

1 Notes of meeting held 8 July 2011 and matters arising

Short Breaks Cathy (HCS) reported that 50 children had accessed 52 activities spread over 208 sessions. The criteria for the HCS Shortbreaks are much lower than that of Herefordshire Council. The evaluations have been very positive. A Parent Carer said her son had really enjoyed his two sessions at the swimming pool.

Parent Carers commented that they need information about summer Shortbreaks just after Easter. In the future they would like HCS and Herefordshire Council to work with Marches Family Network to produce a coordinated program. The Forum requested that their views be passed onto Karen B of Herefordshire Council.

'I Count' Card still problems with Halo staff not understanding what it is with one parent being asked to pay for admission even though child was attending an HCS funded session. There should be a poster explaining what discounts are available for 'I Count' Card holders that staff can refer to. Perhaps a sticker 'I Count Card' welcomed here should be developed.

CAMHS: Parents would like an update about CAMHS – what is happening?

Specialist Pathways for Disabled Children and their Families: Jacqui (HCS) reported that a pilot scheme has been set up for parents of newly diagnosed children which will include a 5 week training program.

Members of the Forum also wanted to know whether there were specialist care pathways for children with Downs and other syndromes. Jacqui to raise the issue with Dr Sally Stucke

2 Progress on Parent Carer Voice Work Plan

Sue (HCS) reported that she has updated the Parent Carer Work Plan to reflect recent progress. Whenever the plan is updated the date on the foot of the page will automatically change so that PCV members know which the most up to date version is.

Main changes: - Increased post 16 education provision is now available through St Owens. Parent Carers worried that some children are excluded due to having too high an IQ even though functional skills are low.

Hospital Passports are being introduced to Children's wards in Herefordshire Hospital and training is being given to staff. These have already been rolled out to adult services.

Short Breaks provision has increased and there the Playground 4 All is now open.

3 Update on Review of Services for Disabled Children

Invitations to the two feedback events to Parent Carers have been sent out through the HCS database, Marches Family Network, the SENCO network and to all four main special schools. Head of Additional Needs, Les Knight or Commissioner Maria Hardy will be there to report back.

Friday 16 September at Point 4 in Hereford and

Wednesday 21 September at Westfield School in Leominster

4 Herefordshire Carers Charter

Herefordshire Carers Charter has been written by a group of local Carers supported by Chrissy Dunlop of HCS. Parent Carer Voice's Sheridan and Michelle were on this group. The Charter will be launched on Carers Rights Day, the 2 December 2011, at the Kindle Centre.

Sheridan reported that a lot of thought had gone into the design of the Carers Charter, to make sure it was user friendly. It will be reviewed annually to make sure it stays up to date. Members of The Voice welcomed the Charter saying that it was not too long, contained good information and they liked the tear off slip at the back.

5 Refresh of Herefordshire Carers Strategy

Herefordshire Public Services (the commissioning bit of Herefordshire Council and NHS) is updating its Carers Strategy, which will form the basis for their commissioning intentions to support local Carers. The strategy needs to be in place before March 2012.

Jade Brookes is the leading this piece of work within Herefordshire Public Services, but most of the ground work is being done by Amy Pitt.

Parent Carers requested that Jade Brookes be invited to the November meeting of Parent Carer Voice
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6 Sports Survey

The Disability Sports Survey is now on the Carers Support website. The interim findings have been shared with Herefordshire Sports Partnership, who have welcomed the survey and will continue to work with Herefordshire Carers Support to improve access to sport for disabled children. Over 30 different sports providers were identified which Herefordshire Carers Support is contacting to see if they are happy to work with disabled children and go on the Short Breaks Database or if they would like further training from Parent Carers to work inclusively. There is also specialist training on offer through Herefordshire Council. The next meeting of the Sports Partnership will be in October.

7 Herefordshire Carers Support – New on-line Forum

The HCS website is being redesigned to incorporate the new softer colour scheme. Carers Support is also getting a Facebook page and will be using more mixed media. The Forum is up and running on the website but need more Parent Carers to use it. Visit www.hereforeshirecarers.co.uk/forum

8 National Carers Summit, Training and Events

The **National Carers Summit** will be held on **Thursday 3 November 2011** in London. This event is free, however Carers may want to go down the night before rather than travel down on the day. HCS can pay for these expenses if members of Parent Carer Voice would like to go. Michelle went last year and thoroughly enjoyed the event. It is also an opportunity to question top politicians and policy makers.

Letters have just gone out to all Parent Carers on the HCS database – (480 at last count) inviting them to the autumn training program. In addition members of Parent Carer Voice are invited to attend two specialist workshops on ‘Parent Carers and the Law’ and ‘Remedying the Wrongs’ which normally are only open to staff and other professionals.

Members of the voice were reminded that the Annual Report back to Carers will be held on Wednesday 14 September.

Members were also asked to think about whether they would like an ‘away-day’ before April to look at priorities for 2012 onwards.

9 Any Other Business - none

10 Date of Future Meetings

Most members of PCV reported that they would be unable to come to the October meeting therefore a new date was sought. It was suggested that it would be more convenient for most members of Parent Care Voice if the meetings followed the Tuesday support group at the Point 4. This will be trialled for a few meetings.

Parent Carer Voice Meetings

~~7 pm at Aylestone Court Hotel on 12 October 2011 – Cancelled~~

12:30 at Point 4 on Tuesday 18 October 2011

12:30 at Point 4 on Tuesday 22 November 2011

Carers Rights Day 2011

9:30 -14:30 at The Kindle Centre on Friday 2 December 2011