used at the Infant school in training for Circle time. Mountbatten school has received training on anti – bullying attended by over 40 staff and work continues with the school council. Another opportunity will be working within the holiday club at Mountbatten school during the February half – term and the Youth Service Council. Janet asked if it was possible to hold a talk in North Baddesley on anti – bullying and anti - social behaviour which could include the neighbourhood wardens. Suzanne's contact is **023 8024 8186** or e-mail at [sgee@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:sgee@nspcc.org.uk)

**.Rock Solid Youth Project** – Jim could not attend the meeting due to not being able to get an extra volunteer to cover his shift on the bus.

Erika Hamilton – a specialist children and youth drugs and alcohol outreach worker has been employed twice a week from the beginning of September. Erika is making some good relationships and has an impact on those that regularly visit the bus. There has been an incidence of vandalism causing £700+ damage to the vehicle which has been followed up by letters to the neighbourhood and withdrawal of the bus for one week. This resulted in an extra visit to Emer Close that week but some children made the extra journey in order to still access the bus!

Contact **Jim Bird 023 8041 0792** or **07764 603830**.

## **7. Information Exchange**

**Joan - Parent Support Group.** Friday morning sessions are well attended as are the organised outings. Breakfast club has now started since the new Grant and staff are noticing a positive change in the children. The Family Learning worker at Mountbatten school is able to provide a "Confident Parents, Confident kids" Parenting course. Caren Stickler has recently been appointed Co-ordinator on a year's contract. Children in Need application was successful and will provide a Grant for core Funding over the next 3 years. There have also been 3 successful Fund Raising events held over the summer; Shelley Lane Nurseries £836, Mill Water Gardens £765 and the Carnival £125. There are 10 mums and 12 children / babies attending.

The Family Learning worker from Mountbatten School is providing them a Parenting Course and a new initiative is breakfast on arrival.

**Mavis - Opportunity Group** – Places available for children 0 – 5 with special needs on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

**Di** – Introduced the activities being offered at Romsey Infant school for the under 5's. The activities are re-organised as:

Tuesday – Stay and Learn 10 – 11 am. Wednesday and Thursday Triangle and Bumps, Babies and Beyond 9.30 – 11.30am and Fridays – parent music and story group 9.30 – 11.30am. For more information contact the Infant School 01794 513048 or Sam Paulton at Romsey School 01794 522106. Lyn will include an article advertising the changes and what is now available.

**Ann – R.A.I.N and Young Carers** – Reminded the forum that Rain folders are available for use and should be informed when updates to the information are required. Rain folders are available in

Libraries, Health Centres and some Community Buildings. Janet suggested it would be useful to publish a list of their exact whereabouts which Lyn could put in the newsletter.

Young Carers now hold a Saturday morning club which is held at All Saints Church, North Baddesley twice a month. The next Young Carers Conference will be held in the Crosfield Hall, Romsey on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2005. Sandra Gidley MP will attend and there will be a Guest Speaker. The Scout hall in Baden – Powell Way is to be re-developed into “Dr Peter Community Hall” which should be in about 2 years time. Lyn has registered an interest in being a future user.

**Jennie** - There are vacancies for more sessional and activity workers to befriend disabled children. Contact Jennie via Romsey Social Services for more information.

**Janet** – Has now moved from North Baddesley and is based at Alma Road Surgery, Romsey.

### **8. Focus Day Invitations**

Invitations were available at the meeting and were being posted out to the HCFF mailing list from Central office. This will take place at Intech near Winchester. Lyn encouraged members to book early as places are limited within the workshops and there is usually a waiting list for attending.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm.

### **Next Meeting:**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 05 at 7- 15pm Venue– Appletree Centre, behind Romsey Library.**

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