



Hampshire Children and Families Forum

Romsey Branch

Email: romsey@hcff.org.uk Web address www.hcff.org.uk/Romsey.html

Minutes of Romsey Branch Meeting **Monday 24th April 2006 7.15 at Appletree Centre, Princes Rd, Romsey**

Present:

Camilla Campbell	Romsey Library and Chair HCFF Romsey
Jane Parker	HCFF Area Manager
Marie Brewer	WACA, Childcare Development Worker
Lyn Bird	Romsey Opportunity Group
Helen Duncan	NCT

Apologies:

Barbara Wyant	NCT
Di Metters	Romsey Infant P&T
Mavis Watts	Romsey Opportunity Group
Joan Stallwood	Family Support Group

1 Welcome/Introduction/Apologies

Those attending were welcomed and introduced themselves and apologies read

2 Minutes of last meeting

Read and agreed – nothing arising

3 Branch progress report

Post received and handed round included

- § Newsletter from Trust for Study of Adolescence (focussing on 8-11 year olds) – website – www.tsa.uk.com
- § Change up consultation – upto date information available from www.action.hants.org.uk/idp.html
- § Aspergers – talk entitled ‘clashing normalities’ 20th May (information on HCFF website)

The branch is still currently without a co-ordinator but further interviews are to be held shortly. Jane Parker, Area Manager, is managing branch in the meantime.

Consultations:

- § Parent and Toddler questionnaire is available on HCFF web site www.hcff.org.uk/Romsey.html - see under Bulletins

- § Young parents – Lyn had great difficulty accessing young parents locally – the group that had been running had folded and Lyn was unable to access those that had been attending despite the offer of a £5 voucher for those taking part in the consultation.
- § The consultation for the current quarter is centred on services for vulnerable children, but details are yet to be confirmed

Other tasks:

- § Newsletter deadline is 28th April – to be distributed in June – reports on successful events and achievements, changes in local services, planned summer holiday events, anything that you wish to share with parents/carers/those working with families – please email to romsey@hcff.org.uk on or before 28th April
- § HCFF will be involved in working with Children's Centres, but details have yet to be confirmed

4 Information Exchange

Marie Brewer

- § North Baddesley is to have a new **After School/Breakfast Club** and there is to be an Open Day on 20th May.
- § **Hampshire Play Network Committee** (which is open to anyone in play services) is looking for a Chair (there is a paid administration assistant who supports this role.) Marie will forward an item for HCFF web site.

Lyn Bird

- § **Toy Library** needs more staff both evening and daytime. There are all kinds of different jobs that can be done, including having some volunteers on standby in case of unavailability of regular volunteers. The Toy Library shall be seeking to be registered as a charity but this requires a certain amount of preparation work.
- § **Romsey Opportunity Group** had a quiet period, but have now had 6 new children joining. The group is promoted via the Health Visitors, and various health professionals such as speech therapists attend the group. One child has transferred from Totton Opportunity group which has closed. It is hoped to strengthen links with Wordsworth House in Southampton which as an assessment centre. A recent concert was a sell-out and raised over £1,000. These additional funds will help purchase more sensory equipment.
- § **The Family Support Group** continues to be a success, with 25 families receiving support and more on the waiting list. More volunteers are needed to help manage the demand. The group is currently open every Monday morning but are hoping to increase on this availability.
- § **Rock Solid** operates on Monday and Thursday evenings. It is hoping to get involved with North Baddesley Children Centre,

and to employ a family worker so that work can extend to include parents as well as the young people. A similar project in Andover (Kings Community Church) have developed in this way.

- § Lyn also passed on from Di Metters that whilst everyone is keen for the **toddler group run at Romsey Infant School** to continue following the merger with Romsey Junior School, there may be some doubt over it's future due to funding issues.

Camilla Campbell

- § The temporary units close on 6th May with the **opening of the newly refurbished library** scheduled for June. Camilla is planning a pre-view event for local groups and services.
- § The **Bookstart** scheme has been relaunched but has extended to provide packs for a wider range of age groups. The 0 -18 months range will be offered via health visitors at their health checks, the 18-30 months will be available for families to collect from the library (they need to bring their child health record books with them,) and the older range will be available during school home visits.

Helen Duncan

- § The NCT (National Childbirth Trust) have just had their latest **Nearly New Sale**, and the next one will be in November
- § A **50th Anniversary Ball** is being planned for May – Helen will send details for HCFF website.

5 Any Other Business

None

6 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a day-time meeting to see what response there is and to give equal opportunities for those who cannot attend in the evening. The meeting will be towards the end of September, but the date will be arranged by the new co-ordinator coming into post.