

Notes of the Plymouth Parent & Family Forum

18th September 2008

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Welcome Hall

55 Attendees

1. Youth Offending Service Prevention Team

- Please see attached presentation.
- The YOS team are focussing on when it is best to intervene with young people and families.
- Some of the reasons for young people offending may include difficulties at school, in the community or economic causes.
- YOS work in specific neighbourhoods in Plymouth, mainly North West areas. They are looking to target other areas.
- Support they offer to young people and their families include: one to one, parenting support, Secondary Inclusion Project (focusing on exclusions and non-attendees), Positive Futures (sports based programme), Get Active and Participate (GAAP), 4 week programmes through the library service that aim to get young people to work in groups and to use their library, work around BME issues, healthy eating issues and budgeting.
- The YOS work on referrals made by schools, police etc. An assessment is carried out and work with other agencies is encouraged. Home visits are made by permission of the family.
- The YOS try to be involved with the families for no longer than 6 months.
- YOS have a strong relationship with local Co-operative stores.
- The YOS intervention is before the FIP (Family Intervention Project) who receive orders from the ASBU (Anti Social Behaviour Unit).
- Re-referrals are allowed up to the age of 25 for young people.
- Forum members are welcome to visit the team who are currently based at Pounds House. Tel no: 01752 771300.

2. Feedback on Forum Activities

- IDS Parent Reference Group meeting: 9 work streams established to pick up the various strands of work, one of which is "Single point of Contact". This was identified by the parent group as a priority area. Work stream leads share reports of their work with the parent group to discuss and make comments. There has been discussion about having a leaflet for parents describing how the IDS will function. There has also been discussion about the new Life Centre being built at Central Park. EB has an appointment with the manager of the new Life Centre in order to make requests raised by parents.

- Parent and Family Support Strategy, Parent Reference Group meeting: – The NHS Constitution Consultation discussed, Completed Response forms will be sent back to Sally Parker. The next meeting of the Parent and Family Support Strategy reference group will take place on 16th October.
- Since the last forum 2 parent representatives (Kelly Tompkins and Vikki Reed) have joined the Parent and Infant Mental Health Steering group. A meeting took place on the 24th September. Terms of reference for this group can be found on the Parent Partnership website.
- Jayne Adams (Parent Representative Sir John Hunt Community College) continues to work with Dr Lou Farbus on a research project commissioned by the Department of Health investigating the effectiveness of clinical networks which CAMHS is leading on: JA reported that she has been looking at provisions in localities and contacts have been made. Parents are reserved about giving their opinions and need support in completing questionnaires.
- Children’s Trust Board: Edith Bailey attended last meeting. The 43 localities and 6 areas have now been agreed and governance discussed. Changes have now started to come through and challenges and questions are being addressed. Overall a positive step forward.
- Kevin Willis was re-elected as an independent Parent Governor Representative within the Local Authority. Kevin attended the last Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel: Full Draft minutes can be found in the link below
<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mgInternet/Published/C00000598/M00003184/Minutes.doc.pdf>
 - Child Protection Register – The Assistant Director (Children’s Social Care) and the safeguarding manager gave a presentation on the Child Protection register to the scrutiny panel.
 - Fostering Action Plan – private fostering records to be looked into; recruitment/retention of foster carers; support needed for new foster carers.
 - Complaints and Compliments Annual Report – many complaints received but it is thought that there are young people who do not feel confident enough to give their feedback.
 - The YOS (Youth Offending Service) Action Plan will be reviewed by the panel on an ongoing basis.
 - Teenage pregnancy issues – there are questions as to why it is and has been such a high rate in Plymouth. KB put forward to the panel whether the issue of faith schools has been looked into. (Discussion followed regarding definitions of teenage

pregnancy and teenage conception). This topic will be looked into again more thoroughly at a future forum.

- MT – it is part of the Extended Schools Agenda that it is mandatory for all Secondary Schools to be able to provide signposting and support to pupils regarding sexual health issues

3. Service Developments: Parents

- request for agencies that support children in years 1 & 2 who are experiencing family break-up follow up: RELATE are now funded to provide free counselling in Devonport.

4. Service Developments: Service Providers

- Due to the Forum receiving a number of requests from Health, The forum working group has decided that they would like to set up a Health Parents Reference Group. The first meeting will be on 2nd October.
- Paul O'Sullivan, Chair of the Mental Health Partnership gave an over view of the draft Children and Young People's Mental Health Strategy:
 - 10% of children need support for mental health issues.
 - A further percentage of children develop mental health issues from emotional distress.
 - They are now looking at a 5 year strategy which focuses on emotional well-being from pre-school age onwards.
 - Young people have produced a DVD regarding mental health issues – they will look into how to distribute these.

- BB Outlined other groups that have requested parent representation:
- The Patient and Public Involvement Group have requested 2 parents.
- Parent and Infant Mental Health Steering group. Have requested 2 parents to sit on this group
- Links (Plymouth Local Involvement Network) have requested 2 parent representatives. The LINK will give a presentation at the January Parent and Family Forum.

5. Future Forum Dates

- 18th November 2008 – 9:30 start (Speech and Language Service, Disabilities Forum)
- 29th January 2009 – 9:30 start (Plymouth Links, Breast Feeding)