

Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership

Training Strategy Task Group

Committee Room 5 , Woodhill House

Wednesday 25th June 2008

2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Minutes

Present:

Debbie Bruce	Training Officer
Lynette Clubb	Cairn Training
Muriel Milne	GW@EY
Rosemary Pinsent	Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Fiona Rennie	SCMA
Kristin Stachura	Pre-School Development Worker
Kathlyn Taylor	Children's House
Alison Nicoll	Childcare Partnership – Minutes

1. Apologies

Caroline Hay-Crawford Development Officer

2. Minutes of Last Meeting – 16th April 2008

These were accepted as read.

3. Matters Arising:

Kathlyn asked for it to be noted that Item 7 (Benchmark Standard for Childhood Practice) – Technical Excellence group was the Childhood Practice Development Group.

4. Update on Training Provision and Development Activity:

Debbie presented a brief summary on the training provision in that only courses which have no financial implications are being run at the moment, such as Child Protection, Top Tots, Nutritional Guidance, and Surestart. Training does not run in months of July/August.

First Aid courses back on track with new tutor, Tom Malcolm, who's tender was successful. We are now catching up on the waiting list.

5. Conference 2008: Saturday 17th May 2008

Debbie reported conference went very well – a report is available and will circulate to the group.

202 attended the conference – the 2 speakers were very well received – Aline focussing on Play and Theories of Practical Play in relation to transition from Early Years to Primary School. Claire – Consulting with children and use of talking/thinking floor books. The group has heard lots of talk within settings about the conference. Most people managed to get their workshop choices. Kristin asked if everyone was invited as some playgroups had not seen the leaflet – perhaps it had not reached some Playgroups in CEC's. The Buddy system worked well with lots of good comments about the day.

6. Training Outline:

Development of the Training Outline is still on hold although we are running basic courses like first aid and food hygiene and there is the possibility of running some other sessions if for example one setting needs something and other people can come along. Doing larger training sessions, rather than one per month may be a possibility and a preferable idea. Some of the courses had very low attendance. The possibility of Capability taking on Additional Needs Training Courses – Debbie will speak to the new manager when in post.

Fiona suggested that it would be worth mentioning in Newsletter re. hold on training – so that candidates are aware of the position. Debbie to write something for newsletter.

All workshops in the future need to be validated and credited – unsure at this point how we will do this. The workshop certificates at the moment are only a record of attending training and not actually of learning. Kathlyn suggested that SSSC should take this on board. First Aid and Food Hygiene would be easier as they get registered certificates.

7. Benchmark Standard for Childhood Practice:

Kathlyn attended a meeting to look at alternatives to the University approach. – Development of Awards at Aberdeen University are in the early stages although they have said some Awards will be ready by Sept 2009 – Aberdeen University going for approval with SSSC in July. 50% of award has to be work based assessment which University doesn't do and possibly done in more than one early years setting.

Kathlyn said that someone registered as a Manager now, who re-registered in 2011 would have 3 years from now in which to get the Benchmark Standard. Those who have BA Childhood Studies may still need to get more credits for the Childhood Practice Award. Discussion took place where exactly the BA stands in relation to SSSC Framework.

Each institution when giving credit towards standard does own mapping and has own policies. It was felt that with an older workforce some staff are not going to get credits for what they have done already as it may have been a while ago and some are probably going to leave the sector which is both disappointing and worrying!

8. Story Sacks

Fiona and Kristen had attended the Marr launch of Storysacks where they found Neil Griffiths, 'inventor' of Storysacks very inspiring. Kristin passed on some information to Debbie and perhaps there is a possibility we can use him at a future conference.

9. A. O. C. B.

1. Workshops – First Aid Trainer now in place after going to tender

All other workshops will also have to go to tender eventually.

2. Kristin asked about the Training Outline – candidates can apply for courses they want and we will run some in settings if possible if we get big groups attending.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 3rd September – Conference Room D (on 1st Floor) - 2.00 – 4.00 pm

Future Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 29th October – Conference Room D (on 1st Floor) - 2.00 – 4.00 pm

Wednesday 17th December – Committee Room 4 - 2.00 – 4.00 pm