



Hampshire Children and Families Forum

SRN PARISHES BRANCH

(covering West End, Hedge End, Botley, Bursledon, Netley and Hamble.)

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Minutes of Branch Meeting Held 18th January 2005 10 a.m. –12 noon at Bursledon Junior School, Long Lane, Bursledon

1 Welcome and Apologies

Present:

Bob Stewart (Chair)

Linda Knowles (HCFF Co-ordinator)

Anne Stevens (Eastleigh Libraries)

Vanessa Payne (PLA 0-3 Development Worker)

Chris Bird (PLA PDW)

Bev Wickham (Hampshire Libraries Early Years Co-ordinator)

Apologies:

Wendy Walsh (Eastleigh Carers Centre), Pat Statham (Eastleigh Playworker), Hannah Plom (Eastleigh Libraries), Sara Rinaldi

2 Current Work plan:

o Events:

Plans are underway for the annual Under 5's Fun Day in Hedge End and a Coffee morning to be held in February to publicise Local Network Fund Grants in time for the next application deadline on March 1st

o Consultation

This term's consultation for the Early Education and Childcare Unit is on the subject of Childcare for 10-13 year-olds.

o Proposal for an integrated database or 'passport' to facilitate parents' approaches to funding agencies and/or service providers:

LK gave the background to the proposal in the plea one parent expressed for a passport that said, 'My son has cerebral palsy for life and he's not lying.' Parents of children with special needs often have to repeat the same information at length in several different formats to the various agencies they approach for support. The proposal is to contact parents to find out what information they are expected to provide, to ask service agencies what information they require, and to develop a document which would act as an accreditation certificate or passport to

the funding or support to which the family has already demonstrated a need and for which no further documentation would be required. **Comments on the proposal included the following:** CB wondered about confidentiality, the doubling up of information, and why the system doesn't work now. VP asked what authority it could have, and what area it would cover. BS compared it to the medical card, which carried a summary of medical history. The question was what authority would it have in HCFF, and would HCFF want to maintain it. There would be three steps to designing the document: 1. research, 2. consultation, 3. persuading someone to develop it following a design specification. Portage was suggested as a good place to start, as they have contact with families who would use the passport.

There was general support for the proposal.

3 Potential 0-19 Development

Bob outlined the rationale for the proposal based on the holistic approach demanded by the government: well balanced children are in the government's interest and, in the light of the Children's Bill, it is the right time for the HCFF to consider a holistic approach. Bob explained that the vote would be taken to the Extraordinary General Meeting by a delegate from each branch, or as a proxy vote and then to the Charities Commission. **Bev** explained that she and others had abstained from voting at another Branch meeting because they had not felt they fully understood the proposal, but said that after discussions with her line manager was happier about voting today.

There was some concern that the age range would be too broad to be manageable, that 19 year olds are legally adults, and that the younger age groups are more easily reached. There was also concern that we might be duplicating services.

Chris asked about what services we are presently offering, and **Bob** explained that the consultation, research and signposting to other services that are presently offered would be the same as at present only adapted to the needs of the older age range. **Linda** pointed out that at present there was a need to signpost availability of facilities such as youth clubs and apprenticeships. **Anne** pointed out that the libraries had moved to include young people up to 19 at government prompting and that the proposal does all fit with current thinking. One problem she highlighted is that older kids don't like to see the same person as the primary schools, and it was difficult for one person to cater for such a broad age range, as each needs a different approach, even down to the sort of clothes they wear. **Chris** supported signposting as the way forward and suggested that the more that could be done, the better.

The vote was unanimous (6) in favour of the proposal and Anne Stevens agreed to be voter delegate with Chris Bird as back up. [This latter decision was rescinded by telephone after consultation with her SDW]

4 **Newsletter** Fairthorne Manor have a new toddler group opening in February. They have co-ordinator's details if they wish to advertise. CB to email details of Family Learning.

5 **Website** Bob reported the hit rate is going up steadily.

6 **Information Exchange and Any Other Business**

Vanessa reports Parent and Toddler Groups have the 0-3 Development details, and she is encouraging groups to get their details on the CIS website. Bev Wickham is the new Early Years Co-ordinator for Hampshire Libraries, based at New Milton. She is going out and promoting Libraries in pre-schools. BW will get in touch with CB re. Whether pre-schools should contact Library or Bev directly. She also reported that a library is expected to open in Bursledon, perhaps by the summer of 2006.

Anne Stevens will provide information on the Rhyme Time and Story Time.

7 **Date of Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday 18th January 2005, 10a.m.-12 noon
Freegrounds Infant School, Hobb Lane, Hedge End**

Early Years Development
& Childcare Partnership



Early

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