**Fun Lodge Ltd Out Of School Care Ltd**

**Report for AGM Wednesday 8th February 2017**

Fun Lodge has been operational now for 18 years.

Since our last AGM we have been very busy.

In April we ran a holiday playscheme combined with after school care. This ran over a three-week period to accommodate all the different school holiday dates.

In the summer, we ran our popular summer playscheme for seven weeks. This incorporated arts and crafts indoor and outdoor play, outings and specialist workshops including a science workshop which took the form of a “Planetarium” which the children loved. We also had an African drumming workshop which was filmed for the television programme “Come Dine With Me”. (still to be aired on TV). A sports day was held in Eaglesham with four other after school services and this was a great success. We aim to host this for this summer. Sadly, this year the Jeely’s funding was reduced therefore instead of after school care services being able to pay a set membership fee for entry this was changed to pay as you go for every child. This proved too expensive for us to continue to use. On staff discussion, it was felt that as staff had undertaken outdoor play training we could offer a similar experience for our children using any suitable outdoor spaces. As well as all of this we had our own activities at the church. And many of our usual outings including Millport, Heads of Ayr farm park & Blair Drummond Safari Park. Despite the dismal summer weather the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed all the activities and we are now looking at arranging this year’s spring and summer’s activities.

The new school term in August brought us new primary 1 children from all the schools we pick up from. We also welcomed Clare Taylor back from maternity leave.

In December, we took 110 children, staff and parents to the pantomime in the SECC. A great time was had by all.

Staffing: We now have 7 staff who work every afternoon and 4 bank, sessional staff members.

Activities:

From the children’s play evaluations, last year’s activities focused very much on free play inside and outdoors as this is what the children prefer to do. This basically means that daily we put out the core items like tables and chairs and the Wii if inside, and after snack time the children then choose what if any equipment they wish to use inside or outside. This hopefully offers play opportunities and play spaces to suit everyone. We also offered a Karate club and a Hearstart course undertaken over a 5-week period. From this the children learnt invaluable skills which will be imbedded forever, and one day could help them save a life. A taster yoga session was also offered to the children and this proved very popular. The dark nights have not deterred our outside play activities and you may have seen us outside playing in the dark with torches. We even had our own mannequin challenge outside using the torches although some of the younger children did not quite understand the concept of this. It was fun anyway.

Snack choices:

Snack is served to the children as soon as they have arrived and washed their hands.

Again, we consulted the children as to the choices and during the year these were toast, cereal, fruit, soup which the children helped to make the day before, pasta, beans on toast or spaghetti, pitta bread and salad and diluting unsweetened fruit juices or water. As you can see quite a choice.

This term we are continuing to offer activities like arts and crafts, free play, sports activities, Wii games, computer games, dressing up and board games. Soup making is still ongoing and we do this on a different day each week which accommodates all who want to take part in this.

On a Wednesday afternoon as we do not have use of the large upstairs hall the children are split into groups and can choose activities either upstairs in the side hall or for physical play opportunities choose to go to the downstairs hall. From mid-February until the spring holiday we hope to offer a yoga class on Wednesdays.

Homework:

Fun Lodge still provide a supervised homework club from around 4pm – 4.30pm.

After 4.30 if they wish to continue homework it will not be staff supervised but the children can continue with this whilst other activities are taking place in the same room.

Staff training:

All staff attend any relevant training and CPD courses.

This is discussed at staff meetings and usually sourced through our partnership working with EROSCN and Glasgow South East Forum, who are network groups of other after school care services within our geographical area. By sourcing these training needs with our partners it means it is accessible and affordable to us all to buy into.

The staff have done a great deal of training during the last year ranging from Child protection, first aid, infection control, food Handling, Scotland’s Play Strategy and more.

Heather has started an SVQ 2 in Playwork with her completition date in June. At present I am undertaking my last few months of my Degree in Childhood practice.

Fun Lodge Care Plans are used for every child who uses our service. You should have already been contacted regarding your child/children’s Key worker to inform you of this. This Care plan had been discussed at length with staff, children and other after school care services and we had developed our own version of this. You can ask to see your child/ children’s plan at any time and if you are still unsure of your Child’s Key worker please ask a staff member, there is also a list on the wall at Fun Lodge.

We have also introduced our weekly notice board which sits near the main entrance. This will have the week’s plans and activities listed as well as a weekly quote. We ask that the children and parent’s read this on a daily or weekly basis.

As a service Fun Lodge are always striving to continue to make our after school care better than any other and in order to do this we need feedback from the board, the staff, parents/carers and of course the children.

To achieve this we give out evaluation forms and it is here we need your support.

The children complete theirs at the service and to do this staff sit down with them & explain what it is all about and help them if required to, to fill in the tick box style form.

We also rely very much on parent/carer feedback and urge you to please fill it in and return this when emailed to you or pick up a copy when you collect your children from us.

Whether the feedback is positive or negative we will as a care service respect this, react to it and respond to all your comments to make Fun Lodge the best we can.

We have been working on producing a Handbook for the service and with input from the children and the staff this will soon be available for you.

Fun Lodge will always extend a warm welcome to any parent/carer or child wishing to pop in for a visit to find out more about the service.

We would also ask that should you have any questions or problems with the care your child receives while at our service that you speak in the first instance to your child’s care worker or myself and if this cannot be resolved I will put you in touch with a board member.

I thank the staff, the board and all the parents for your continued support.

Susan Brown

Fun Lodge Service Manager