

Rossendale, Sure Start Bacup & Stacksteads
2005

Children's Services

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD NURSERY



In February 2002, without the aid of a computer or any other office equipment for that matter, the Programme Manager began the task of writing the first of many bids for NNI (Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative) funding. After much tooting and froing the final bid was made in October of 2002 which was approved.

We were granted £155,000 Capital Funds and £183,000 Revenue split over 3 years in £91,000, £68,000 and £24,000. By year 4 the Nursery has to be self sustaining.

The Childhood Services Manager and the Deputy worked diligently during this time writing policies, procedures, nursery prospectus, job descriptions, ordering equipment, publicity, décor etc. etc. etc.

Due to delays with the building works we feared we would miss the deadline for the funding but resourceful as ever the Childhood Services Manager worked closely with Bacup Nursery School and gained OfSTED inspection approval for 6 Day Care places if they were needed.

Finally, on the 2nd August 2004, The Maden Early Years and Childcare Centre opened its doors to the community. It is registered with OfSTED for 51 Full Time Day Care places and 10 creche places. It caters for families where the parent either works or is attending some form of training and also retains a few places for emergency respite or Children in Need under the definition of the Children Act 1989.

On the first day of operation there were 4 children attending and 4 staff . At the time of writing this report there are 68 children on the register which equates to 36 full time equivalent places and 13 staff.

Statistical Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Children under 2 years attending | 19 |
| 2 years – 3 years | 19 |
| 3 years – 5 years | 31 |
| Summer school leavers | 8 |
| Accessing Nursery Grant | 13 |
| Accessing additional sessions | 11 |
| % users from Local SS Area | 90% |

Staffing

| |
|---|
| 1 x Nursery Manager |
| 1 x Senior Centre Worker |
| 1x Team Leader |
| 8 x Centre Workers (2 part time 30 hours) |
| 1 x 30 hour Training 2000 student |
| 1 x Nursery Escort |

The nursery was inspected in December 2004 by OfSTED and received an overall “GOOD” for their day care standards.

They have applied to Lancashire County Council as part of one of the agreements within the NNI to take part in the Quality Kitemark Award. The application was made in December 2004 and was successful. All the staff have taken part in the training for this and the team began to work towards the award in March 2005. The first module is due for completion at the end of June 2005 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

The nursery works closely with local nursery schools and provides a Nursery Escort to transport children between the Daycare and School settings. Children either attend the daycare setting AM and are transported to school PM or vice versa and currently there are 8 children involved in this. The reasoning behind this was twofold:

- To increase parental choices
- To work in partnership with local nursery providers

After being open for 6 months a questionnaire was given to parents to establish if they were happy with the facilities and care provided and everyone said they were

very happy and extremely impressed with everything especially the outdoor play area.

The staff were audited and felt they provided a very flexible service and had built good relationships with parents and children. They felt they improved learning by covering Birth to 3/ the Foundation Stage and covered all areas of the Curriculum. They felt the experiences provided were wide and varied and allowed for the individual needs of the children and related that parents had commented on how they had seen their child's skills develop. Parents also made the comments they felt their children had gained in confidence and built up good relationships with the staff and other children.

The nursery will be holding their first Parents' Evening on June 8th 2005 which will give parents and carers the opportunity to discuss their child's overall development.

Children at Play



Creche Services



Catherine Ogilvie
Mandy Fallon
Crèche Leaders

Since the first recorded crèche on 29th September 2002 there have been many changes but what hasn't changed is how invaluable the crèches have been to families.

We have used various buildings within the community with rooms ranging from small cloak rooms to large halls.

We now have a lovely registered crèche for up to 12 children and an unregistered crèche for up to 10 children within The Maden Centre. This has been well received and accessed by the people of Bacup, Stacksteads and other outreach areas.

The crèche is still available for outreach families but has not been used as much since many groups have moved into The Maden Centre to take advantage of the facilities here.

The resources have also changed dramatically. We now have lots of toys and equipment to cater for the two crèche rooms within the Centre and we also have membership to the Toy Library equipment. This equipment is also available for outreach crèches who have no resources.

We now have 22 members of staff for crèches which includes 1 x Play Support Coordinator, 3 x Play Support Leaders, 3 x employed Play Support Workers and finally 15 Casual Play Support Workers. These will form the service for the 3 Children's Centres across Rossendale. This is a huge difference from when the crèches first started when there were only 2 x Crèche Leaders and 3 x Casual Crèche Workers!!

We have recently begun a link with the Family Work Team and the Health Visitors allowing 3 places within the crèche to be allocated to families who may need respite care for example or to cover appointments and emergencies. These places have been very well attended and are set to be ongoing as they are proving to be very much needed.

We still give play support to groups who maybe don't require a separate crèche. This could be within the Centre or somewhere else. This may also mean taking along our equipment and toys with us.

Since the crèches started we have grown from strength to strength . The staff we have on board are all very happy with their working conditions and we have a great team to promote.

The families who access the crèches have made positive comments on how well they feel their children have settled in and how comfortable they are to leave their children with us.

To demonstrate how the crèches have grown over the past three years the following figures may prove interesting:

| Year | Number of crèches run | Number of individual children attending | Total number of attendances |
|----------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 2002/03 | 58 | 67 | 261 |
| 2003/04 | 288 | 131 | 1050 |
| 2004/05 | 316 | 132 | 1066 |
| TOTAL | 662 | 330 | 2377 |

Valley Childminding Network

Childminding Network Coordinator

Jenny Grogan

In the initial stages of the programme way back in 2002 a Part Time Child Minding Coordinator was employed by the programme. She worked closely with existing Childminders and equally as hard recruiting new Childminders and supported them in finding premises where they could all meet, namely Bacup Nursery School. They reported how they felt quite isolated before but since the Network had been set up they felt more supported and confident.

She assisted the Childminders in accessing OfSTED inspection and registration and also a wide variety of training such as Running a Business, First Aid, Child Protection, to name a few.

As the group grew in knowledge, numbers and confidence she supported them in gaining the National Childminding Association Approval. During this time she became the successful applicant for the post of Childhood Services Manager and her place was taken by Jenny Grogan who herself had been one of the original Childminders in the group.

She settled into the role very quickly and continued to recruit and support the Childminding Network. As the post grew so did the workload until 2005 when she became a full time worker and also Childminding Coordinator for the 3 Children's Centres in Rossendale. The following information has been provided by Jenny to give a run down of recent events.

- Obtained NCMA Approved as from the 10th May 2005 until 10th May 2008.
- The Network is going for NCMA Accreditation in the near future, (before the end of the year).
- The Network has expanded from covering the Bacup & Stacksteads areas to covering Waterfoot, Newchurch, Rawtenstall and Haslingden, linking from one Children's Centre that being The Maden Centre to link with proposed Children's Centres for 2006. These are Staghills Nursery School and Haslingden Link Centre.

- The original numbers for the Network were 15 – 18 members, but now this could expand potentially with the other areas to 35 – maximum 38.
- At present the network has 15 members, 3 members have resigned this year due to new commitments in employment.
- Of the 15 members on the Network 9 are from the Bacup & Stacksteads area, 6 are from the Waterfoot, Newchurch & Rawtenstall area.
- At present 0 from Haslingden, Helmshore area but they have 4 Childminders who are very interested and beginning initial assessments in June.
- Out of the 15 members currently on the Network 5 are hoping to go on for accreditation and are starting from the 23rd May doing Assessments for Accredited Childminder, training is taking place for Birth to 3, Introduction to Foundation Stage, and Code of Practice in July & September 2005 for all Network Childminders.

Number of Childminders in the area written to:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Bacup & Stacksteads | 26 |
| Waterfoot, Newchurch Rawtenstall | 37 |
| Haslingden & Helmshore | 32 |

Evaluator:

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