

CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP
WOODHILL HOUSE – COMMITTEE ROOM 3
Wednesday 18th June 2008

10:00 a.m.

MINUTE OF MEETING

Present:

Emma Watson	Manager – Childcare 4 All (Chair)
Trish Morgan	Aberdeenshire Integrated Assessment Framework
Anne Law	JobCentre Plus (for Gillian Robertson)
Jill Chillingworth	Capability Scotland (Shadowing Emma Watson)
Lorna Yuill	Childcare @ Home (for Maureen Rennie)
Sarah Campbell	Grampian Racial Equality Council
Linda Pirie	National Day Nurseries Association
Martina Hickey-Laing	Aberlour Childcare Trust
Margaret Wylie	Scottish Childminding Association
Cllr Richard Stroud	Elected Member
Mandy Mayo	SPPA
Jenny Willox	Parent Representative
Susan Bain	Association of Quality Nurseries in Scotland
Maureen Strachan	Manager, Peterhead Family Centre (Social Work)
Helen Farquhar	Early years Review Team (Observer)
Jo Hughes	Education Officer (Early Years)
Moira Beverley	Education Accountant
Caroline Hay-Crawford	Development Officer (Childcare Strategy)
Debbie Bruce	Training Officer (Childcare Strategy)
Amy Pirie	Information Service Co-ordinator
Jean Peat	Minute

Welcome

As there were so many new faces around the table, the Chair asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. Apologies:

Jim Wilson	Scottish Enterprise Grampian
Shaunna Allan	Development Officer (Early Years)
Calvin Little	Public Health Co-ordinator
Maureen Rennie	Manager - Childcare @ Home

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Agreed as an accurate account of the meeting.

3. Draft Minutes of Partnership Sub-groups for Noting:

Funding Task Group Meeting 18 March and 9 May 2008

There were no questions or comments

Training Task Group Meetings 16 April 2008

There were no questions or comments

Information Task Group 13 May 2008

There were no questions or comments

ACTION

4. Matters Arising from Last Minute:

a) Care Commission Complaints Procedure

Members had received a copy of the reply from Jacquie Roberts, Chief Executive of the Care Commission, regarding the urgent need for an appeals procedure. Mr Chris Stadames, Regional Manager in Aberdeen, will be making contact to offer the opportunity for discussion. The Partnership needs to decide how this will be done. Susan advised members that the National Quality and Consistency Forum, planned for the following day, had been cancelled so there would be no opportunity to raise the matter with them until the next meeting. It was agreed that Maureen, as Vice Chair, and Susan, would meet with Chris Stadames to discuss specific inconsistencies. Susan would also raise concerns at the next Quality and Consistency meeting. A lengthy discussion around the storage of nappies ensued. This has recently become an issue between the Care Commission and some settings and will be one of the points highlighted in discussion. Other observations to come from the discussion were:

- No appeals procedure is a breach of human rights
- Evidence is often based on one person's word or simply a matter of opinion
- The quality of the evidence is often in question
- There are movements afoot nationally challenging the way Regulators regulate
- Information exchange is poor
- There should be consultation before changes are made
- Directives should be issued nationally before changes are implemented
- Requirements should be the same for all and not at the whim of individual officers

5. Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF):

Trish Morgan, IAF Project Manager, was present to inform the meeting of Aberdeenshire's version of this new national initiative based around 'Getting it Right for every Child'. The aim of The Framework is to provide *a single, standardised Aberdeenshire model of integrated assessment, planning and recording, for children and young people*. This is expected to facilitate information sharing between all agencies and free up time by rationalising meetings. From a handout, Trish guided members through the key components and principles of The Framework. At question time the following points were raised:

- Confidentiality featured highly with professionals when considering information sharing. Trish agreed that this did raise anxieties amongst professionals but it was hoped that a single form as well as consent from the families would cover this concern.
- Parents should be informed well in advance of any new developments before attending meetings.
- Would there be one link person for the family? Once tasks and the professionals to take them forward had been identified, a lead professional would be chosen to co-ordinate the action plan and meet the needs of the family. They would not be expected to do everything. There are issues around administration which will need to be addressed.
- There may be gaps in the provision for those pre-school providers who do not have connections with Community School Networks. It was stated that the Early Years Forums, which feed back to the networks, were an avenue for these non-commissioned private and voluntary providers. This system only works well in some areas so the Scottish Government is providing funding to recruit teachers to network and work with partner providers. In Aberdeenshire this will mean seventeen teachers to work with around one hundred and ten commissioned partners. The NHS would be providing the equivalent within GP practices to take on the responsibility for sharing information.
- The largest gap would include the unregulated 2s groups. It was felt that this area needed addressing.
- The whole was thought to be a positive move.

6. Childcare @ Home & Childcare 4 All Reports:

There were no questions concerning either report but Emma updated members on the offer made on the thirty-hour vacancy.

7. Early Years and Childcare Review:

Helen was invited to update the group on the review but was only able to say that it was on target to have the draft report submitted to the Director the following Monday. He will check the recommendations and possibly add some of his own. Once the paper has been refined it will then be ready to submit to committee. Cllr Stroud confirmed that this was expected to be early Autumn. Caroline's concern was that, in order to be fair to partners who had received funding until March 2009, The Partnership would need to know of any major changes by the end of the year so that partners can make provision on any budget implications. Jo said she would like to see the changes phased in over eighteen months giving grant receivers three months notice.

Cllr Stroud took the opportunity to advise members that the Education, Learning & Leisure Committee is gathering evidence from all educational establishments on the extent of its provision. As the Childcare Partnership has strong connections in all areas of E, L & L it was suggested that these aspects be indicated to the Improvement Officers so that the information presented to the committee is robust and will allow elected members to make informed decisions.

8. Childcare Partnership Targets:

Caroline wished to update the group on what has been a busy period for Childcare Strategy. Conference

Everyone was in possession of a brief report on the 'Lets Learn to Play' conference held at Kintore Primary School on 17 May 2008. It was a positive day and the attendance was overwhelming. Two hundred and two candidates participated. The workshops were particularly enjoyed by all and were relevant to the work being carried out in settings today. One hundred and seventy six evaluations were returned and the feedback was good. Anyone wishing to see the full analysis should request a copy.

Summer Activities – 12+ Programme

Details of the programme are on arcadia and the Aberdeenshire Website, a hard copy of the programme was provided. Numbers are expected to be high.

Highland Games

This popular and well-tryed programme will be held again this summer on 15 and 16 July at Archaeolink. Indoor facilities are available should the weather be poor.

Childminder Fund days

These will be held at four locations, Aden Park, Crathes, Haddo House and Archaeolink on 8th, 10th, 14th and 17th July respectively. The take up of places so far has been good. The usual activities will be on offer and the days will be rounded off by storytelling delivered by Surestart.

Daycare Activities

Letters offering a virtual amount of money to spend on activities for 3 – 5 year olds have been sent out to the settings.

Doric Handbook

This joint project with the City and Moray will be launched at Fyvie Castle on 11 September 2008. Primary school classes will be invited to work on and perform poems from the book. Sheena will lead sessions with groups of children from two pre-school settings. The next book will be for three years and upwards.

Reading Festival

The festival will take part in the Portlethen area. The Reading bus will be present and various groups will be invited along to take part.

Sing a Ring Sessions:

All staff of pre-school groups are encouraged to come to the Sing a Ring training regularly organised by Childcare Strategy. Cllr Stroud said he saw a potential strong connection with 'Story Sack', with which the Library Service was heavily involved

Music Resources

In collaboration with The Youth Musical Initiative (YMI), Childcare Strategy have compiled, provisionally, six resource boxes of percussion instruments for use by children in out of school care settings. Training has already taken place for staff working in the central area of Aberdeenshire. Two other sessions are planned for staff in the North and South after the summer break. It is hoped that all groups will create a piece of work using the resource box. The results will then be performed at a get together in October.

Intergenerational Project

This new target is being developed in collaboration with Dr Ian Russell from Aberdeen University, Community Learning and the young and older people of Banchory. Young people will be aiming to, by gathering information from older people, produce and publish a history booklet and a leaflet guiding people around an 'Historical Walking Trail'. It is also hoped to produce a DVD. It will be necessary to provide the young people with digital recorders and training to enable them to carry out these tasks. It was anticipated that the cost of this would be around £1,500. 'Awards for All' will be approached for further funding for the publications. The group were happy to award the £1,500 for training.

9. Future Chair of the Childcare Partnership:

As this meeting would be Emma's last as Chair of the Partnership Caroline asked for nominations for the position. Maureen Rennie, Vice Chair, was happy to move into this role in the absence of any other volunteers but this would mean the Vice Chair position would be vacant. Nominations to Caroline before the next meeting.

Caroline thanked Emma for her sterling work as Chair of the Partnership, wished her well in her new venture and presented her with a bouquet from the Partnership in appreciation for all she had done.

10. 2008 – 2009 Expenditure Update:

The financial statement showed a spend, so far, of £457,124 including funding already committed. This did not include salaries for April and May.

11. AOCBUnder 8s handbook Competition

Amy passed around the winning entries to the art competition, these will be published in the next re-print of the handbook. The theme was 'friends'. The launch of the next book will take place in November.

Grampian Racial Equality Council (GREC)

Sarah Campbell, Senior Racial Equality Officer, introduced herself as the representative for Grampian Racial Equality Council. Sarah advised of new 'Equality' legislation on the Statute Books and requested the opportunity to speak to The Partnership at a later date on how it is relevant to the work of the Partnership. Sarah also wished to make members aware of the GREC reporting and recording system. This would be included as an item on the next Agenda.

Job Centre Plus update

Anne Law was standing in for Gillian Robertson who has taken up a temporary promotion. The recent legislation encouraging those on benefits back to work means that more clients will be looking for jobs and there will be an increase in the need for childcare. Pre-employment training for clients, involvement of employers, flexibility issues and work trials will all be moved forward by Gillian's temporary replacement who will feed back to Gillian in the meantime. The Partnership will be advised of the name of Gillian's replacement in due course

SPPA 40TH Birthday Celebrations

Mandy reported on the successful 40th birthday celebrations held in Edinburgh. Twenty-two MSPs were present. Aberdeenshire toddler groups featured in a presentation of the work of the SPPA. It was a good day and the weather was kind.

CHC

Policy and Resources Committee

Cllr Stroud told the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee's approval of substantial investment in schools over the next five years. A number of primary schools, community and sporting facilities will be replaced. The Council has been advised of new financing from The Scottish Government up until 2012 – 2013 to be received around 2010. This will have some impact in terms of Nursery, Primary, community and sporting provision. The Build will be along similar arrangements to the PPP Projects. Caroline voiced concerns that any new build should have adequate accommodation not only for the school's use but for potential out of school care services too. Cllr Stroud felt that he could reassure her to a degree that the design brief would include consultation on all requirements. Integrated working across all services is now a well-understood issue. All physical and operational requirements will be collated before the design stage is reached.

12 Date & Time of Next Meetings

Wednesday 10th September 2008 – Woodhill House – Committee Room 1
Tuesday 9th December 2008 – Woodhill House – Committee Room 4.