

Children's Wellbeing Networking Event Summary

Wednesday 1st March 2017

Theme: Early Help

Very useful networking session

Early Help Presentations & Workshops

The theme of this event was Early Help and the workshops were hosted by Andy Hough; Head of Educational Development. He took us through an introduction and background to the Early Help Strategy, and a brief update of recent developments in the Families First Programme. Two workshops followed; one around how to develop an understanding of what 'help' might mean, and the other around what the communication engagement approach for rolling out Early Help might look like.

Sharing ideas

Marketplace Stalls & Networking

A more informal approach was taken to the networking session at this event; simply, everybody was asked to go and speak to somebody they didn't know!

Thank you to the following organisations for hosting a market stall:

1. Homestart- www.home-start.org.uk
2. Fostering team; Herefordshire Council- www.herefordshire.gov.uk
3. Services 4 Independent Living (S4IL)- WISH website- www.wishherefordshire.org
4. Family Support team; Herefordshire Council- www.herefordshire.gov.uk
5. FocusGov- www.focusgov.co.uk
6. National Autistic Society (NAS) Herefordshire-www.nasherefordshire.webeden.co.uk
7. NSPCC- www.nspcc.org.uk
8. SENDIAS- www.sendirect.org.uk/providers/information-advice.../sendias-herefordshire
9. HOPE- www.hopesupport.org.uk

Building professional links and relationships

Opportunity for input into practical solutions

Discussions with other individuals with similar vision and passion

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Summary of Event Feedback

Places available – 80	Places booked – 50	Attendees – 62.5%	Feedback received- 23 (46%)			
Event rating:	Excellent - 2	Very good - 7	Good - 14	Fair - 0	Poor - 0	Left Blank - 0
Liked about the event:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking • Positivity • Information • Talking about Early Help going forward • Workshops • Learning more about other services and individuals • Discussions with individuals with similar passions and vision • Building professional links and relationships • Opportunity to meet other agencies and hear new ideas • Opportunity for input into practical solutions • Meeting new people and their organisations • Stalls • Raising awareness of Early Help • Sharing information on services • The opportunity to talk to other agencies and make more connections within the county • Having the chance to talk to others • Having the change to promote the WISH service • Opportunity to share experiences with like-minded people • Informal • Participative • Understanding what support is available • We were all allowed a voice • Sharing ideas • Engagement with other people to help solve some of the problems around supporting families before problems become too difficult 					
Disliked about the event:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No call to action- what next, what are the actions? • Would like to get a solution sometime • It doesn't always translate into concerted organised action- does feedback feed upwards? • Not enough variety of providers attending- could have done with everyone being there e.g. the teaching profession • Would have liked more delegates 					
Time allowed for discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slightly too little- 5 • About the right amount- 18 					
Event length:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slightly too short- 1 • About right- 19 					

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slightly too long- 2
Event improvements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More market stalls, more time to go around the market stalls, involve families more • Lists of emails on each table per person • Just focus on one issue and explore in detail • More time with other professionals, more time to mingle with a greater number of people • Maybe speakers telling us about services, short presentations, service users talking about their experiences • A print-out of slides for the short-sighted attendees • Perhaps more specific discussion of Herefordshire's strategy and plans • Finding out a little more about what the council thinks Early Help is • More specific information on what Early Help is out there
Networking:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too short but good • Very good but blank cards and name tags to fill in and share • Engage members of the community next time- we can't keep telling them what's good for them • Good. Met some wonderful people from organisations who do wonderful work and I'm interested in partnering with them • Good • Very good • Useful • Very helpful • Always useful • Very useful networking session- I made some good links • Useful also to receive some contact details of attendees if this is possible
Usefulness of the interactive workshops:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very useful – 6 • Useful – 16 • Not useful – 0 • Left blank – 1
Memorable items from event:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names and telephone numbers (to take away) • Need to ensure Halo reach out to other agencies • Making every contact count • Networking • Talked to Spurgeons therefore I made a contact • We totally endorse Early Help and have brought some initial ideas for engaging with potential service users at the earliest opportunity and building our service profile for the benefit of the SEND community • How children's centres can better empower communities • Thoughts about community contacts to work together • Wide contacts • Positive partners • Ideas of others- reminder to communicate and draw on others

Children's Wellbeing Networking Event Summary Wednesday 1st March 2017

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knowledge that there are more agencies out there that we were not aware of • Greater understanding of challenges and diversity of issues • Thoughts about community contacts to work together • More awareness of local networks which I will share with Rowden House SENAD • Thoughts about community contacts to work together • Struggles of how we can help? What really is Early Help? Very different to different people- we all need to be at the same place • There is no easy answer but more community support, hubs, communication is needed to allow families to know what to do and where to go if the need arises • New ideas of how to gain contacts • New contacts made • Encouraged by commitment, publicity to promote 'Hereford is a child-friendly county'
<p>Topics/themes to address at a future event:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability 0-25, disability adults, social care • Physical activity • I'd like to see schools attend and hear about the issues they are facing in order to link up professionals and services with the issues faced by the settings who have increasing responsibility to deliver most of the solutions or facilitate the involvement/recommendations of other services • Safeguarding levels/flow chart- when needs are identified, how does the system ensure children are not getting lost between tiers of support? • Moving out of intensive support • Access for all • ASD, HFA • What will Early Help look like?
<p>Further comments, suggestions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No parking • Please email contact list of all delegated for future networking • Get back the organisations which came to last year's event, communicating that it will make a difference • Thanks for the opportunity • Local and voluntary groups are important to identify early issues. Perhaps the council could be involved in helping people to facilitate these groups. Happy to help with facilitating the approach!