



## Hampshire Children and Families Forum

### SRN PARISHES BRANCH

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

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c/o Wyvern Technology College, Botley Road, Fair Oak SO50 7AN

Minutes of Branch Meeting Held 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006 10 a.m.–12 noon at Freegrounds Infants School, Hobb Lane, Hedge End

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies

Present:

Bob Stewart (Chair)

Linda Knowles (HCFF Co-ordinator)

Sam Barnes (Volunteer Co-ordinator, Solent Youth Action)

Sue Shearman (Health Visiting)

Wendy Steward (Police School Liaison)

Heather Martin (YMCA Fairthorne Manor)

Anne Stevens (Hampshire County Libraries)

Pat Statham (Eastleigh Borough Council Crèche Co-ordinator, Out of School Clubs Worker)

Chris Bird (Pre-school Learning Alliance)

Judy Turner (Parent Development Team C. S. D )

Apologies:

Hannah Plom, Debra McAndrew, Bev Wickham, Fran Whittington

#### 2 Speaker: Sam Barnes, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Solent Youth Action

**Buddies** is a new project designed to support primary school aged children to enable them to enjoy equal access to out of school activities where they would ordinarily be prevented by low self-esteem, bullying, poor social skills, disability, etc. Volunteers (usually 16-24 year old participants in the Millennium Volunteers scheme work with the child at their chosen activity, helping them to interact with their peers, and eventually become able to attend the activity without their support. This may take a few weeks or up to a year.

Volunteers are trained in child protection, communication skills, confidentiality and how to say goodbye when the child no longer needs buddying. Volunteers are CRB checked, and matched with children following a referral (by parent, carer, or other agency) and a meeting to establish the type of activity the child wants to do. Activities can include school sports clubs, uniformed groups or playschemes, but volunteers do not take the children to the activity; this is so that the child can continue going to the activity after the volunteer is no longer needed.

Sam pointed out that the HCFF branch meeting was the first one he has visited to promote Buddies, and that the first match is expected to be made today. Seven volunteers have been trained but there will definitely be a waiting list while sufficient volunteers to match the demand are found and trained. Matching child to volunteer will depend on the availability of a volunteer in the child's neighbourhood.

Great interest in Buddies was expressed in the meeting and Sam distributed information leaflets with details of how to begin the referral process. Leaflets are initially going to be sent out to Head teachers.

BS asked if parents were contacted first when an agency such as Social Services made a referral and was told that Social Services would initially approach the parents.

JT asked if, in the case of Fostered children, the natural parents would be contacted. Sam supposed that would depend on the relationship between the parents and foster parents.

JT also expected that Buddies would be useful to CAMHS children. SS thought that Health Visitors and Parentline Plus are also expected to be interested in Buddies.

### 3 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising:

LK reported that there had been no adverse comments on the proposal to merge the Eastleigh and Southern Parishes Branch Newsletters. BS mentioned the possibility of also only having one branch meeting per quarter, and it was agreed that this was a sensible move. LK to raise the issue at the Eastleigh Branch meeting and, if response there was favourable, to have only one meeting next quarter (venue and date to be confirmed).

### 4 Current Work plan: LK distributed the work plan and explained some features (Comments in bold):

#### **A County-wide Work**

- **Branch Meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006, Freegrounds Infants School
- **Newsletter:** deadline 5th May 2006.
- **Children's Information Service promotion:** signposting enquirers; distributing leaflets etc. through local groups such as parent and toddlers
- **Toy Libraries:** send information on changes in local toy libraries to Sally Brook who is part of a country working party seeking to develop this resource.
- **Research:** services available to vulnerable children and families

#### **B Work local to branch area**

- **Attend local meetings:** including Eastleigh Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Summer Playschemes Committee, Eastleigh Fundays Committee,
- **Inclusion in Play:** work with Jacqueline Roll of EBC to investigate holding a networking/information meeting to promote inclusion in playschemes to agencies, schools, parents and providers, including extended schools programmes.
- **Children's Centres:** Seek ways to get involved with local children's centre and start developing a relationship.
- **Special Needs Information Day, Quilley School of Engineering, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April:** representing HCFF with information stand.

- **Answering queries** from parents and professionals

#### **C Internal HCFF Work**

- **County Co-ordinators' Meeting** 4<sup>th</sup> May
- **Write end of term reports** by 23rd June

## Local Projects Not Funded by EECU

- Attend Local Implementation Groups (LIG) of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) acting as a liaison point between the Community and Voluntary Sector to provide a two-way conduit of news and views.

BS took the opportunity of pointing out that HCFF funding, while not as much as was applied for, is sufficient to allow the organisation to continue to function much as before and asked the meeting to let us know what HCFF ought to be doing (or perhaps ought not to be doing). JT asked about involvement in the Extended Schools programme and LK responded that she was already involved and hoped to continue to take an active part in extended schools planning.

5 Information Events/Consultations: LK referred to the workplan.

6 Newsletter:

Anne Stevens outlined the Libraries' Summer Reading Mission which is linked to the Alex Rider film to be released on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

JT suggested including information about summer activities, especially in the light of the lack of play schemes in Eastleigh.

7 Website: LK reported that the HCFF website has been re-designed and made easier to use, though there had been some problems. She asked everyone to report any problems so they can be corrected. SS recommended a website called Netmums which is useful as it provides good information. LK agreed to add a link to the HCFF site.

8 Information Exchange and Any Other Business:

SS reported that as Health Visitors leave they are not being replaced, and it is increasingly difficult to give the sort of support they feel is necessary. They encourage mums to contact them and are still running the First Time groups on a locality basis. They value the contact with pre-schools and liaise with them to find children with developmental problems. The Blackthorn Surgery, Satchell Lane in Hamble has opened, so all Health visiting staff who were in Sholing have now moved to Hamble.

JT mentioned the Songs and Rhymes Transition Project which has been carried on after its initial trial year. The project works with families of children making the transition to school. BS commented that it was reassuring to know how much is going on, especially in the voluntary support sector.

AS showed the new Bookstart Plus Packs which are now available from any library to children 18-30 months. Parents are asked to bring their baby's health record book with them. Treasure Chests, for children about to start school are being distributed by schools during the home visits prior to starting in reception class.

HM told about the Fairthorne Manor Family Open Day on Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> and showed the latest YMCA Activities Magazine with details of summer camps etc.

JT introduced herself and explained that she is based at Winchester in the Parent Development Team. Her area includes Andover Eastleigh, and New Forest. The team trains and supports facilitators for SPOTS (Support for Parents of Teenagers), Confident Parents Confident Kids, and Special Kids Special Parents. JT feels it is important to keep links with extended schools and so on.

CB reported that Pre-school Learning Alliance has recently been able to go into toddler groups again and she has begun to see the benefit of toddler groups as a way of getting information to families. Two new groups have opened: Noah's Ark in the Townhill Farm Community Centre, 1-2.30 on Fridays operates in conjunction with the baby clinic, and a new group has opened in Woolston Road, Netley on Tuesdays.

PS reported that the Mobile Creche has had an upsurge in activity after a slack time just before the Easter break.

Date of Next Meeting: Joint meeting of Eastleigh and Southern Parishes Branches, 20th September, Fair Oak Village Hall

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