

Update for January 5th 2010 Branch Meeting

1. Meeting with Deputy Minister

Following the meeting with Deputy Minister Gwenda Thomas re presumption of shared parenting Paul Apreda was to meet Mr Derek Griffin Chief Executive CAFCASS CYMRU to continue the discussion on Dec 8th, but Mr Griffin cancelled this meeting. Paul will ask for it to be rescheduled

2. Future Jobs Funds.

The two jobs for which we have funding under the Future Jobs Funds are proving more difficult to implement than we imagined. On Dec 8th HLLJ met Pam Brice, who was very helpful.

3. Media Trust.

This is a charity which amongst other things offers PR personnel to charities. Neil McEvoy represented FNF Cymru at a Speed Matching event in November. Although we have contacted several PR personnel who indicated they were interested in helping us, we haven't yet managed to get the support we need from this.

4. Wrexham branch

Wrexham branch started Dec 10th. The meeting went well. HLLJ went to the meeting to wish them well. This is fantastic news and we wish them every success, although we all wish there was no need for our charity in the first place.

5. Press coverage

HLLJ had a letter in the Western Mail before Christmas about FNF and Neil McEvoy had letters in the Western Mail and the South Wales Echo about the problems dads face. He has had a good (sad) response from his letters

6 Contact Centres.

The suggestion has been made that FNF could be an organisation that would enable the parent to make a self-referral. We need to follow through again on this.

7. Re finding a child when a parent has moved.

CSA are producing forms towards solving this problem. It is woefully inadequate. A revised version to be considered in the next review by CSA has been sent to them. The response we had from CSA was not encouraging. We wait to see if changes are made at the end of the six month trial period.

8. C-MEC

Sharon McDonnell is taking an interest in the C-MEC.
Ask her advice if you are having difficulties.

9. Children in Wales

FNF belongs to the umbrella group Children in Wales. Cheryl Griffin has the paperwork.

Membership no: **WA991**

User name : **Member**

Password : **ciwpass**

If anybody wants to know what Children in Wales does, their web page that tells you is <http://www.childreninwales.org.uk:80/whatwedo/index.html> If you see any event you would like to attend, tell Cheryl. Cheryl is currently struggling with a broken leg and we all wish her well. Contact her on cheryl.griffin10@btinternet.com

There is an organization DYN Helpline 0808 801 0321 and web site www.dynwales.org in Cardiff which helps men who have experienced or who are experiencing Domestic Abuse.

HLLJ has contacted the lady from Women's Aid who offered to come and meet us but has had no reply.

10. First meeting of Swansea Branch

The first meeting of the South Wales Branch at Swansea will be in the Gorseinon Centre on January 12th at 7.30 pm

11. Development plan.

If you want HLLJ to e-mail you the plan please ask. If there are any extra points you want included let Helen know.

12. Telephone Help line

We have been told that those trained on our Cardiff course will start staffing the National Helpline this month and then as all technical difficulties are ironed out, we will get a Welsh helpline number. The aim is to have this in place for St David's Day.

13. McKenzie Training

Dates: 20th and 21st February First come first served. Posters around with details. Helen LLJ needs to know if you are interested to get a feel of the numbers involved. So please tell her. CAFCASS CYMRU have offered to send a senior member to the Saturday afternoon session. Even if you are unable to do the entire course, we would be really glad of a good attendance on the Saturday afternoon.

14. Sennedd Vigil

We held a Vigil outside the Senedd on Christmas Week . It was very cold but amazingly you did turn up despite the weather and it did help to draw attention to the problems we face. Bethan Jenkins AM turned up and we are very grateful to her for coming along.

15. FNF Cymru.

Unbelievably slow progress due to changes in charity laws and new options being available to us. Advice is being sought by the Chief Executive as to which option we should take. Regret the delay but we are better off waiting a little while and getting it right, rather than choosing the wrong option.

16. CAFCASS & police checks.

Comments re CAFCASS in England not being able to ask for police checks on new adults in a child's life are still being researched.

Cheryl Griffin can help you with filling in C100 forms and so can Diane McBride. Paul Apre-da, Conrad McBride, Neil McEvoy and Leigh Goodchild can advise in a McKenzie capacity. If you would prefer to use Welsh, Jack Wynne Williams can help. He sees his children on a Tuesday so ask Helen and she will put you in touch. Helen Brewer is able to organise a bar-rister if you need one, since she is a solicitor. She can be contacted via HLLJ

17. Fund Raising

Could we start thinking about fund raising as individuals? Ideas welcomed.

Matthew Mudge is our McKenzie guru and if things are complicated contact him 😊

- ◆ We also need fund raising expertise.
- ◆ We need PR expertise.
- ◆ We need to have more McKenzie friends.
- ◆ We need to have McKenzie friend trainers
- ◆ We need to work with CAF/CASS CYMRU.
- ◆ We need to work with the Children's Commissioner.
- ◆ We need to work with the Grandparents' Association.
- ◆ We need to lobby the Family Justice system.
- ◆ We need to liaise with CAF/CASS in England where appropriate.
- ◆ We need people to rattle buckets at collections in rugby matches
- ◆ We will need people to help us do up an office space (but not just yet) 😊

Don't feel overwhelmed but please tell us if you see a niche where your expertise would be helpful.



Together we can work miracles. Every parent we help is a child helped too!

