

**Plymouth Parent Partnership
Parent and Family Forum
Welcome Hall
18th May 2010**

90 Parent Representatives Attend

1. Introductions and Welcome

- Armed Services focus.
- New forum attendees- parent Sally joined Steering Group.
- Wednesday- for primary school. Youth group and activities. Next meeting Wednesday 4.30pm.

2. NPFS

- Three community centres in Plymouth- Crownhill, Plymstock, Plympton.
- Work with Army, Marines, Royal Navy.
- Offer confidential service to maintain balance between family and service life.
- Cycle of deployment
 - i. Non Operational- Royal Navy/Marines away all of the time, children may react by being upset.
 - ii. Operational- response to international/national crisis.
- Pre deployment- service personnel/family, preparing to go away. Children sometimes become disassociated.
- Deployment first few weeks: sleep disturbance, behavioural changes.
- Deployment- routines established, children may take on a role superior to their age, behavioural changes.
- Operational- children more aware of media.
- Anticipation of coming home: range of emotions, child may feel regret @, sleeplessness, concerns how serving personnel may fit back in, relief/dread.
- Post deployment: may take three months for SP to settle back in.
- Deployment: NPFS a lot of facilities to support a family. Work closely with schools and LA.
- Critical Incident and Visiting Officer: supporting families in bereavement and critical incidents. Selly Oak Hospital.
- Safe guarding- provide support with behaviour.
- Term time- holidays- child may need time out of school for family to re group.
- Preparation for return: Friends and Families of Deployed Units (FAFDU), meet monthly, summer organises visits, winter meet 3-4 hours, in times of crisis group meet more to support families- coffee mornings.
- Building resilience: group aimed at children aged 6-11.
- Aims- communication, visualisation- through play help children to find a safe space, mediation- used to distress, learn to relax.
- Adult group
 - Stress management
 - Understanding anxiety
 - Coping with not knowing
 - Dealing with isolation and loneliness
 - Support networks
 - Community cohesion- encourage people to use services available to them.

- RN.com- Jim Gillow.
 - www.rncom.mod.uk
 - Deliver support through virtual community.
 - Main site has wealth of information relevant to service families.
 - Links to external agencies i.e. Relate, Government websites.
 - Deployment toolkit contains information on deployment cycle.
 - Member of web can be anyone with details of serving personnel.
 - Each ship/sub/RM unit has their own section who send back information regarding what they are doing, contains photos.
 - Contains discussion forums that members can post on.
 - Board moderated so families do not post anything untoward or anything that may be a security breach.

- Questions:
 - *SM (Parent Rep)- When is the next Building Resilience group starting?*
 - Adele- looking at groups running in September at Goosewell for children at school.

- Parent comment- website useful as evening.
- MT (ESCO)- as parent of serving personnel was a lifeline when son was on deployment.
- Jackie and Lyn- naval equivalent of CAB.

- *MT (ESCO)- Do you do the 'What if' questions?*
- Yes, just contact.

11. Children's Education Advisory Service.

3. CEAS- Olivia Denson.

- Pick up many of issues of children who have service personnel deployed.
- Role is supporting families in over coming difficulties.
- Provide information for families and schools
- Offer helpline
- Provide help in accessing services.
- Work predominantly in UK with main focus on England.
- Provide a lot of advice on school admissions.
- Information on what to do if school application refused.
- Information on appealing for a place.
- Attendance and admissions forums- CEAS.
- Advice and information on SPPOL (Policy branch of MOD) and DOE.

- Helpline- a lot of families call re issues of bullying.
- Incidents of bullying increased to children of service families due to media coverage.
- Provide explanations of schools from service perspective.
- Provide advice on Exclusions- service children rarely excluded for long term but may result as...
- Curriculum continuity work with LA on curriculum for children moving schools so child does not keep studying same thing.

- Currently looking at developing online service.
- CEAS have MOD register of children with SEN.
- Provide contact with LA/SCE when posted.
- Advice of possible options.
- Planning support and provision before move.
- Support at case conferences and reviews.
- Resolution of disagreement.
- Support families at tribunals- 15-15.
- Use of CEA(B)/SENA continuity education allowance/board.
- Retention of quarters? If SEN assessment of child being made family have right to retain their accommodation.
- Impact statement is issued by CEAS and LA housing has to allow family to stay in accommodation.
- Also can be issued for children during exams.

- *Who can register child with CEAS?*
- Any child with a statement who is SA/SA+. Any child under advice of teacher/doctor/Educational Psychologist would benefit from... (see slide).

- Boarding
 - CEA- Continuity of Education Allowance is payable for continuity of education whilst family is mobile.
 - Last four postings are looked at a family have to prove they are mobile.
 - Not before age 8.
 - Ceases age 19 (Yr 13)
 - Resources available from CEAS- email/telephone.
 - Moving schools pack
 - SCISS handbook. See slide.
- 2009- just under 2,900 phone calls. 3,000 emails. Issued impact statement.
- enquiries@ceasdetso.co.uk
- Questions:
 1. Do you have support network for Primary-Secondary transition, especially SEN?
- Only support for children moving areas/signpost to LA if staying in local area.
- 2. Expected in Scotland will go to local secondary school.
- More flexible on school numbers than in England.
- SEN children go to mainstream school and services child needs are brought into school. Thus statement maybe discontinued.
- PSA comment- CEAS have been brilliant with service families that she has worked with.
- Chris Hall- gather peoples views on the health service, GP, Pharmacist.
- Thursday- Tothill Community Centre 12-2pm.

5. Relate- Sue Hiron- Director.

- Overview- largest counselling organisation in the UK. Used to be just marriage counselling. In 1980 it changed to Relate.
- Fundraise to raise money- no core funding.
- Operational in Plymouth since 1964.
- The main focus is counselling.

- Centre in North Hill Monday-Friday 9am-9pm. Sat.
- Outpost at Tavistock and Ivybridge.
- 14 counsellors, multi skilled.
- Services offered:
 - Couple counselling/individuals
 - Sex therapy
 - Young people counselling
 - Family counsellors for any connotation of family (can work with individual and then bring in the family later)
 - Life skills courses- counselling, self esteem... 6.30
- Relate institute based in Doncaster. Use three models to work with including families.
- Counsellors have ongoing CPD.
- About to launch telephone counselling service in Plymouth although still encourage clients to come into the office.
- 2011 proposal to offer email counselling service.
- See in centre 700-800 couples/individuals per year.
- 2011 proposal to offer counselling services for families with disabled children.
- Projects- work closely with NPFS- get referrals.
- Funded through DRCP- Devonport. PL1, PL2 can access counselling through Green Ark and also work at Stoke Damerel.
- Prince Rock funded through the lottery.
- 12.35.
- Work with CAFCAS, work with separated parents re parenting children. Look at how parents are going to be good parents.
- Relate key partners with Parents Apart- divorced/separated can access free counselling.
- TAMHS- not sure which school they are working in yet, also work with MIND, Routeways.

Questions:

- *Is the scheme means tested?*
- For people on benefits there are reductions.
- If referred through school it is free.

6. Bercow project- Anne Ayre

- 2007 John Bercow raised the profile of speech and language.
- Bercow report 2008 found that communication is crucial, underpins Every Child Matters.
- Early identification essential.
- National year of speech and language and communication in 2011.
- Better communication action plan- better communication research programme.
- 16 commissioning- Plymouth one.
- Aimed at developing service families want.
- Look at how Plymouth can deliver services that will improve.
- Friday 21st May, 10am- 2pm Sue Roulstone visiting to gather parent's views.

7. School's Out

- Saturday 12th June 'on the Plaza' brought forward a month.
- Bob- PPP since July 2009.
 - Additional search criteria added
 - City wide events now show in each locality
 - Activities wet/dry weather
 - Information can be added by anyone
 - Power point presentation to show how to add
 - Many providers don't release information until June- July.
- School's Out- holiday activities for children and young people.
- Leaflets for children and young people.
- Half a page advert in primary times- worked well last year.
- Useful to put information in school newsletters Many Turner says.

8.

- Suggested after coffee. What services available for parents with children with SEN.
- Vice Chair asked for suggestions for speakers.
 - Occupational therapists
 - Paediatrician
 - CAMHS
- New service Hamoaze House Jo Siney.
- VO (Parent Rep). Mum broken leg, children cannot get to school.
- Contacted transport but only sending out a form.
- 23rd November- Lower Guildhall.
- EB requested if anyone has issues in particular are...
- Wednesday 16th June- next forum 9.30am- 12pm Welcome Hall.
- EB- 13th July 9.30am- 12pm venue Welcome Hall tbc.
- Requests for parents to sit on Evaluation panel 27th May.
- Need rep to sit on tender for tendering for locality project – ASD,...
- EB- parents invaluable for getting the best value out of service provider.
- Plymouth Link- GP question time- Thursday 20th May 12pm-2pm Tothill Community Centre. Parents news on how GP talks to you, getting an appointment, opening times, how GP's communicate with other services.