

Southam Children’s Centre Advisory Board Meeting

Southam Children’s Centre

Wednesday 19th July 2017

12:30 – 2:30pm

MINUTES

Item:	Action
1. Welcome and Introductions	
Introductions were made and Margo welcomed everybody.	
Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One amendment had been made to the last minutes • Emma asked for an item to be removed as it was Mandy Startup and not Emma • Margo asked if anyone else would like to amend the minutes and everyone present declined. • The minutes were agreed and signed off by Margo. 	
2. Centre Update:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEF had been sent out with the minutes by Michelle. • There was no feedback on the SEF from Mary as it would be discussed at quarterly meetings. The annual conversations had not taken place so that time could be used to discuss the consultation. • Margo commented that the SEF was a great piece of work though she didn’t understand all of the terminology. • Gemma felt more boxes could have been ticked as outstanding but Manjit explained that data needed to be at 80% for outstanding so the data for the Centre did not represent ‘outstanding’ 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaine explained that children’s centres still worked within the Ofsted framework for data although Ofsted had been suspended in children’s centres until there is a new framework. • Gemma still felt there were a lot of outstanding aspects in the SEF report. Discussion on the latest data from WCC • Performance management focuses on under 2’s, under 5s as well as the Priority Target Groups. Southam South and Southam Town, Long Itchington & Harbury are the focus areas for Southam CC to increase registration, engagement and sustained contact <p>Re-design & Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manjit has sent out cabinet meeting minutes and addendum for the AB to peruse. The consultation questionnaire is out online and can be obtained in hard copy as well. It is 23 pages long and times out if completing online. <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny, co-ordinating / link person for the 0-5 redesign and consultation. • Jeff Morgan (Cllr) attending Southam Children Centre on 17th Aug at 1.15pm. • There is an impression that CCs are for ‘yummy mummies’ • John informed the board that Southam is to grow by 1500 houses a 1/3 of which will be social housing. LHH has new houses of which a 1/3 has social needs. None of the housing issues have been taken into account in the consultation process. Mary reiterated that it was a proposal so other ideas will be taken into consideration. Southam is in a period of expansion but the number of children being accessed by the children’s centre has reduced due to reduced outreach. The Stratford District is very complex. • Elaine explained that the interim family hubs will not be permanent. The emphasis on early years has been lost. The proposal is for family hubs in Alcester, Rugby and Nuneaton. The new hubs will redraw boundaries. Mental health issues, domestic violence and substance abuse cuts across incomes. Transport costs will be a really big issue with accessing hubs for some families. The cost of buses from Shipston to Alcester is £8 • The Parenting Project 5 – 19’s Team already work within the area. Tracy works with this age group in Southam and the concept is working. • Elaine disagrees with savings context as it will cost WCC in the long term. • Gemma suggested a more integrated approach re: housing and early years etc. • Public consultations. Fundamental changes should be needs driven for a longer period of time and look at boundaries. Money should be spent in the right place. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary reiterated this is the time to propose another idea. Elaine pointed out that there is no funding to continue with a new set up making a proposal with no budget difficult to do. • The consultation proposal has narrow funding boundaries. A request has been made to WCC to see the funding costs for the present proposal. Children's centres seem to be in a 'no win' situation as they are unable to charge for 'add ons'. • 0 – 5 is a crucial period in the life of a family and there are many stories of family experience at children's centres. • The Parenting Project has received funding from a children's centre family as a private donation for a Parent/Mentor Project. • Safeguarding is a real concern and not mentioned once in the initial paper. This has now been amended. It is Elaine's opinion that referrals and LAC numbers will drop, which will look positive, but no-one will be picking these up. Children will be walking into school with these issues, where is the school readiness in this? • Emma said that this will lead to an escalation in schools with serious case reviews rather than early intervention. • Quote from consultation paper " more families to be able to access early help sooner" • John asked the question, will the advisory board put in a block report to the consultation? • Manjit said that letters had been sent out to County Cllrs from the Parenting Project and Elaine and other PP managers will be attending all the consultation meetings. • The Parenting Project to put a proposal together but have no costings to use. • Manjit said that the AB can write to County Cllrs. • Extra AB meetings will be taking place with County Cllrs. • Margo asked that the minutes of this meeting need to be circulated as soon as possible so that all the board's points can be included in a proposal from Southam AB ie: salami slicing, long term funding and redefining boundaries. • Gemma said that all counsellors during the consultation period should be tasked to visit a children's centre or shadow a family worker. • Manjit explained children's centre plan of action along with the Parenting Project. Proactive to the best of their ability. Parents' voice. • John to concentrate on structure of response. 	

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<p>3. Safeguarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manjit reported no updates 	
<p>4. Parent Feedback – Evaluations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manjit suggested pulling together stories of families to include in our response. 	
<p>5. Information Sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaine said the Parenting Project is putting together a business plan for the future of the charity as nothing is being commissioned. This will impact on funding though it hasn't affected other funding for other programmes. Mental health and emotional wellbeing of parents is beneficial to all aspects of a child's life 100 parents have come through the PP counselling service. 50% of the parents who have accessed this have experienced a significant childhood trauma that comes to the forefront when they start a family. Cuts across all incomes impact on mental health. The Parenting Project has been compromised because of not being commissioned. No other charities in Stratford District are doing what the PP is doing. Elaine explained the counselling model of using post graduates and 3rd year students who need to attain 100 hours of counselling practice. The PP as a placement provider is good value and sustainable. Clients are offered 18 weeks of free counselling or longer if needed. Counselling takes place in children's centres and is funded by a lottery bid. Gemma shared that the NCT Bumps & Babies group takes place on Fridays for parents with babies 6-12 months. They offer support with breast feeding with the breast feeding peer support scheme. This is sometimes the first time mums have breast fed in public so helps with confidence. Training starts in the autumn for a new batch of peer supporters. Jackie shared that the Foodbank had proved for 190 adults and 96 children. Jackie had written to Jeremy Wright as a family had been in emergency accommodation in a B & B since November 2016, at a cost of £79 a day, with an 18 month old and a 3 year old. They have one room and no cooking facilities. The 3 year old's behaviour has become challenging at nursery. Microwaves are to be placed in each room for the families in emergency accommodation at the hotel. A new referring agency will support families, who normally have free school meals, through the school holidays. Safeguarding issues – community police to do a workshop on a drop in basis. Manjit and Jackie have completed a Big Chef, Little Chef course. Adult community Learning provided a tailor made course for 5 parents, with a crèche for the children, tailor made with what the Food Bank would give out to families. This included a fruit tasting session with fruit provided by Tesco. Southam CC refers at least 3 families a month. Cooking instructions are given but it isn't always a lack of skills that prevent families from cooking but lack of facilities. Jackie also pointed out that when a family cannot afford food or 	

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<p>toiletries, including nappies for their babies how can they afford £6.10 for bus fare to Alcester or Leamington.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to this information sharing by Jackie, Gemma advised that the Baby Box scheme had been launched today, where families get a box of items for their baby and the box can be used as a cot. • Emma offered her mini hall and kitchen during the school holidays as a venue for a cooking course and crèche. • Mary shared that while the consultation process was going on it was 'business as usual' with quarterly feedback meetings etc. She still needed to gather performance management data. • John shared that the Napton playgroup, which started at the children's centre, has grown and is using the school once every half term. It is now self-sustained. • Emma shared that the school has booked it's Harvest Festival for 10th October 2017 with produce to be shared with the Foodbank and Salvation Army. • Mike shared that the council has been looking at the future of Grange Hall which is vastly under-utilised at present, as a possible venue for children's centre in the future should the need arise. • Manjit shared the summer programme for the children's centre plus details of the family fun day. • Margo finished by saying that although there are huge anxieties and concerns there is some good news scattered around too. 	
<p>6. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th September 12.30 – 2.30 pm at Southam Children's Centre to discuss response to the Consultation</p> <p>Wednesday 6th December 12.30 – 2.30 pm at Southam Children's Centre</p>	<p>Apologies from Jackie G</p>