

Chorleywood & Loudwater

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Date: 12th July 2011

Venue: Chorleywood & Loudwater Children's Centre, Chorleywood.

Time: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

Attendees:

Name

Sandra Mooney
Martin Trevett
Nina Parker Hughes
Gaynore Fletcher
Mandy Summers
Simone Tyson
Jan Andrews
Emma Kay
Jenny Franklin
Emily Jacques
Emma Weidner
Helen Jones
Christine Freeman

Organisation

Children's Centre
Three Rivers District Council
Children's Centre
Home-Start
Parent
Parent
Chorleywood Library
Health Visitor
Childminder
Hertfordshire Library Service
Hillside Pre-school
PSLA
St Andrew's Toddlers

Apologies:

Name.

Katharine Maxwell
Duncan Gauld
Emma Roadnight
Yvonne Merritt

Organisation

Carpenters Community Church
Christ Church School
Christ Church Toddlers
Parish Council

MEETING OPENED

1. WELCOME

The Chair, MT, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

All attendees were introduced, and apologies were noted.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were confirmed as correct.

The matters arising had been circulated in advance on a report.

Outdoor Play – The Parish Council have given permission for ‘Down In The Woods’ to run two outdoor play sessions in the summer on the Common.

Relocation of Baby Clinic – The CC is currently consulting with parents about moving the baby clinic from Bullsland Hall to the Library. So far the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with only two Mums who live very close to Bullsland having any objection. MT – it will presumably protect the library to make better use of the building. SM – it will provide a bigger area, with separate space for confidential conversations with the HV. EK – it’s a better location for the clinic, and Bullsland Hall is too small now as the clinic is so busy.

SM – the possibility of moving the clinic from Bullsland Hall was discussed at the last advisory board meeting and minuted. The Parish Council are invited to these meetings and receive copies of the minutes. The CC will continue to use Bullsland Hall for ad hoc events, and will still recommend to parents looking for party venues, etc.

First Aid Course – it was suggested at the last meeting that the CC investigate other First Aid courses. St. John’s Ambulance offers a course for £30, less if on certain benefits. Therefore the course the Children’s Centre offers is less expensive at £15. It fits well into the CC postnatal programme so new parents are encouraged to come along to Baby Clinic and Baby Group, Massage, Yoga and First Aid in the first year.

4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

SM distributed a service update report. Services remain largely unchanged, with the addition of Down The Woods in summer. Connexions will start to use the CC from September – they already work from neighbouring centres in Croxley and Rickmansworth.

The CC hopes to work with the Library service about Communication, and SM will liaise with EJ about that.

The CC had tried to offer workshops out through pre-schools and nurseries, but with limited success, so they have been pulled back and offered out through the CC.

The Parenting Puzzle is being run jointly between the CCs of Chorleywood, Croxley and Rickmansworth on Wednesday evenings. The course was advertised on CC timetable and the website, but there was no take up from Chorleywood. In future the course will be offered three times per year, once in the morning, once in the afternoons and once in the evenings.

The ‘1,2,3 Magic’ parenting DVDs have proved very popular with local parents and this may prove a more appropriate delivery mechanism in this area. Family Outreach Workers can work with families individually too to help them address parenting problems.

At the last meeting the CC agreed to pull together details of the wrap around child care available in the area. SM contacted the Family Information Service who hold this information, but they will only provide it to parents and carers, not to the Children’s Centre. The CC should direct people to the FIS for this information.

JF said that Rickmansworth CC holds details of local childminders.

HJ suggested talking to local Children's Centres to find details of wrap around care in each area and then collate. Childminder's details change often to signposting people to the FIS would be preferable.

The Childcare sufficiency survey results have been delayed but Melanie McQueen may have some information.

MT reminded the meeting that there is no point reinventing the wheel, so if the information is held by the FIS then parents should be directed to them, so long as they provide data across boundaries given that we are so close to Buckinghamshire here.

SM said antenatal services are being reviewed, and classes currently take place at Watford General Hospital or Croxley Green.

EK commented that local take up of NCT classes is very high.

SM said she had actions outstanding concerning hearing and health checks.

The CC now has more than 50% of under 5s registered. We are working with three teenage parents (but no figures are available about how many are in the area). We have raised awareness of the CC by offering activities at all the local school fairs and running a stall on Village Day.

EK said that she took Croxley CC staff to a primary care meeting, and offered to take Chorleywood staff to a meeting too to help to raise their awareness with Health.

SM suggested that the CC would include material in Nursery class book bags in September. EW said she would be happy to include this in book bags.

Case Study Evaluation of Services - we have put together case studies and are assembling Learning Journals about services delivered rather than individual children.

PSLA Operational Plan – one of the SureStart priorities is parental involvement, so we hope to hold coffee mornings for parents where we make sure everyone's views are taken account of, possibly in association with Chorleywood Mums. ST agreed.

Reducing Our Carbon Footprint – The CC is already recycling, have the lights on a sensor and are trying to reduce paperwork

Budget – copies of the budget were distributed, and the budget was observed to be currently on track. ST offered assistance in preparing the budget.

MT enquired if the accounts were audited. HJ said they were audited nationally.

Parent Feedback – Ready 2 Learn has been evaluated very positively, and it has been reported that it has really helped some children to settle into school as they had become used to the class room by attending the group.

Outdoor Play Area Update– ST said she had been to Parish Council Meetings and a sub-committee has been set up to discuss the play area further. .

JF said that child carers from Chorleywood don't often come along to the Childminder Toddler Group in Rickmansworth where they could find peer support and information.

HJ said that this problem was reflected in the whole of the country. SM said that the CC offers Messy Play at a weekly session aimed at nannies and childminders. CF said that she had found that local parents had high expectations about how their nannies structured their days, and they may not be allowed the time to attend such groups.

PSLA 50th Birthday Party – MT said that despite the dreadful weather the event was very well attended and everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves. SM thanked Councillor Haywood for cutting the cake, and MT for blowing out the candles. She said she had tried three times to get coverage of the event in the local press. CF suggested contacting 'Chorleywood Matters'.

SEF – there has been no progress to date. HCC are due to come in August.

5. Safeguarding

CRBs had been requested for all members of the Advisory Board. SM has been on Designated Safeguarding Training. EK said that Rickmansworth and Croxley refer to HVs when they have safeguarding concerns, and she could offer this to Chorleywood CC too. SM confirmed all the CC staff have the Herts CC phone numbers for referrals.

6. AOB

ER wrote that The Junction at Christ Church will have its official opening on 3rd Sept and Toddlers starts in the new room on Mon 5th Sept. The facility is open to all not just members of the congregation. The rooms will be available for hire - children's parties etc We will be hosting a family day/Harvest Festival on Oct 8th.

She also reported that she has stepped down as Christ Church Toddlers co-ordinator with no replacement. In the interim contact Amy Nicholls who runs Weds am until a replacement comes forward. The volunteer has to be a Christian and part of the Christ Church congregation.

7. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings will be held on:

- Tuesday 11th October 2011, 1.30 pm to 3 pm
- Tuesday 17th January 2012, 1.30 pm to 3 pm
- Tuesday 24th April 2012, 1.30 pm to 3 pm
- Tuesday 10th July 2012, 1.30 pm to 3 pm

Signed:

Date:

*“Pre-school Learning Alliance Sure Start Children’s Centres Hertfordshire.
Working together with families to give children the best start in life.”*

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