

Parenting Sub Group Meeting

Ross & Cromarty

Conon Family Resource
Centre

Facilitator:	Ian Goode	Type of meeting:	Partnership Meeting
Attendees:	Ian Goode, Alan Richards, Catherine Zawalynski, Susan Campbell, Charles Stephen, Joy Barton, Susan Standish-White, Lianne Skinner		
Apologies:	Alison Horner, Janette Walker, Colin Wilson		
Previous Minutes:	24/04/06 meeting minutes were read and agreed as being a correct record		

Minutes

Agenda item:	Pathways for Programmes	Presenter:	Alan Richards
	<p>Alan asked for feedback on a document he had written as a guide for professionals working with parents. It included different types of parent programmes currently being used in the Highlands. The document offered a short description of the programme and included who it is intended for and what parenting issues are addressed. It was suggested that he add website addresses for the programme and that information on who normally delivers the course (i.e. trained facilitator, HV), the delivery format (i.e. group work, one-on-one), and the themes and theories behind the programme would also be useful. Several courses were suggested to be added to the guide including play @ home, ParentWise, and the Child & Parent game.</p>		
Discussion:	<p>There was also a discussion about how to guard against professionals making up 'home grown' programmes without the necessary training or skills to run a successful parenting course. Alan reported that many times these programmes are less effective than those carefully developed with a set content. There was a concern, however, that preventing 'home grown' programmes might discourage those working with parents from appropriately adapting material to fit their client's needs. The group discussed the idea of professionals having a 'toolbox' of skills, training, and experience from which they can draw when working with parents. It was agreed that it was important the practitioners were equipped with the necessary tools in order to effectively deliver parenting programmes.</p>		
Conclusions:	Alan shall take the group's suggestions and continue to work on developing the guide		

Agenda item:	Finance	Presenter:	Charles Stephen
Discussion:	<p>Charles distributed this year's Associated School Group SureStart funds as agreed by Area Children's Service Manager, Maureen Keough. He explained that the money designated for 'Family Liaison Groups' and 'Transport' would be accessed mainly by Senior Family Liaison Officers, while the funds designated for 'Parenting' would be used mainly for the parenting courses. It was noted that there were more funds given this year and that it would be important to set out a strategy for how the funds should be used. It was decided that SFLOs and other area professionals be contacted to see what types of parenting programmes would be needed in their areas.</p>		
Conclusions:	A meeting to plan a parenting programme for the year will be on 27 th July, 9:30am @ Conon Bridge Family Resource Centre.		

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Notify other sub group members about the additional meeting	Joy	1 July
✓ Gather information from SFLOs, HVs, & CSWs before strategy meeting	Joy	20 July
✓ Invite Stephen MacKay and Patricia Haigh to the planning meeting	Joy	1 July

Agenda item: Progress Report **Presenter:** Joy Barton

Discussion: The two Incredible Years Courses sponsored by HealthWays in Dingwall and Munlochry will be finishing at the end of the month. There are 13 participants finishing in Dingwall and 9 in Munlochry. Both of the groups had an even number of professionally referred and self-referred parents. There are reunions planned for both groups at the end of the summer. These reunions are designed to encourage the parents and to see how they are managing with what they learned on the course. The response from the parents has been positive and it is hoped that some of them will carry on with other courses being held in the area. Certificates will be issued to the parents completing the course and they are being encouraged to keep these to show potential employers or when applying for another course.

Joy will be meeting with the SFLO and Early Years worker in Gairloch in order to see what is needed in that area. It was also suggested that she also speak to the Toybox project and Family First. She is also planning to visit the Arberlour Trust in Edinburgh and will feed back any useful information to the group.

Agenda item: Development Plan/Seminar Feedback **Presenter:** Group

Discussion: It was decided that the group would read the document and come back together to discuss any additional comments or suggestions. It will be completed after the strategy meeting on 27th July.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Group is expected to read before next meeting	Group	

Agenda item: Updates **Presenter:** Various

HealthWays: (Susanne Standish-White) The two Incredible Years courses are coming to an end in Dingwall and Munlochry. They will be sponsoring reunions for each of the groups and have provided the parents with information about local summer activities. HealthWays would like to run another course if funding is available.

Parents on the Ball: (Susan Campbell) The programme has seen significant changes with the parents including increased confidence, better teamwork, and increased community & school involvement. Susan stated that the length of the course (24 weeks) seemed to make a positive difference in seeing considerable long-term changes. Parents who complete this course are then encouraged to take part in the 'Get A Goal' programme. This progression route seems to be working well and evaluations for both programmes are due to be finished in the Autumn.

Positive Parenting: Colin Wilson was not able to attend the meeting but Charles stated that Colin had been in touch with Catriona Low (Deputy Head at Dingwall Academy) about a programme that would teach parenting skills to teenagers. Charles will e-mail the group more information about this. It was also asked how this could be modeled in other academies.

Action:
Charles

HealthWays Room 22 & TRACC: (Lianne Skinner) Parents from the Tain area support group are moving on to work and other positive progressions. The group in Balintore is going strong. The special needs support group still meets on a monthly basis. Lianne hopes to facilitate a Webster-Stratton Incredible Years course in September. There will be a Wednesday Family Fun Day starting on 5th July to 9th August. The day's events, such as mask making; family swim, picnic lunch, splash posters, drumming workshops, & kindergym, will be free. Lianne plans to invite along Working for Families and North Highland College to promote courses & services to parents. This event will be funded by HealthWays, Councillor Alasdair Rhind and TRACC Management Committee.

Webster-Stratton Incredible Years: (Catherine Zawalynski) Janette Walker was in the process of completing her final report. Since she has completed her time as the Webster-Stratton Incredible Years co-ordinator, it was suggested that her name be removed as a contact person on the referral form. Catherine will speak to Janette about a new date for the Webster-Stratton Insight Day.

Action:
Catherine

Any Other Business

Susan Campbell asked if there were any programmes designed for parents with additional needs. It was thought that this is a subject that would need to be addressed in the future.

A HV from Poolewe had requested funding for refreshments for parents attending her baby massage and breastfeeding classes. It was decided that since this was not a parenting programme, the group would not be able to assist. However, it was suggested that she approach her manager about this issue.

Next Meeting: 27th July at 9:30am at the Conon Family Resource Centre, Conon Bridge

This meeting has been called specifically for working out a programme plan for the upcoming school year.
