



**Grŵp Cefnogi Sefydliadau Gwirfoddol Gogledd Cymru
North Wales Voluntary Organisations Support Group**

Glasdir, Plas Yn Dre, Llanrwst

21 April 2009

MINUTES

Present: Anita Myfanwy (Chair), Allison Hughes (minutes), Maggie Kelly, Wales PPA; Angharad Ab Iorwerth, Genesis 2; Cynthia Owen, MYM; Kevin Williams, Barnardo's.

Speakers: Dafydd Myrddin Hughes & Kelly Bee, Regional Play Development Officers for Anglesey and North Gwynedd

1. Apologies:

Violet Greaves, Homestart; Ann V. Jones, Mantell Gwynedd; Ann Westmoreland, CVSC; Pam Boyd, ConinYou; Louise Blackwell, FLVC; Jane Edgington, NEA.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed as a true record with the following amendments:

(5) Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin are not situated at the same site as Ysgol Y Graig. The correct address is College Road, Llangefni.

3. Matters Arising

- Genesis II still awaiting an agreement. They will be targetting lone parent families throughout Wales. There will be a review of Genesis II in 2011.

4. Presentation on the responsibilities of the Regional Play Development Officers by Dafydd Myrddin Hughes and Kelly Bee

Anita introduced Dafydd and Kelly and reminded the group that play comes under Core Aim 4, Children and Young People's Plans and that it is also part of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The North Gwynedd Play Forum was established two years ago and an application for more funds has been submitted. It is hoped that this will be confirmed in September.

Dafydd began the presentation by asking the group to discuss the memories they have of play during their childhood. Dafydd stated that children have much less opportunity to play today compared to that of the opportunities members of the group had when they were children. It is important that children and young people have the opportunity to experiment whilst playing i.e. climbing trees, playing by streams and even making fires under supervision, in order for them to learn to take and assess risk for themselves.

Dafydd is happy to provide support to organisations that are looking for funding for “Play” and provided the group with copies of the *Play Strategy for Gwynedd*.

5. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – The Committee’s Concluding Observations by Anita Myfanwy

Anita explained to the group that the Committee has published the Concluding Observations following evidence provided by the UK’s Children’s Commissioner, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO’s), the UK Government and the Funky Dragon (Wales).

The Committee expressed many concerns with regard to failings in relation to children’s rights in the UK including the following:

Lack of Incorporation of the UNCRC in Government policies

Discrimination – Negative discrimination towards children and groups of children, especially the way that children and young people are portrayed in the media and on reality shows

Participation – Little progress to enshrine article 12

Education – Inequalities in school. Educational achievement of those living in poverty compared to children from affluent homes. Bullying is a serious problem, not enough support for children living in poverty, children with disabilities, excluded children, travellers and young mothers (66c)

Play - Adequate and accessible play areas for all children needed (68)

Health – Widening inequalities between poor and rich. Limited access to appropriate mental health services, high rate of teenage pregnancy, high incidence of alcohol and drugs (56&57). Only 25% of children receive support. Many are seen on adult Mental Health wards.

Child Poverty - Poverty is still a serious problem. 29% of children living in Wales are living in poverty.

Children in Care – Increased numbers of children from ethnic minorities and disabled children in care.

Violence, Abuse, Neglect – The committee remains “alarmed” at the high prevalence of domestic abuse in the home.

Corporal Punishment – Wales has been praised for its Children Are Unbeatable campaign but it is unacceptable that the UK Government have failed to prohibit corporal punishment by parents

Juvenile Justice – The Committee is dissatisfied at the low age of criminal responsibility which is 10 years of age in England and Wales and 8 years of age in Scotland.

Restriction Imposed on Freedom of Movement – The committee condemned the use of ASBOs and mosquito devices

Privacy of Children – Condemnation of authorities for keeping DNA data on tens of thousands of children, negative media representation and in tv reality shows

Allocation of Resources to Children – more resources needed

Awareness of Children's Rights – low level of knowledge amongst children, parents and professionals

6. UK Border Agency Code of Practice for Keeping Children Safe From Harm – Anita Myfanwy

Anita provided the group with copies of the Code of Practice and these are some of the points that were discussed:

- Listening to children with respect and fairness
- Services and guidelines available in relation to children's needs
- Take into consideration the experiences of children and confirm their comments by looking through their records
- Keeping children safe

7. Information Share

- Barnardo's will be one of the organisations situated in College Road, Llangejni.

Handouts/Booklets/Information

The group was provided with/informed on the following:

- Booklet on Health Standards by WAG
- Seminar on Supporting Parents with Learning Disabilities - Wrexham 29/04/09
- Conference on Early Support - Wrexham 12/06/09
- Children in Wales AGM - 24 & 25 November 2009

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss

9. Dates of the Next Meetings

07/07/09 – joint meeting with NWCRPEG

13/10/09

12/01/10

The following agenda items were suggested:

- Session on Mental Health by CAMHS

- Update on the Partnership Support Unit by Hawis Jones
- Information Board for organisations to exhibit information
- National Eisteddfod
- Lunch to be provided

The meetings will be held at Glasdir, Llanrwst, 10.00 until 1.00 pm