

Report on Brambles (Red Kite) Partners Board Meeting 26th February 2020.

Activities

Special Education Needs activities such as Speech and Language support, Parenting, Play and Learn sessions, Employment Support, Health Checks, Children on the autistic spectrum, Antenatal and Well Baby Clinic, Midwives.

Census

There is to be a national census next year, 2021. This will refresh the 0-5's population figures. In Wokingham Borough children aged 0-19 make up 25.7% of the population, the highest in Berkshire West.

Brambles Childrens Centres (Wokingham Borough including Red Kite Shinfield)

Family Workers are currently supporting 116 children on a one to one basis.

638 early help assessments were made during 2018/19

Recorded statistics are complex in view of the various child and adult need. I have therefore requested some summary statistics showing by Parish the number of adults and children receiving support to get a true understanding of the level of need in Shinfield. This is being considered.

Adult Learning

Support is provided to struggling adults in the form of Parenting Assessments, Supervised Contact, Early Help, including Safeguarding, Child Protection and Child in Need plans.

Fear and Violence

Social Services have raised their intervention bar higher than previously and are less likely to deal with school absenteeism or issues of teacher concern such as hunger, cleanliness, safeguarding or other potential for neglect.

Some of this work is undertaken by Brambles staff and there is an increasing fear of violence when visiting some households. The staff are not expected to make such visits alone and always ensure an escape route when entering a house.

Grub Club 2019

The Grub Club ensures that children get the benefit of a cooked meal and other activities during the summer holidays. Held in the Norreys area last summer, it was a great success and will be repeated this year.

Organisation was by WBC Community Engagement, the Citizens Advice Bureau and Sue Runciman, Head of t. Mary's Junior School, Shinfield, all of whom contributed additional funding.

Much of the food was donated from supermarket surpluses.

Some Shinfield children would benefit from a similar scheme but the need is not as great as elsewhere within Wokingham Borough.

Library Service

Child support by the Library Service is through supplying Clinics with elementary “Baby Packs” of books for earliest reading, books and leaflets giving guidance to parents, and advice on mental health and autism.

The Library Service looks forward to installing an outreach book selection in the new Shinfield community centre and the possibility of introducing in time some other book and reading related activities found in general libraries.

School Readiness

Following home visits, 12 families have been registered for a school readiness training course. It will include basics such ensuring that a child is potty trained, can change clothes and shoes and communicate with staff and other children.

Parents will also receive guidance on how to select the most suitable school for their child.

Citizens Advice Bureau

A recent CAB drop in session held in Shinfield Parish Hall was successful and will be repeated. There is interest in establishing regular sessions in the new Community Centre once it opens.

Shinfield Parish Council

I gave an update on the progress on the replacement Pavilion, the new Community Centre, and new High Copse Pavilion and the potential re-siting of Three Mile Cross Playground

These new buildings are seen as potentially useful for child related group activity.

Red Kite School are to take a stall at the VE75 Fete on 8th May 2020.

I agreed that Shinfield Parish Council would add local schools information to the council website or newsletter if something important needed publicising and if space allowed.

Sue Runciman, head of St. Mary’s Junior, Shinfield, requested that we reinstate including the school in the SPC newsletter circulation. (Passed to SPC Office)

Eddie Brown
2nd March 2020