

Update for December 1st 2009 Branch Meeting

1. Meeting with Deputy Minister

Following the meeting with Deputy Minister Gwenda Thomas re presumption of shared parenting Paul Apreda is meeting Mr Derek Griffin Chief Executive CAF/CASS CYMRU to continue the discussion on Dec 8th.

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. However courtesy of a meeting with the Programme Manager Communities First Cardiff and other interested organisations we have had an offer to base one post at the Methodist Church complex in Splott Road. Tony Stott is also interested in helping us move this forward. Helen Lloyd Jones has been in contact with Pam Brice Cardiff Works who is responsible for the implementation of the Future Jobs Fund. Pam has been very helpful and Helen will meet her on Dec 8th

3. Media Trust.

This is a charity which amongst other things offers PR personnel to charities. Neil McEvoy represented FNF Cymru on Nov 26th at a Speed Matching event and we gather there was a good outcome. More by next month.

4. Wrexham branch

Wrexham branch starts Dec 10th. 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 Independent On Nov 30th as a reply to a dilemma where a father was not able to see his son.

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. Next meeting of Port Talbot Branch

will be in Taibach Rugby Club at 7.30 pm 29th December.

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.

Helen is currently worrying that the numbers wanting to attend this course are too low to run the course. We know that many of us leave things to the last minute but can you please give Helen some indication of your interest in the course.

14. Swansea Branch

A location for a new branch in Swansea has been found. It is hoped to start that in January.

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 barrister 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 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 to liaise with CAFCASS in England where appropriate
- ◆ We need people to rattle buckets at collections in rugby matches

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!



May this Christmas bring you unexpected joy and may the New Year see improved contact between you and the children you love.