



Hampshire Children and Families Forum

SOUTHERN PARISHES (EASTLEIGH) BRANCH

(covering West End, Hedge End, Botley, Bursledon, Netley & Hamble)

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c/o Freegrounds Infant School Hobb Lane Hedge End SO30 0GG

Minutes of Branch Meeting held 5th May 2004 10 – 12am At Community Room, Freegrounds Infant School, Hobb Lane, Hedge End

1 Welcome and apologies

Present:

Jane Parker (HCFF Co-ordinator)

Karen Davies (School Nurse)

Donna Hack (Southampton Twins Club)

Hannah Plom (Children's Librarian Eastleigh Library)

Linda Knowles (PLA P&T Development Worker)

Chris Bird (PLA)

June Smith (Eastleigh Borough Council – Play Development Worker)

Jacqueline Rolls (Eastleigh Borough Council – Children Development Officer.)

Apologies:

Bob Stewart (Chair) Lorraine Tate (Parentline Plus) Jenny Warner (Family

Match) Debra McAndrew (Senior Childcare Development Officer – EECU)

Jane Thicknesse (Volunteer Reading Help)

2 Donna Hack – Southampton Twins and Supertwins Club

The club is affiliated to TAMBA (Twins and Multiple Births Association), and has had involvement with TEDS (Twins Education and Development Study.)

They offer a variety of support – a quarterly visit to Princess Anne Hospital to talk, an information pack on club services is given out to member. They offer friendly advice and have a range of organisations inc National Childbirth Trust that they can refer/call for help. There is a buddy system whereby new members are linked with more experienced members. They run a Startpoint session every Wednesday at Sholing Early Years Centre, Wood Close, Sholing 10-12 am (limited numbers), and organise group visits such as Ollie's Oceanworld at Half Term. Other events include Christmas & Easter parties, Space Ace, BBQ at Royal Victoria Country Park.

A quarterly Newsletter is issued with includes advice on matters such as sleeping and toilet training, student placements, there is 'for sale' page for items of clothes and equipment, notices of committee meetings. Health Visitors are the clubs main point of referrals for members. Members tend to drop out when children reach age 5, but the club does try to cater for those with older children as well.

3 Current Workplan

- New Sure Start Targets. A new document has been produced which summarises the targets to be achieved and in how HCFF will work with the Partnership to achieve them. Most of current HCFF activities continue, including helping to identify and fill gaps in local services. The main change is that there is now more an emphasis on consultation and research, rather than the Information events previously held termly. Events can still be held, but need to be able to facilitate the consultation and research, or be shown to be filling an identified need.
- Jane drew attention to the new Toy Library that had been started up in Bursledon. This was the first and only facility available in the Borough, and is great news.
- At the HCFF Focus Day there was a workshop on Discovery Sacks. These are similar to Storysacks, but are aimed at a wider audience and include curriculum topics, (one for Age Concern was shown, so there is no age limit!) A project in Andover has run workshops for local parents which was a family learning project for the parents themselves, and created useful Discovery Sack resources. It was thought that at some future point it would be good to help promote this in our branch area.
- The HCFF Web Site www.hcff.org.uk Dates of branch meetings, minutes, details of information events, the termly Newsletters are all available on the Srn Parishes branch pages of the web site. The web site is a facility for all the branch members to use, so if anyone has an event to publicise, information to share, questions to ask of parents or other professionals, these can be done on the calendar and bulletin pages of the site. There is also a local links page, so details of those working within the borough can put their details on there. All information for the web site to the co-ordinator please.

4 Information Exchange and any Other Business.

- Hannah also spoke of the Toy Library and confirmed that it offers 2 toys free for 2 weeks (5 for childminders.) Bookstart is being relaunched by the Government via the library working in association with the Health Visitors. This consists of a bag containing 2 board books, a laminated poster, flyers, reading

lists, and a library joining form and are given out to families with children of about 8 months old.

Hannah also drew attention to a new website for children at www.hants.gov.uk/thekidszone which was launched in February and has parts for children and parts for parents.

The Library has a programme of events they are running during June and July at the libraries in conjunction with Hamble Valley Food Festival

- Linda updated the meeting on the Fun Day events, and the Scrapbags. She also issued the latest copy of the Newsletter Toddler Talk. Linda updated the meeting on the latest development with the Parent & Toddler Development Worker project. The original funding and project comes to a close this July, but further funding has been obtained to continue but in a slightly different way.
- Chris Bird introduced herself as the new Pre-school Development Worker for the area and was welcomed by the meeting.
- June introduced herself as the new Playwork officer for Eastleigh Borough Council who came into post in March. Her current focus is on the Open Access schemes for the summer holidays and the Mobile Creche.
- Jacqui informed the meeting about a National Surestart Event at Mountbatten School, Romsey on 2nd June.

5 Date and venue for next meeting
Tuesday 28th September 7-9 pm, Berrywood
Primary School, Hedge End
Speaker = Chris Walsh – Young Carers Project