

**Minutes of Children & Young Peoples Alliance
2 April 2007
10am – 12pm PCCS**

Present:

Brenda Cairns – Homestart
June Christie – Mencap
Sue Ganter – Interfusion
Sue George - Barnados
Ben Mizen – Diocese of Portsmouth
Richard Soutar – CP Centre
Mary Wishart – Community Network

Apologies:

Charlie Adie – Motiv8
Jacqui Ingram & Karen Drayton – Connors Toy Library
Katherine Marsden-Broad - PUEF

1 Welcome and introductions

1.1 Sue George was welcomed as a guest speaker of the meeting. Ben Mizen, Youth & Children's Work Adviser was also welcomed.

2 Previous minutes and action points

2.1 The minutes of the meeting from 5 March 2007 were agreed with some minor amends.

2.2 MW gave updates on the following action points carried forward from 5 March:

8.2 Sarah Read from Southern Focus Trust volunteered to represent the Alliance on the NEET assessment panel. Sarah has agreed to feed back about this at the May meeting.

3 Draft Parenting Strategy feedback taken on board and document circulated to Chris Woodfine on 22 March.

4 Launch briefing session – covered on today's agenda

6.2 BC to circulate information regarding Children's Centres Partnerships as and when available.

3 Barnado's Sexual Exploitation Project

Sue George gave the following overview to the project:

In the late 1990's, young women were being prosecuted for solicitation and many of these women were under 16. Barnado's were concerned by this and resources were given to research the issue.

The research showed that this was not a career choice of most young women; in the main, they had been led into it by an adult. Barnados believe that there are no child prostitutes, rather children who are forced into it. It is now an offence to groom children into the sex industry.

The projects are being run nationwide; the nearest one is in Southampton. The project in Portsmouth is joint funded by PCC (through the Local Safeguarding Children Board LSCB) and Barnados to investigate and scope the extent of the issue in the city.

The project is working directly with young women who are usually referred by other agencies, but young women can also self refer. The project is also looking at offering support to organisations if they feel a young person they are dealing with is at risk, on a consultancy basis in these cases.

The project is also about raising awareness and training workshops are on offer, and Barnados have an excellent learning resource which can be accessed. Work is going on with schools and youth work settings, and also the police in terms of young people who go missing.

The project is for one year, and the results of it will inform the decision of the LSCB to continue with supporting it after that time.

An area that Sue has no contact for currently is around refugees and asylum seekers, so the contact details for EMAS were provided.

Project brief will be circulated again with minutes for Sue's contact details.

4 Launch briefing session

4.1 MW explained the rationale for having a more low key briefing session, as set out in previous email but repeated here for the minutes. At the last Alliance steering group meeting, the main idea for the briefing was to have high profile speakers such as David Williams and Lynda Fisher from PCC, looking at the Parenting Strategy. On reflection, and with input from other Alliance people who weren't able to attend this meeting, it is suggested that the first session is a more low-key affair, to see what level of interest is generated before trying to stage a very high profile event. Once the first session has happened, the Alliance will be better placed to think about a bigger event with key speakers. On a practical level, it will allow more time to secure diary space for guests.

A suggestion for the first session is to look at the CIPs and to get an update as to where they are, and in turn, for the VCS to explain how it feels it is linking into them. This would be an excellent opportunity to conduct a mapping exercise to get a real sense of exactly how CIPs and VCS are

working together. There is also potential to use this to link into mapping VCS services as mentioned in 8.2 of the Draft Parenting Strategy – so a number of areas of work could be covered through this session.

The suggested date is 5 June 2007. The session will last for 2 hours and an afternoon session was agreed from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. A suggested venue is the Frank Sorrell Centre.

Action: MW to book venue and liaise with colleagues to plan event.

5 Connexions briefing

No-one at the meeting had been able to attend the briefing session on 21 March. MW explained that Mike Fowler had offered to give an additional briefing session to the VCS providing there was sufficient interest. 5 people expressed an interest, and a further 3 (BC, JC and BM) also added their names at today's meeting.

Action: MW to contact Mike Fowler to get a date arranged.

6 Relate Big Lottery Fund Project

Jackie Buckley from Relate is very pleased to let us know that she has been successful in securing funding from BIG to deliver an innovative project Learn & thrive which aims to help young people reach their potential. JB will be a guest at the next Alliance meeting and will provide more detail then, but a brief project outline is attached with the minutes for information.

7 AOB

7.1 BM informed about Adam Court, Youth & Development Worker with Diocese of Portsmouth who is employed for one year to look at church involvement with engaging with communities. MW informed that AC was on the Alliance distribution list and had been contacted by telephone but had yet to actually speak. BM said AC may attend next meeting to give more information about his role and this was welcomed by all.

7.2 JC informed about the Parents Meeting on 1 June which gives parents the opportunity to question senior key staff from PCC about SEN provision in the city.

7.3 JC suggested Children's Workforce Development should be an agenda item at May meeting.

Action: MW to add to agenda in May, JC to lead item.

7.4 Future meeting dates – all meetings on first Monday of every month (except 1 May on Tuesday due to Bank Holiday) and held at PCCS from 10am to 12pm – amends below.

- 2 April

- **8 May**
- 4 June
- 2 July
- 6 August
- **3 September**