

Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership

Training Strategy Task Group

Committee Room 5, Woodhill House

Thursday 28th February 2008

2.15 pm – 4.00 pm

Minutes

Present:

Caroline Hay-Crawford	Childcare Development Officer
Debbie Bruce	Training Officer
Shaunna Allan	Aberdeenshire Council
Lynette Clubb	Cairn Training
Elizabeth-Ann Engels	Project Manager (Early Years)
Muriel Milne	GW@EY
Fiona Rennie	SCMA
Kathlyn Taylor	Children's House
Jim Wilson	Scottish Enterprise Grampian
Alison Nicoll	Childcare Partnership – Minutes

1. Apologies

Jo Hughes	Education Officer (Early Years)
Rosemary Pinsent	Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Diane West	Banff and Buchan College

2. Minutes of Last Meeting – 21 January 2008 –

Caroline asked that changes be made to Conference 2008 – 2nd line – Caroline to contact Sue Palmer, Peter Dixon and Tina Bruce as possible speakers.

Also question marks on Reading Bus and Doric Book – Debbie intimated that this was because we were unsure if these would be included in the Conference .

Changes will be made and the minutes were accepted.

3. Matters Arising:

No matters arising from previous minutes.

4. Update on Training Provision and Development Activity:

Debbie presented the update and explained the January and February had not run a lot of accredited workshops – this was cut back because of budget. Discussion took place with regards to reprinting the Training Programme and it was decided that a meeting to discuss this with Jo should take place, when she returns from holiday. Many groups need to be considered in Training Requirements : Playgroups, Creche, After Schools, Childminders etc. as they may have differing needs. The group were in agreement that non-accredited training should take into account the content of the accredited courses. It was noted that training was one of the things that was being looked at through the Early Years Review. Courses being run at the moment were Child Protection, Food Hygiene, First Aid, Top Tots, Nutritional Guidance. Elizabeth commented that the Child Protection training provided by Partnership was really valued and consistent in quality. Concerns raised were time that people were waiting for courses, and courses being cancelled. Debbie and Caroline explained that workshops had been trimmed down and only essential courses were available and if there were not enough candidates only then would a course be cancelled.

It was very rare that courses were cancelled although sometimes weather determines this. Discussion re. Locations, and also Partner Trainers not always being available, poses problems for courses being run when we want them to. Elizabeth-Ann asked whether workshop courses were externally validated. Debbie explained that candidates complete evaluations which form quality assurance for courses. Debbie has attended workshops and agreed that some courses and trainers need to be updated. Muriel said she can give information on in-house training that they offer. Kathlyn said that looking at CPD's were important.

BA in Childhood Studies: This no longer sits on Framework for SSSC. Managers choosing to do only the BA and who have no other qualifications would be required to do additional work to be able to register with SSSC. Debbie to find out how many people are going to be in this situation. Not a lot of people have actually completed the BA.

News of the Level 5 Benchwork Standard in Childhood Practice. Kathlyn had met with steering group to look at Recognition of Prior Learning – no feedback was available yet, but 50% of Level 5 has to be work based. She is to attend another meeting on 27th March. Caroline had contacted Sheila to get a joint shire, city and Training provider meeting but has had no response so far. Lynnette said it had been mentioned at a City meeting she had attended, so hopefully will take place in the near future.

5. Early Years Strategy review:

Elizabeth explained that Child at Centre Framework was the basis for forming questions and interviews being carried right across the sector. A 2nd consultation is almost complete following a Multi Agency meeting at Thainstone where data collected there will now be married with data already collected. Recommendations will be put forward and are reported to committee members every 2 weeks – any concerns will be raised immediately. Issues that have been raised so far include Training, Transitions and Transport. It is hoped the Draft report will be ready in June for extensive consultation.

6. Conference 2008:

Date: Saturday 17th May 2008 Venue: Kintore Primary School

Takes the forms of 2 key note speakers and various workshops:

Speakers:

- Claire Warden: Mindstretchers - will also do workshop
- Aline Wendy-Dunlop, Strathclyde University: Transitions - Colleague to do workshop

Emma Watson, chairperson to do welcome and Councillor Stroud, elected member to open conference.

Plan is to open with 2 Key Note speeches – then coffee break and then 1st workshop, lunch then other 2 workshops.

Programme to include:

1. Waste Awareness – helping early years and childcare workers to engage children in learning/participating in recycling
2. Ranger Service – To push barriers of outdoor adventure!
3. Photography – many settings use digital cameras now – Fergus to do a workshop
4. Food – Health Improvement – again push the barriers for doing simple food prep with children.
5. Music – using new instruments

Also possibility of Active Schools – Brian Mitchell (Try contacting Tracy/Kathy) and Grampian Racial Equality – Diversity – issues in settings

Flyer to go out before holidays and get back mid April. Invitations will go to elected members and it is hoped that press will be available.

Group were asked to think about suitable name for the day – incorporating 'PLAY' – Excellence in Play – Play Away ?

7. Aberdeenshire Disability Action:

Debbie handed out a leaflet from Aberdeenshire Disability Action (ADA) for information. Many candidates may have additional needs and ADA works with the individual to look at additional support like 'Funder-finder' which means they can possibly access funds/grants for equipment. ADA also go round businesses to give advice on any changes which would help. Anyone interested in having a panel visit let Debbie know. Debbie is also meeting with a member of the Legal Department to get advice on the Disability Discrimination Act and Code of Practice.

Jim suggested contacting Job Centre and Caroline suggested contacting Gillian our Job Centre Rep.

8. A. O. C. B.

- Caroline intimated that Budget for Accredited Training for the following year is to be £285,000 which should be manageable.
- Muriel lodged her apologies for the next meeting.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 16th April 2008 – Conference Room F – 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Future Dates:

Wednesday 25th June 2008 - Committee Room 4 – 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm