



**FAMILIES NEED
FATHERS**

FNF CARDIFF BRANCH MEETING REPORT

Update for October 6th 2009 Branch Meeting

1. Funding.

We have started making real inroads.

a) We have had funding for two posts. Paul Arpeda is talking with FNF in London to make sure things happen soon. Watch this space

b) Helen Brewer's efforts mean that Waitrose has a little box for people to put money in towards FNF. Thanks Helen Presentation in November and we have made over £300.

c) Phil Evans who used to support the Port Talbot branch prior to moving abroad has cycled from Lands End to John o'Groats. His appeal on justgiving stands at £589 at present. Well done Phil

d) Mike Perry organised an Elvis Tribute night for us August 30th. Thanks Mike this is a great start for us and it was a really enjoyable evening. Latest figure was £168 profit which was great.

2. Event in the Senedd.

We need to follow up the openings we created during the next few months. We are meeting the Deputy Minister Gwenda Thomas on Monday and to meet Dr Brian Gibbons who is responsible for social justice.

3. Contact Centres.

The suggestion has been made that FNF could be an organisation that would enable the parent to make a self-referral. We flagged this up at the assembly meeting. There was a lot of goodwill towards the idea. We will continue to work on this.

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

HLLJ has seen sight of forms the CSA are producing towards solving the problem of finding a child when a parent has moved. It is a first step but woefully inadequate and HLLJ has sent a revised version to be considered in the next review by CSA. The response we had from CSA was not encouraging. We need to pursue this further.

5. C-MEC

Sharon McDonnell is taking an interest in the C-MEC. Ask her advice if you are having difficulties. Thank you to Sharon for arranging a talk on C-MEC for us last month.

6. Children in Wales.

FNF belongs to the umbrella group Children in Wales. Cheryl Griffin has the paperwork. Membership no. WA991 User name is Member the password is ciwpass If anybody wants to know what Children in Wales does their web page that tells you is <http://www.children-inwales.org.uk:80/whatwedo/index.html> If you see any event you would like to attend, tell Cheryl.

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.

7. Port Talbot Branch

The next meeting of Port Talbot Branch will be in Taibach Rugby Club at 7.30 pm 27th October

8. 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.

9. McKenzie Training.

Dates 20th and 21st February First come first served. Posters around with details

10. Telephone Help line

This has been moved to 31st October.

11. Links with Cardiff Council.

Links made courtesy of a meeting organised by Neil McEvoy with representatives of Cardiff Council in July are being followed up by Paul. Thanks Neil and thanks Paul.

12. Proposal for CAF/CASS CYMRU.

Do we have any feedback? Interesting new development CAF/CASS are in talks with FNF re shared parenting. More to follow. 😊

13. FNF Cymru

we had the wrong end of the stick. There were forms which Helen Lloyd Jones needed to sign before the application could be made. Forms now signed.

14. Llanelli setback

We were aiming to start a new group in September towards Llanelli. However Conrad has been diagnosed with cancer, he's had his operation and now has to wait for results. So the group will have to wait and we all want to send our warmest wishes to Conrad to get well soon!

15. Children and Families Measure

Thanks for your comments on the Children and Families Measure which WAG has to amend in September. Paul Apreda sent our feedback in.

16. FNF AGM

Paul Apreda and Helen Lloyd Jones attended the Families Need Fathers AGM and meeting on Coventry 26th September.

17. Women's Aid

Neil McEvoy has had a meeting with Women's Aid.

18. CAFCASS and the police

Following a meeting at the AGM with the Assistant Director of CAFCASS (England) we have been advised that CAFCASS officers cannot call for a police check on the other adults living in the same house as a child without applying to court for permission. More delays in the system and more children at risk. Currently trying to establish whether this is true or not. Also trying to establish whether primary legislation is needed to change this.

Cheryl Griffin can help you with filling in C100 forms and so can Diane McBride. Paul Apre-da, Conrad McBride and Leigh Goodchild can advise in a McKenzie capacity.

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 CAFCASS 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 people with McKenzie friend experience attending Port Talbot meetings.
- ◆ We need to liaise with CAFCASS 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!

