

DATE	6 th February	TYPE OF MEETING	Partnership Meeting
PRESENT			
Ian Goode, Katy Kitchingham, Yvonne Munro, Susan Campbell, Helen Sharp, David Alston, Morven Shepherd. Carol Macrae Stephanie Bruce Susan Russel, Dorothy Cuthbert, Marion Fraser, Irene Cameron, Ceitidh Hutton, Susan Weir, Val Steel, Morna Anderson.			
APOLOGIES			
1., Sam Brogan, Eileen Burnham, Angela MacLean. Bob Litster Raine MacLennan, Gillian Newman.			
AGENDA			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies 2. Previous Minutes. 3. Update from HPS, Childminding Association, CNSA, OOS Fed etc. 4. Carol Macrae – a Day in the Life of Ankerville Nursery. 5. For Highlands Children 2 6. CC+FRP Development Plan review of 05-06 and 06-07 plan. 7. Development Officers report 8. Date of next Meeting. 			
MINUTES			
2. Previous minutes – Agreed.			
<p>3. Updates</p> <p>Homestart – new staff member in post- Vol. prep course starting with 6 Volunteers. Introducing Family Liaison Arrangements to families – 2 families have declined service because of this. Social evening for volunteers held – with great success.</p> <p>Katy Kitchingham- Safe Strong and Free- workshops underway across area. MAGPIE – funding runs out for end of march for recycling project applications being put together for this to continue. Themed boxes are being put together – with HPS. Highland real Nappy project - Evaluation underway – finances run out end of march Real Nappy week mid April</p> <p>HPS –Play @ home parent workshops are underway in some of the Toddler groups to promote awareness. Working to support staff in groups under Early Years review, with issues such as redundancy. Future of Milton toddler group – very low attendance again – every effort has been made to engage this group by KALE and HPS worker. Saturday swap shop will take place between toddler groups.</p> <p>Susan Russel – NHS review of School Nurses service to ensure the service provision is based on need.</p> <p>Community Regeneration funding – will be sourced for next meeting NCH - Dingwall project new well established- Parents on the Ball programme – comes to an end next week wit a second course underway on the 24th Feb. the 6 parents on original course to undertake Get a Goal with Ross County. Play room in town Hall working well with Health ways and Home start. Leaflet being updated for agencies.</p>			

Family First – group work – Webster Stratton course – EY worker + Health visitor all working well together.

Susan Weir SCMA – Scheme of excellence in Evanton to get underway 7 attendees, First Aid course end March. Preparation course end Feb from Dingwall and after Easter in Invergordon. Spring new letter due and articles welcomed.

Val Steel – As the senior education officer – Val will be the contact within education for the Partnership.

Morag Shepherd – **GROOVE** Strathpeffer has a waiting list for 3 days per week-Culbokie numbers picking up significantly and looking at the Easter holiday programme.

Morna – **CAYP** – New staff working well. Having a garden updating day – lottery bid due this month – CC visit soon.

Carol Macrae – **a Day in the Life of Ankerville Nursery**. A few summary points from a very interesting account of Ankerville Nurseries.

Happy Staff = happy children – provides service for 78 Children in any one week- 18 staff. Care commission very supportive. Additional support needs no problems in the past with referral though H Visitors and access to 1-1 career funding for 2.5 – 5 is good- but in the last 6 months it has become far more difficult with other children not ticking boxes- Carol felt that funding should be more available. Ankerville is also a training provider for SVQ2 +3

For Highlands Children 2 +CC+FRP Development Plan review of 05-06 and 06-07 plan

A meeting was arranged to discuss this with David Alston , Marion Fraser, Stephanie Bruce.

Development Officers report

Early Years review

Report available from the previous meeting at Ed centre.

Meetings have been held in Avoch and Invergordon and a report on these findings is to now go to area committee on the 27th Feb.

How further discussions on the way forward will be decided will depend upon the outcome of the Area Committee – it is likely that the ASG groups from the seminar will be brought back together to look more closely at the area issues – to develop an action plan for future needs.

Discussions are ongoing with CAYP as to how to best deliver E Ed in this area- no final decision has yet been made as to how this will look.

Out of School Care

The existing Groove Clubs have not had the uptake of children that was at first envisaged – and there is now a sustainability grant requested from OOS Fed - this is being looked at closely and it is clear that there will need to be some changes to how the service is delivered i.e. some clubs possible Culbokie and one other will have to close for the holidays but ensuring that there is provision in either Dunglass, Conon or N Kessock – there is a requirement to have some frank and open discussions with all the communities about the

clubs and look at greater promotion to these communities and also the various agencies that could refer children to them.

Invergordon has been put on hold at this time – 2 reasons – still no further forward with accommodation in the community – still waiting to get info back from South Lodge School on the changes required to ensure the suitability of the premises. If this deems to be difficult then there are no other options at the moment. Time has also been limited as to pushing this up every ones agenda. The WFF money proposed for this appears to be safe for the moment – so there is still £20,000 put aside for this development.

A funding application has been received from Newmore who require some sustaining money for next financial year amounting to £5000.

S1 S2 developments have also been put on hold – funding and who will deliver needs to be resolved - I can not see this development happening over the next year – external funding will be required.

Training programme

The programme has been received well with 150+ individuals attending the various courses, and funding for an additional 2x SPA, 3 x3 SVQ in CC+EED, and 2 SVQ4,s

Parenting

The NOF QCC programme is now in its final stages with the last 2 W Stratton courses with 15 parents in attendance in Ullapool and Invergordon.

NCH with some additional Sure start funding will be putting on with Ross County another parents on the ball programme for 10 targeted families in Ross county

Challenges for next financial year are that there is limited funding for crèche – transport and venue costs to support universal parenting courses that the NoF funding has provided therefore it is unlikely that a similar round will be available.

Joy Barton has been appointed as Family Learning Co-ordinator through SS to provide Admin support to parenting education – she can be found at Maywood in Dingwall and will help provide admin for the parenting sub group

Minutes and further parenting info of these groups can be found on the Web at <http://ntintra1/educ/integrated-childrens-services/ics-ross-cromarty.htm> - Highland Council intranet

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/educ/integrated-childrens-services/ics-ross-cromarty.htm> - World Wide Web

Summer activity Programme

A series of activities has been offer to the sector by ED C + S to deliver in the summer hols – discussions have taken place as how best to deliver and a programme will be drawn up by myself to share these activities out across the area. Activities include

- A week of drumming - 10 sessions,
- Banner making for 2 weeks
- Living history days for a week
- Natural history silk painting for a week
- Pictish textiles for a week

There are a series of meeting about to be undertaken re the summer brochure and these are to be led by the Active schools co-ordinators in each ASG if you have any suggestions as to what should be on offer then contact then ASAP. The brochure this year will be based on each ASG and will not be Ross wide.

It is also hoping that some ASC will be in a position to deliver some sporting events which the OOSC particularly will be able to link into and at least one big get together for all OOSC clubs.

Childminding

To date we have funded 20 new childminders which is an increase of 6 to date from last year

There will also be an information day in Invergordon in April after Easter hols with WFF Job centre + RACE to offer advice and guidance on available support to potential new CM this is likely to be held in Joss Street hall on a weekday. There is only 1 or 2 Cm in the Invergordon area at present.

West coast

The supported Parent & Toddler Groups underway. Lochcarron have a once a month session with the crèche & Family First/CLL. Torridon have had a couple of sessions and Ullapool are having the first one on 6th Feb. Poolewe/Gairloch has decided to use the crèche for an extra joint session to go swimming.

Funding applications

These need to be with me no later than the end of the month –there is significant demand for the grants this year.

WFF initiative

There is consideration to widening this project to include Dingwall – watch this space the project to date has been successfully and is at present in supporting 75 clients to return to work – most childcare issue are resolved in a reasonable satisfactory manner.

There also is a proposal from SCMA to develop a top up scheme for childminder who are WFF clients to encourage them to come on board in the Invergordon Alness Tain areas – where there would be a guarantee income for these Cm of £150.

The meeting discussed this issue and felt that ‘top ups’ in urban areas could mean that the recruitment of new childminders out with of this scheme may be difficult and the retention of existing Childminders in the area may also be difficult

There is also an initiative to support transport to employment which is in operation in Sutherland and this may come to parts of Ross and Cromarty – if this is likely to happen the project manager will be invited to the next partnership meeting to explain the project.

Sure start

The 2 new SFLO are now in place and will be in position to help arrange liaison arrangements for all early years referrals under SS. Alison Horner for Dingwall, Maggie Callaghan for Alness and Amelia Wilson existing for the West.

There are still vacancies for CEY workers in Dingwall and Tain

A plan for 2006-2007 will be developed shortly and it is unlikely to look significantly different from this years plan finance depending.

RSNP

Have been successful in attracting funding for an extension to the Playscheme for Teenagers which will provide a more age appropriate setting and opportunities for the young people attending the scheme – and has released a number of places on the Easter and summer scheme

Birth – 3 quality assessment framework

A bid was submitted to the Partnership by HPS to provide QA for the Scot. exec guidance – for the 3 full day facilities – it was agreed that this type of support for the sector would be beneficial but it was decided not to progress this at this time. It is hoped to be able to include some elements of this in the next training programme for all whom are working with under 3's.

Youth music

This bid was not successful. We have been asked to resubmit with some additional information in Spring. It may not be possible to do, due to other commitments that both myself and the Arts in motion have.

Highland 2007 – there has been no movement of putting a bid together for this and it is unlikely that it will progress.

8. A.O.C.B.

9. Date of next meeting

21st April 2.00pm Conon Family Resource Centre