

AHDC Parent Reference Group
Wednesday 30th June
12pm-2pm
Old Treasury Building, Catherine Street

Present: GA, RB, EB, JD, ML, KM, JM-C, CM, AM, GO, CP, LP, JT

Apologies: KA, PB, AP, CM, IB, HL, GP, AA, RC, AN, LJ, SC, DVB, AP, RP, EG, HM.

1. Welcomes and introductions

2. Notes from previous meeting and matters arising

- HM has sent her apologies for this meeting but will attend the next meeting in July.
- On Wednesday 14th July there is a ChIDS event at the Jan Cutting Healthy Living Centre.
- HH attended the last meeting in May. She took on board all of the parents comments and has taken the Disability Strategy document to team managers for comments also. HH has been very keen to gain parent's input into the Disability Strategy.
- **Action:** Once this has been revised parents would like a summarised version.
- AW has asked if any parents would like input into the Children's Workforce Development Council's training. The training is given to ALL members of staff in Services for Children and Young people as part of their induction into Plymouth City Council. She would like to have a two hour session in the training around communicating with parents. AW would like three or four parents to help to write *and* deliver the session. AW would particularly like an emphasis on parent's own experiences.
- Childcare for parents involved can be paid for by the AHDC money.
- JMC, LP and GA would like to volunteer for this.
- **Action:** JT will email AW these parents contact details.
- Parents will be paid for their time. Any other expenses can be covered by the AHDC money.
- The next stage of AHDC funding has been allocated. This will be spent on more Parent Participation training, paying parents for their participation, childcare, teleconferencing, text messaging etc. The AHDC money ends this year. This should lead to Local Authorities building the money into their budget.
- Commitment for this is needed from the Children's Integrated Service so that the money does not disappear from the radar. **Action:** JT could ask JS to come to the next AHDC meeting in July.
- There are big cuts across all LA services due to the recent budget.
- CP- could the PRG take on the status of a non-profit organisation?
- The 'Break into Summer' newsletter was distributed to the group.
- CP added that Wednesdayz does not charge anymore but are doing fewer sessions. The summer sessions will be held in Drake Primary.
- EB will be going to the Donkey Sanctuary on the 19th July as part of the evaluation for Short Breaks. EB gave permission for photos from the day to go on the PRG website. The Donkey Sanctuary also do birthday parties and run a Saturday club.
- **Action:** Check that the Donkey Sanctuary is on the PPP website.

- The working group for the Short Breaks Eligibility Criteria is taking place this July at Douglass House in Efford. GA, CM, EB and LP are attending.
- **Action:** EB will email FR to let her know that LP is attending.
- JO is keen to hear from any parents who have issues around childcare, especially around childminders. Parents are finding it very difficult to find childminders that will look after a child with SEN/Disabilities. JO is looking at setting up a network of childminders who are willing to work with children with SEN or disabilities who are reasonably priced.
- Short Breaks money is currently being used to try and train up the workforce so that services can provide for families whose children have SEN or disabilities without needing lots of extra provision. Please feedback also to JS.
- There is also the issue that a child attends a provision but then does not want to go back as there was not enough support there and therefore the child did not enjoy it.
- In the Every Child Matters Children and Young People's Plan there are ten key priorities for children in Plymouth. One of these is 'Enable children and young people to have fun.' JD leads on 'play' in Plymouth, JT could invite her to a PRG meeting.
- Bercow review Path finder. AA is the regional lead for pathway for accessing Speech and Language. EG is working on linking into the I-Can parent group. Views are needed from parents whose children have speech and language difficulties. JMC is interested. JT will feed parents views back to the steering group.
- **Action:** EG email PSAs.
- There is a call for evidence from parents of children with SEN and disabilities around what needs to be included in the next Children and Young People's Plan.
- There is an issue with PSAs around communicating with parents about opportunities, meetings etc. All special school PSAs are invited to this meeting.
- PPP need to sharpen the routes of communication through PSAs.
- ASD task and finish group. MJ is now a consultant working on school provision for children with ASD. TBL (PSA) has organised groups of parents for MJ to talk to about their children's experiences.
- JT is sitting on the Task and Finish group with a parent representative from the NAS.
- JT asked for feedback re ASD provision to be emailed to her.
- JT forwarded JD's comments from the last PRG meeting.
- The needs assessment for the Children and Young People's Plan has been carried out. Is additional consultation needed in the summer? The summer holiday is not a good time for parents. JT is going to a meeting with CB so will be clearer at the next PRG meeting. **Action:** JT will suggest that CB comes to the group.

3. Small Grant Applications

- Two Small Grant Applications were discussed.

4. Dates for next meetings

- Wednesday 21st July 2010
- Wednesday 29th September 2010
- Wednesday 20th October 2010