

**Forum Meeting  
Wednesday 16 June  
Welcome Hall, Devonport  
09.00 – 12.00**

**1. Introductions and Welcome**

EB welcomed parent representatives and informed them that the Forum was being filmed. If anyone had any objections, they were to let EB know and they would not be included. Consent forms were available for signing.

**2. Forum Activities**

**Aiming High for Disabled Children Parent Reference Group update (EG):**

- £10,000 has been granted for Phase 3, the final phase
- Speakers at the last Parent Reference Group meeting were Annagret Ward and Hannah Haines. Annagret discussed an induction programme for professionals who have contact with families. She wants this to be looked at from the parents' perspective and asked for parents who may be interested in being involved in the project. If Parent Representatives know of any parents who may be interested, please let EG know.
- Hannah Haines discussed the draft Disability Strategy.

**Participation:**

- A number of parents of children who were or had received speech and language therapy attended a Pathway Consultation. (This feeds from the Bercow project but is not actually part of it). The results were positive, the pathway is going to continue with Parent Partnership. Parents were excited that a new path is being formed to assist access to speech and language therapy.
- More consultations are due with Anne Ayre around the Pathfinder project.
- A one off ASD focus group for parents of children with ASD will be held on Tuesday 22 June at Plymouth Parentship, Catherine St. If any parents are interested, please email EG.
- Two parents will sit on the panel of the new Children's Health Commissioner interviews
- A number of parents will work with Fran Rae on the eligibility criteria for Short Breaks.

**Regional Parent Forum, Tiverton (CP)**

- The parent forums held by other regions are what we call Parent Reference groups.
- What was in evidence is how advanced we are compared to other groups and how much more parent participation we have. Some of the groups are only just starting.
- Some of the other parent reference groups will visit Plymouth's groups in future eg the November conference.

### **Children's Trust Board update (EB)**

- Meetings are held on the last Friday of the month.
- This meeting was concerned with setting priorities for 2011 – 2014.
- Consultations will take place to find out what children want to prioritise.
- The draft Children's Plan will be available in draft form by November 2010, main plan out by April 2011.

### **Nominations for Chair/Vice Chair (BB)**

- Every year a new Chair, Vice Chair and re-working of the Forum working group takes place. Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair are taken from attendees of the Forum working group.
- Positions will be elected in November 2010. Anyone interested in becoming a chair or vice chair needs to be a member of the working group.
- Anyone interested in joining the Forum working group to contact EB or BB.

### **3. Ready to Take the Next Step**

Simon Hall, Programme Director and Christine Blackaller, Enterprise Advisor gave a presentation about Outset Plymouth. This outlined what Outset Plymouth is and how it helps people to decide to take the route to self employment and starting their own business.

- Part of the role of Outset Plymouth is to change people's mindset from employee to eg self employed. Keen to work with other organisations, compliment what services are already available and to develop relations and skills further with the client.
- Aim is to deliver across the city, linking in with the community and being approachable.
- Their office is based in Millbay but the team work across the city.
- The programme is free to everyone

Christine Blackaller explained about what the programme entails:

- A client would first attend an information session, held in City Business Park, Stoke and East End Resource centre.
- All sessions are workshop based
- There, they would find out about three key programmes:
  - Foundation session for people who may be long term unemployed, or who may be at a crossroads and may not have a definite business idea at this point. They just know they want to consider going self-employed.
  - Intro to enterprise is where all the market research is done. They definitely have a business idea and want to see if it will be viable.
  - Start-ups. The business plan is written up.
- Once the business plan has been written and the business is up and running, support is provided for the first 12 months.

- See website [www.outsetplymouth.co.uk](http://www.outsetplymouth.co.uk) or contact Christine or Simon for further information.
- Simon Hall stated that they are also at North Prospect Community Centre, Oasis Project, Swarthmore. They are looking at areas of deprivation, in particular to change mindsets.
- Outset Plymouth started in February 2010.
- Over 200 queries have been received since the programme started. 100 have entered the programme and two have started a business.
- Changing mindset

#### **4. Parents Apart Update**

Sally Hawken gave an update on Parents Apart:

- She thanked everyone who had referred. So far over 100 referrals have been received.
- A new referral form is now available and will be circulated.
- Flyer about parent workshops is available on the Plymouth Parent Partnership website. More 5 session workshops are now available for parents who are about to be or are already divorced and separated. These will run on Tuesday mornings from 22 June to 20 July 10.00am until midday at Routeways Centre Ltd, 41-43 Chapel St, Devonport. Tel: 01752 856704.
- A booklet 'Picnic in the Library' provides information for parents to talk to their children about separation. This will be available on PPP website.
- Sally will return to the Forum in July to provide examples of case studies, data available so far and the implications of parent responsibility.

#### **5. Supporting children of service families in Britain**

Sarah Jane Tustain, seconded from Weston Mill Primary, gave a presentation about her role in supporting children from Service Families. (See PPP website for presentation).

- Every local authority has to have a local authority representative named person. Heather Ogburn is the person in Plymouth.

#### **6. Coffee Break**

Re: In response to concerns about the number of forms to sign during coffee break. In future, one form per year will be provided, with tick boxes, in order to reduce the number of signings required. (EB)

## 7. Give a Child a Chance

Nikki Evans spoke about this charity:

- Give a Child a Chance is a locally based children's mental health charity.
- It was started 6-7 years ago when the Co-op and Herald launched a joint appeal to raise funds for children with special health needs. This was a joint venture between CAMHS and the Child Development Centre (CDC).
- In May 2008 'Give a Child a Chance' became a separate infant mental health charity.
- CAMHS is now becoming locality based so the charity is reinventing itself.
- Money is available to meet the needs of children and young people with emotional, behavioural and mental health needs who are accessing or have accessed services or support from CAMHS.
- Up to now, most of the charity's money has been spent at Mount Gould in the specialist branch of CAMHS to provide a mini bus, gardens, a playground. The charity is now diversifying and has provided items for children's centres eg plants, and items for individuals such as computers.
- Nikki would like people working with children with emotional/behavioural needs to access small amounts of money.
- Contact Nicky Evans: Tel:01752 434476, email: [nicky@plymouthhospital.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:nicky@plymouthhospital.plymouth.sch.uk)
- The charity has a broad remit and individual requests are considered on their own merit eg If you want to rent a hall or receive delivery of specialist information on CAMHS services, this may be possible to set up. Equally, it might be around computers or specialist equipment such as sensory equipment.
- The charity is aiming to expand and would like help and thoughts from parent representatives on 1) spending the money 2) knowing people with time and energy who might be interested in joining the meetings. Meetings are held every 6-8 weeks at Terraces, Mount Gould Hospital and volunteers are needed to:
  - Set up a website
  - Help at events to help de-stigmatise mental health and raise money.
- Information on Give a Child a Chance will be available on PPP website.

### **Question: Is there a deadline for small grants or is it a rolling programme?**

Ans: It is a rolling programme. Any application is considered on its own merit. No formal application form is required.

## **8. Children's University and Summer Mix**

Carol Henwood, Principle Adviser Children's Services, gave a presentation on the Children's University and Summer Mix (see PPP website for presentation).

### School's Out:

- Was held in the city centre
- Provides activities for children
- Is an information point for parents/families to find out what is happening over the summer.

### Plymouth Promise:

- Launch day 6 July 2010 at Pavilions.
- Schools and other organisations will be asked to make a pledge to deliver this.
- Projects will include an arts festival organised by Barefoot (based at Marjons). This will run for two weeks. 70 schools will take part. A programme is due to be sent out.

### Allsortz:

- Funding for this comes through the schools for children who might otherwise not be able to afford to take part in summer activities.
- PSA drop-ins are being held around the localities to provide information about Allsortz.
- Nearly 600 children to date have been able to take part in activities they would not have otherwise taken part in.
- Funding is allocated to schools and is ring fenced.

### Children's University

- Is a national organisation which accredits out of school learning opportunities for 7-14 year olds.
- Children and young people have a 'passport to learning'. They collect stamps for accredited learning eg sports activities, museum activities, etc.
- Providers of activities have to undergo a validation process to ensure that what they are offering children is a quality experience.
- Children collect hours of learning. When they have collected 30 hours they awarded a national award for bronze level, then silver and gold levels.
- Children will attend a graduation ceremony at Plymouth University where children will be presented with their certificates.
- Aims: 1) Accrediting the experiences young people have and 2) raising children's self esteem and aspiration.
- Children's University will be phased in over the next year.
- There is a small charge for a passport.
- The website [www.childrensuniversity.co.uk](http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk) lists all of the public places that have been validated. Children can visit places all over the country and have their passport linked.
- A short film was shown about Children's University.

- In response to a question asking how the graduation ceremony will work, CH said that schools will be asked to send notification when the children and young people have reached the various levels. A ceremony will be held during the early summer in the university when presentations will be made.
- More information about Children's University will be available to schools before the end of the summer term.

#### Summer Mix

- Summer Mix is a new initiative for this year for 11-19 year olds (25 year olds if have disabilities) who live in Plymouth.
- A brochure explaining Summer Mix has been sent to secondary schools, another one is on the way to primary schools.
- Approximately 124 free courses are available.
- Application forms are at the back of the brochure and online applications will be available from 1 July 2010.
- There is no limit to the number of courses applied for.
- Activities will take place from August 2 to August 27 this year.
- A DVD explaining Summer Mix is available for schools who would like to see it.
- Information will be available on PPP website.

#### Play in the Park sessions:

- Playranger sessions will be available in all localities by September 2010.
- A holiday programme will be available throughout the summer. Details will be sent out to schools before the end of the summer term.
- To evaluate the impact of this, an evaluation trust will be working to evidence the impact of Play in the Park. CH asked for any feedback that Parent Representatives might receive from parents/young people to be sent to her. The more evidence received, the more secure things can be made in the future.

#### **Question:**

#### **In response to a question asking if Playranger information could be brought out earlier:**

CH answered that information is being combined in a city wide flyer/brochure which will be available within the next two weeks. The Schools Out page on PPP website also provides information. New information is being added all the time. Playrangers has a funding guarantee until June 2011.

#### **9. What do Service Providers want to know?**

Annie McGee spoke about supporting children with disabilities in different settings throughout the summer:

- PSAs are crucial in identifying children in their schools, engaging with parents/carers and helping them to complete referral forms.
- Parent Support Advisers have been sent an email with the necessary paperwork. Information is also available on PPP website.

- AMcG has been involved with working with the Commissioning Team. Jo Siney has a budget for Aiming High and is keen that money goes out into the localities for supporting integrated work during the summer. £50,000 has been provided to support children with disabilities during the summer holidays. The money is allocated around two different bids; one for children with disability and one for children with autistic spectrum disorder.
- The referral form should be signed by any of the following: the school SENCo, someone from the Multi Agency Support Team (MAST), Children and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy (CAMHS), Inclusion Works, Children's Integrated Disability Team, Family Support Team PIET (Plymouth Inclusive Educational Transitions)Team or the Communication Interaction Team.
- Parents to ring the organiser, find out what can be offered for their child, make the booking, and complete any paperwork. PSAs can help with this.
- Provision is right across Plymouth.
- Many different activities have been funded for children with disability and children on the autistic spectrum.
- PSAs are encouraged to think about children they know who might benefit from this.
- Families have been sent a flyer about this information.
- Sarah Flay, short Breaks Advisory Board,
- has put together a document entitled 'Short Breaks, information for parents and carers of disabled children and young people'. This includes information on dates etc.
- National Play Day will be held on 4 August 2010 at the Guildhall. Providers will be there to explain what they are going to be doing. Parent/carers are invited to attend.

#### PPP website (BB)

- This has grown. A search facility is being looked into to make it easier to find information.
- Parent representatives were asked to email or phone PPP if they are unable to find the information they need on the website. The website can also be accessed from a mobile phone.

#### 10. What do Parents want to know?

##### **Question: Re Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**

**There is a timescale of 18 months. If the form has been completed but held by DLA for over 18 months, does a new form have to be completed? Three different answers had been received from DLA.**

**Confirmation was requested.**

Answer:

**Action:** BB will find out which is the correct answer.

A spokesperson on DLAs will be invited to attend the November Forum. It was suggested that the person contact someone from Cerebra. Their office is in the HQ building, Plymouth. Contact details will be provided on PPP website.

## **School Admissions**

- Many of the rules for oversubscription criteria are changing in September 2010. A proposal has been put forward by the Admissions Board that there will be no catchment areas for secondary schools. This will be confirmed on 30 July 2010.
- BB recommended that schools book a briefing with him or LD, Choice Advisers, as if the proposal is confirmed, this will involve a huge change.
- Secondary school open evenings are available on members' area of PPP website. PSAs were urged to refer to this.
- The PSA message board and furniture boards are working well. PSAs are able to exchange information on these.
- BB & LD will be working with early years settings, working with Sharon Young, School Admissions, to provide information to parents whose children are starting primary school.

### **Questions related to Choice Advice:**

#### **When will be a good time to book a Choice Adviser for a briefing?**

Ans: As soon as possible, some meetings have been booked already.

#### **Is the briefing to parents?**

Ans: Yes. It will last about an hour, depending on the number of parents. Choice Advisers will visit at a time suitable to parents, either during the day or evening. September may be difficult to book as the time is taken up with secondary school open evenings. If any PSA has not booked a briefing session before, contact BB or LD.

## **11. Next Forum**

The next Forum will be held on Tuesday 13 July 2010, 09.00 – 11.30 at Welcome Hall, Devonport.

In response to a question on times regarding the Forum, BB replied that September and March are evening forums. Other forums will be held during the day. Due to additional speakers, an extra forum was held in June.

CP thanked everyone for attending.