

Parents Forum
Tuesday 20th September 2011

Present:

Colette Lake, Carrie Merry, Caroline Tiller, Emma Warner, Claire McCarthy, Kirstin Heggs, Kristy Newman, Pat Statham, Teresa Reynolds

Apologies:

Sarah Fillingham, Anna Harrison,

Minutes from the last meeting

Service Delivery; Comments books now available in all rooms where groups are held, parents to be encouraged to use these.

New suggestion board was commented on as being a good idea.

Parent led groups going well, new soft play session starting in October.

Discussed the lack of attendance at parent forum and how the parents forum could promote this. There was a feeling that a lot of parents are still uncertain of the future of the centre, and may not want to commit to anything. Teresa suggested to request 2 parents from every group running at the centre attend the next meeting. Parent felt the parent forum was essential for others to attend to find out how the centre runs, how they can have input, and keep up to date with what is happening locally and nationally in regards to under 5's and families.

Children's Centre update

Teresa gave a brief update on the tender process for children's centres. Tenders will be in by the end of October 2011, HCC will make decision's early next year and centres should be informed as to the new providers from February 2012.

Staffing - Has been agreed that the centre can have 2 FSOW's on temporary contracts until April 2012. One worker will be starting on 3/10/11 to cover Julia's hours and Zoe's post should be covered by November. From 28/9/11 a bank nursery nurse will be working on a Wednesday 10-3 to support clinic, under 1's and breastfeeding café.

Ongoing building maintenance issues.

All parent led sessions going well, and soft play to start after ½ term

Volunteers training session will be held on 23/9/11

Ofsted are currently inspecting children's centres and Chamberlayne is awaiting the call. Teresa asked if parents would be happy to speak with Ofsted if needed - parents agreed.

Forum focus; Role of the Parent Forum

The forum were asked;

What is the role of the parent forum?

Knowing the local families needs for services

Become more involved in the centre -joining the partnership board and

Friends of Chamberlayne

Find out the up-to-date information on the centre

Become involved in helping centre to engage with local families -buddies, advertising, new ideas

There was a general discussion on the role of the parent forum and parent were given the HCC definition from the managers hand book.

The forum were also asked;

How does the centre meet the needs of the local community?

- *The centre has created a community, people know each other in the street*
- *Community safety*
- *Education and parenting courses*
- *Help and assistance for those families in need*
- *An opportunity for families to give something back*
- *Physical activities in line with national awareness e.g. obesity - saints tots*
- *Affordable groups/sessions - opportunities that parents would not be able to give their children*
- *Early intervention and safeguarding*
- *Positive outlook regards education and aspirations for children, especially if parents have had previous negative experiences*
- *Meet other and make new friends. When you have a baby you can be isolated, it's a huge change to adjust to, especially if you have been working and all you friends work*
- *One stop shop for advice and information*
- *Get to know what is available for families; locally, borough wide and nationally*
- *Awareness of issues, national campaigns e.g. child safety, breastfeeding, quit smoking*
- *Safe environment, use services when you need, no pressure, drop in and out of services*
- *Helps to build confidence and self esteem*
- *You don't know where the centre will take you i.e. could start out attending groups and end up volunteering*
- *Opportunities to get involved if you want, no pressure*

Update from Friends of Chamberlayne

Have planned a Glam night for 24/9/11, two themed Tots and Tunes sessions for Halloween and Christmas and the Winter Market place on 24/11/11

Kristy meeting with Teresa to discuss further fundraising ideas.

FoC will support Christmas in Eastleigh with a stall.

Discussed - the idea of giving every child a book at the end of term (Christmas) from the FOC.

Details will be made to advertise the next Friends of Chamberlayne meeting for parents to join and get involved - Ongoing

Update from Partnership Board

Carrie spoke about attending the last Partnership board meeting and feedback concerns about the potential risk to staffing levels and that the chair was raising this with Janet Hoff Children's Centres Services Manager at HCC.

Health and safety audit was cancelled, but the centre has everything in place. The building had also had various maintenance issues i.e. lead theft, drainage, electrical problems.

The partnership board members have also been encouraged to make visits to groups in the centre.

Service delivery plan was discussed and some of the targets included making partnerships with GP's and dentists.

Next meeting 7/10/11 9.30am

Any other Business Caroline suggested swapping days and times of parent forum meetings to allow others to attend.

Teresa to look at possible days for an arts and crafts café, for parents to produce things to sell at events.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 15th December 10-11.30am

Chamberlayne Children's Centre, Community Lounge