



HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FORUM

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

Minutes of Romsey branch Meeting
Wednesday 10th January 2007 at Romsey Library, Princes Road, Romsey

Present:

Camilla Campbell	Romsey Library and Chair HCFF Romsey
Nala McRobert	HCFF Romsey Branch Coordinator
Jane Parker	HCFF South Area Manager
Bev Wickham	Early Years Library service
Angela Bevan	Romsey Sea Cadets/Abbey United Reform Church Romsey
Lorna Wagner	NCMA
Lucie Howkins	EECU Development Officer
Debra McAndrew	EECU Senior Development Officer (Childcare)

Apologies: Lucy Clorley, Marie Brewer, Tony McGovern, Di Metters, and Helen Powell

1) Welcome & Apologies

Introductions made and apologies were read out. J.P announced Camilla's resignation as Chairperson and thanked her for her hard work over the last three years. J.P announced N.M's resignation as Romsey Branch coordinator.

2) Minutes of last meeting

No matters arising.

3) Report back on Work plan for QTR 3 (N.McRobert)

- N.M tendered her resignation in December 2006 but will remain in post until the new coordinator begins the post to maintain continuity.
- TVCS AGM was attended in October 2006. Vast amount of work by voluntary organisations was evident. People using the services gave very positive feedback in letters read out at the meeting.
- An article signposting parents to CIS and EECU for information has been sent to 10 publications. The article was included in the Romsey Advertiser and editors of several other publications were hoping to include the article in their next edition.
- Pinpoint 2006 – Guide to Services for children with special needs was promoted at the meeting. The Apple tree Centre (Romsey) was visited in December 2006 and CIS promotional materials were distributed. J.P gave details of 'pampering' events planned around May 2007 at different locations to offer an opportunity for parents and carers of children with special needs (5 to 15 with special needs) to be refreshed and HCFF intend to collect information at these events about their childcare needs. Dates and venues to be confirmed. Advertising childcare available at the events was stressed as being important.

- **Extended Schools** – A grant of £45,000 has been awarded to the Romsey Area. A website steering group was set up and met for the first time in November 2006. HCFF have expressed interest in helping to develop the website.
 - **Parenting Classes** – A local health visitor has expressed concern over the lack of parenting classes in the area. N.M has contacted ACLU (Adult and Community Learning Project – HCC) for an update on funding and has made enquiries about parenting classes at Halterworth School (Romsey) and with Parentline Plus. Information gathered will be communicated back to health visitor and further assistance in developing classes will be given if appropriate and realistic.
- 4) **Children's Centres** -Debra McAndrew gave an update on **Children's Centres** in the Romsey Area during the information exchange
- 5) **Paper directory** – A paper directory was 'fully endorsed' by health visitors at the HV locality meeting on the 5th December 2006. D.M expressed concern in an e-mail about duplication of information. A list of positive and negative aspects of a paper directory were discussed and added to at the meeting. No decision was made in respect of an application for funding from the LNF.

Newsletter deadline – Friday 26th January

Articles, information and adverts to be sent to N.M before or by the above date

6) Information sharing/exchange

Debra McAndrew - EECU Senior Development Officer (Childcare)

Proposals for a Children's Centre linked to Romsey primary School (a graduated model) is still in favour. Although North Baddesley has been designated as an area for a graduated model no site has been located. The proposal is still to have 53 Children's Centres established in Hampshire by 2008.

Lucie Howkins - EECU Development Officer

Concerned with the development of Children's centres including at present establishing the needs of the community through consultation and research. Links between Children's Centres and extended schools are being explored and maintained.

Angela Bevan – Sea Cadets / United Reform Church

Discussed location of Sea Cadets premises and the use of Church facilities for outreach. Possible hire of room to host HCFF meeting was discussed briefly.

Jane Parker - South Area Manager

Recruitment of new coordinator and chairperson outlined. Advert to appear in the Romsey Advertiser this week. The post of Romsey Coordinator is advertised on the HCFF website. Interviews are to be held on the 8th February 2007.

Camilla Campbell – Romsey Library

Camilla explained her resignation as Chairperson was due to changes in her post at the library. Rhyme Time is at present very popular with on average 20/30 parents attending each week. Toddler time is not as busy but equally as successful. Leaflets were distributed. The Book Start Party and the free distribution of Raw books were publicised.

Lorna Wagner – NCMA

A need for more childminders in the Romsey area was expressed and the use of the toy library was promoted as a valuable resource.

Bev Wickham - Early Years Library service

Described her role promoting the library service and providing services to a wide range of groups, establishments and settings which promote language, communication and literacy development in the under five years age group. Some books are available in dual language texts. Contact details were exchanged.

7) Any other business

None

8) Date and Time of Next meeting

Next meeting – Tuesday April 24th 2007

Thanks and close of the meeting.