

**Children & Young People's Services and the  
National Health Service**

**Parent Carers Planning Group**

**Notes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
At 10.30am at Brinsbury College**

**Present:**

Sue Aldred	-	Manager, Camelia Botnar Childrens Centre
Joan Martin	-	Parent
Debbie Buckwell	-	Service Manager, Child Disability Teams
Michelle Burdis	-	Mid Sussex Family Support Group
Jenni Herrett	-	Kangaroos
Ruth Stewart	-	PACSO
Caroline Williams	-	Sussex ADHD Support Group
Nigel Scott-Dickeson	-	Springboard Project
Annabel Forbes	-	MENCAP
Lindsey Butterfield	-	Parent/West Sussex Parents Forum
Keith Riley	-	Outreach Manager, Sussex Autistic Society
Jon Philpot	-	Principle Manager, Special Needs and Disability
Councillor Robert Dunn (Chair)	-	Deputy Cabinet Member
Fiona Mackison	-	West Sussex PCT
Caroline Gibbins	-	Inclusions Officer, Early Childhood Services
Bernadette Daly	-	MENCAP and Wellspring
Tracey Light	-	VSLDO
Sarah Ffoulkes-Roberts	-	Dame Vera Lynn School for Parents

**Attending:**

Carole Aspden	-	Principal Youth Officer
Jane Lewison-White	-	Note taker

**Apologies:**

Kelly Willard	-	Chairperson, West Sussex Parents Forum
Kim Paul	-	Vice Chairperson, West Sussex Parents Forum
Ranti Fallowfield	-	Parent/West Sussex Parents Forum
Peter Moor	-	Vice Chairman of the County Council
Dr Ellen Tomlinson	-	Parent/General Practitioner
Jean Voisey	-	Parent Carer
Sue Berry	-	Connexions
Caroline Johnston	-	You Can Do It
Carys Wreyford	-	Early Childhood Services
Helen Neve	-	Children's Community Nursing
Linda McEntaggart	-	Interim Associate Director Children's Services, PCT
Valerie Evans	-	Office Manager for PACSO
Margaret Unwin	-	Parent Partnership Officer, Parent Partnership Service
Lisa Perks	-	Chief Executive, Sussex Autistic Society

## **1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Robert Dunn welcomed everyone present and stated that Jon Philpot would chair as there was a strong possibility he would be called away to attend an urgent meeting. The group then introduced themselves.

## **2. Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and Matters arising from the Minutes**

Amendment to minutes under the Extended Schools heading, paragraph 3 - delete "Downs Syndrome" and replace with "additional needs".

## **3. Play Strategy (Carole Aspden)**

Carole Aspden who has been in post as Principal Youth Officer since September 2008 explained that the bulk of her work is with teenagers. Historically, District and Borough Councils have been responsible for providing play, but WSCC is now being asked to co-ordinate play by the DCSF. Capital funding via Play Builder is aimed at financing play sites by 2011. Local authorities were invited to bid for wave 1 or 2 and WSCC were entered for wave 3. However, in December the department announced they would bring wave 3 forward by a year! This means £1.2m will now be provided a year ahead. We will consort very closely with Borough Councils in order to finish our plan for funding, which has to be in by February 2009, unfortunately, leaving us no time to investigate it properly.

Our aim is to provide an additional 22 play sites, which will be a combination of new and refurbished sites to provide access friendly, open access, safe and creative areas for play. We will be working closely with Play England on how we will do this programme. We are expecting formal approval from DCSF by March 2009.

A consultation event is planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> March and need to put together a piece of work for this from an organisational perspective and will also be inviting bids. Carole Aspden emphasised the need for some lobbying from the group around the criteria for play sites for disabled children.

There is some revenue money in the funding and the plan is to employ a Co-ordinator.

Michelle Burdis asked if the funding was intended for all children and Carole Aspden confirmed it was, but we need to build some more specialist provision to entice disabled children.

Ruth Stewart felt that in her experience a secure space is what disabled children need, especially the "runners", and endorsed adventure play.

The group discussed criteria for play sites to accommodate disabled children and Carole agreed we could have a check list to put something together to influence design.

Work is in process to set up a Play Forum and Carole Aspden emphasised the need to get voices.

Carole will report back to the next meeting of PCPG.

#### **4. Feedback from Parents' Forum (Lindsey Butterfield)**

Lindsey read out a progress update for the group stating that information received from the 162 questionnaires to do with the Transport Improvement Project will be put in to a report and circulated to parents and professionals etc. The official launch of the report is 1<sup>st</sup> April and Jon Philpot asked Lindsey to report back to Kelly that we need to make sure key people will be attending and he is happy to assist with providing any information missing.

Aiming High for Disabled Children has provided a grant, some of which will be used to fund urgently needed admin.

Three parents of the Forum will be going to a London Aiming High Conference on 4<sup>th</sup> February, where Kelly will be giving a speech regarding setting up and running a parents forum in West Sussex.

The Forum are pleased that the membership list is growing with over 176 parents/carers currently on the database.

Lindsey will email Jane Lewison-White the report to circulate to the group.

**Action: LB/JLW**

#### **5. Update on Aiming High for Disabled Children (Jon Philpot/Debbie Buckwell)**

Jon Philpot and Debbie Buckwell talked through the tabled report.

Strategic Vision - We have to have a plan in place by the end of March. Strategic vision is currently in draft and discussed each time at the Aiming High Project Group. At the last Regional Event, there were some very clear messages of what we need to do. Over arching aims or objectives are not enough. We need to be very specific and we need to consult further at the Aiming High Project Group as the detail of what we plan to provide needs work on.

Data and Needs Analysis – nearly there on that part.

Consultation – 325 questionnaire results back from parents and the following were mentioned :

- Direct payments
- Easier access and less paperwork
- Other overnight services
- Chestnut Tree – more respite needed
- Sports and Leisure activities asked for teenagers

The next stage of the consultation process is we are looking to do some Family Fun Day Events. Chris North is doing a lot of work along side our existing voluntary organisations and hoping to come up with a tool kit

Caroline Johnston had emailed the following comments for the group with regard to Aiming High:

“Why children in mainstream schools who have additional needs have not been included in the circulation of the questionnaire regarding the project. I only heard about it when I went to a Parent Carer meeting in Crawley last week and most of You Can Do It! Group had not heard of it. I do now have a link to the questionnaire on the WSCC website which I will be encouraging parents from our group to complete as they see fit.

Many of our children do receive DLA (some at the middle and higher rate, like my son) and yet we are still missing out on being able to get adequate respite/funding to help our children access any form of respite or out of school activities and therefore give us a break.”

Debbie Buckwell explained that the population at special schools had been targeted as the group we thought we would be aiming for. Debbie Buckwell is happy to email the questionnaire to anyone who requests it.

Jane Lewison-White will circulate a copy of the Summary of the questionnaire to the group.

**Action: JLW**

Capital – Proving quite a challenge looking at how to spend the money. We are having initial discussions at the moment. We have until 2010 to spend it.

Commissioning – Had initial meetings and planning to hold workshops – roadshow approach planned to gather information for May. Amount available to spend on commissioning is not decided yet.

Workforce Strategy – This is a massive task. Looking at core training of 2 days with additional specialist training where needed. Online training is also being considered as an add on. Nigel Scott-Dickeson expressed concern that Ofsted have set up really high levels for training expectations and because the Youth Worker Courses are being blocked booked in advance by the Youth Service it is really difficult for the voluntary sector to access the courses.

Eligibility – Possibility we will be using DLA entitlement. Other Local Authorities using DLA are looking at self assessments – so we can't rule this out.

Interviewing for an Aiming High Development Officer on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009, Debbie Buckwell spends 2 days per week working on this project and a full time temporary admin post is planned.

## **6. Any other business**

Lindsey also handed out flyers for the Parent/Carer Information Day for those with children who have ASD or social communication difficulties to attend workshops, talks and exhibitions in Crawley on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009. There are 80 spaces.

Caroline Williams stated that NICE Guidelines are available – Fiona Mackison will report back to the next meeting.

**Action: Fiona Mackison**

Michelle Burdis enquired if there is anything new with regard to out of school learning for children who have been excluded or are home learning as her son is not in school. Jon Philpot answered that there is nothing new but offered to take this away and research information to be sent to her. Robert Dunn also suggested that Michelle should speak with Peter Griffiths who has a good knowledge in this area.

**Action: JP will forward information to MB regarding education for children out of school**

Bernie Daly stated that Wellspring has £10,000 funding and will use it to fund free drumming and freedom through fun sessions for disability groups in West Sussex for children up to the age of 25.

**Adam Gellibrand** – Community Musician, Percussion Workshops  
Tel: 01403 210836. Mobile: 07977 215263  
Email: [apgellibrand@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:apgellibrand@hotmail.co.uk)

**Freedom Through Fun** – Chris North  
Email: [chris@fun61418.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:chris@fun61418.wanadoo.co.uk)  
41 Winden Avenue, Chichester, West Sussex. PO19 7UZ  
Drama workshops, basic skills workshops, percussion circles, storytelling, songs, games, magic, clown shows and puppets.

Family Fund Trust – Families with disabled children are being offered payment cards with discounts available at some stores to include Argos, British Home Stores.

Items for next meeting:

- update on Play Strategy – Carole Aspden
- ADHD – Fiona to feed back on NICE Guidelines
- Parents forum – feedback on transport

**7. Date and Time of next Meeting:**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009**  
**10.30 – 12.30 (followed by lunch)**  
**The Conservatory (Watersfield Room), Brinsbury College**