ANNUAL REPORT

April 2014 – March 2015

Shepherds Bush Families Project & Children's Centre

AN INDEPENDENT CHARITY AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE SUPPORTING FAMILIES WHO ARE HOMELESS AND THOSE LIVING UNDER HOUSING STRESS SINCE 1988

Homelessness isn't only about sleeping rough on the streets. Housing insecurity and homelessness cover a wide range of situations. Many homeless people have a roof over their heads without having a proper home, because where they live is temporary, insecure, overcrowded, unsanitary or unsafe.

Charity Number: 1080495 **Company Number: 3664056**

A heartfelt thank you

My gratitude is beyond expression. Words could never truly reflect what I would like to say.

However, I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to become independent again, to have a life and to be able to build a future for Jayden.

Living abroad without any family is manageable but hard. Placed in temporary accommodation and studying for a degree is a struggle, yet I was compelled to finish it.

Being blessed with a little boy, who has the energy of an army of a commando and a unique, curious personality, did not make it easier.

But here I am, in my gown, my qualification –the fruit of my determination and commitment rather than academic ability-is in my hand.

It is not my accomplishment-it is ours. Thank you Shepherds Bush Family Project for the care, the extended hours and all emotional and practical help we have been given continuously and generously. I have and endless list for all that I am grateful to you.

Thank you for every single person in the family project - the honour goes to you as well.

Love

Monika

CHAIRS REPORT

Shepherds Bush Families Project and Children's Centre, like many Voluntary Sector organisations in the Borough and the country entered the 2014-15 financial year with great trepidation, despite this the Directors consider the performance of the charity has been excellent and despite the increasingly challenging funding position the Project has found itself in, we continue to meet the often complex needs of the families we work with. In 2014/15 the Trustees and Managers of the Project needed to take stock and look at how we could meet the financial challenges faced not only by the families we support but by the organisation itself.

Following a strategic review of services, staffing and funding at Shepherds Bush Families Project & Children's Centre it was agreed that that the project will be best served by having a single manager. With the support and backing of the Tudor Trust we were able to carry out some re-structuring. This meant the organisation changed the managerial structure ending a 27 year era of Collective and Joint management, however whilst we needed to streamline the service to meet the funding challenges and assist moving the Project forward we remain clear that the need for the support provided by individual advice and social work remains as relevant now as it always has done. Although Caroline Wallis stepped down from her Joint Manager role she is continuing to offer, on a freelance basis, the much needed and sought after social work, advice, advocacy, therapeutic and counselling support for parents. In the longer term we are seeking funds to bring in a specialist advice and advocacy worker to support the often complex needs of our families.

Our approach to the work, as ever, remains holistic and the aim is to not only gives some respite to poor living conditions but also help give families back dignity, raise self esteem and assist them to regain some self control over their lives. As we move into another year we will also be looking to secure further funds in order for us to offer a variety of groups and classes that will not only assist parents back into education, vocational training and well paid work, but also those that will strengthen intra-family relationships and enable families to live healthy lives.

One of our Charitable aims is to "Relieve poverty and distress for homeless families" throughout the difficulties faced by this organisation we have never lost sight of this aim. The Project does this through a range of services that to the untrained eye may not be obvious or even seen as tackling poverty or indeed homelessness but nonetheless supports the practical and emotional needs of families caused by 'housing poverty'. We continue to provide work experience placements and training placements for Tri- Borough schools and colleges. This essential experience breaks down barriers as well as strengthening communities and forging new relationships which will automatically safeguard "ALL" children. Often examples like these go unnoticed and not enough credence is given to the holistic support that the children and families receive through accessing services provided at the centre.

It is not luck that makes the Project the wonderful place it is, it is down to the dedication and loyalty of the whole staff team. "Thank you" to everyone at Shepherds Bush Families Project and Children's Centre for their commitment and support which is integral to the success and growth of the families that needs them so much. This includes the volunteer Trustee Board who govern the Project. This year has meant that we have had to make some tough decisions they had to be made in order for the Project to carry on. Some Trustees left but we are in the process of recruiting new members. We all know that the recruitment of Trustees is very difficult and I know all Voluntary Sector organisations are facing the same dilemma at this point in time.

We look forward to a new year and hope that the future can only get better!!

Amanda Hawke

Chair of the Board of Trustees

WHY WE ARE HERE

Shepherds Bush Families Project & Children's Centre (SBFP&CC), previously Shepherds Bush Families Project, is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. It was set up in February 1988 in response to identified need in the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. SBFP&CC works with families who are homeless, those living in temporary accommodation and families who are occupying unsuitable housing e.g. overcrowded, in a state of disrepair. The project exists to support and assist families trying to cope with housing stress and manage their lives in very difficult and wide-ranging circumstances. Families who are living in temporary unsuitable accommodation figure highly amongst groups who are socially excluded in our society. Many families face difficulties in accessing essential health, education and social support services. In the 27 years since the project first opened our services have expanded and developed organically in response to emerging and developing needs. This has been undertaken in consultation with our families and with other relevant agencies and community groups in the area. The project celebrates the multi-ethnic, multi-faith and multi-cultural make-up of our users who reflect the diverse community in our area.

We are the only organisation in the borough specifically targeting its services to homeless families and those in housing need.

Bad housing has a massive impact on children's lives, affecting everything from their health and educational achievement, to their emotional well-being and overall life chances:

- **Health:** children living in cramped accommodation experience disturbed sleep, poor diet, higher rates of accidents and infectious disease
- **Education:** children from homeless households are more likely to suffer from bullying, unhappiness and stigmatisation
- **Emotional well-being:** many families state their children often were frightened, insecure, or worried about the future as a result of their homelessness
- **Life chances:** The health and educational impact of poor housing may affect children's future job prospects and financial well-being.

AIMS OF THE ORGANISATION:

- Relieve the poverty and distress of families who are homeless or experiencing severe housing problems in and around Shepherds Bush
- Enable mutually supportive networks to grow amongst families
- Empower parents/caregivers to regain a greater sense of control, and effect choices and changes in their lives
- Strengthen intra-family relationships and reduce the risk of relationship breakdown
- Build on strengths and enhance the capacity, confidences and skills of parents and parents – to-be
- Intervene at the earliest possible stage to tackle emerging or persistent difficulties experienced by children, young people and their families, and linked to social disadvantaged
- Ensure children develop and have a firm foundation in physical, social and emotional education from which to flourish, maximise their potential and enjoy good outcomes
- Improve life chances for young people
- Raise public awareness about all aspects of family homelessness
- Campaign for decent, secure and affordable housing for children and their parents and influence and change for the better, services and policies that affect homeless families

The services provided by SBFP&CC in the year included:

Pre-school Provision - Parent &Child Drop-in- After School Club – Parent & Infant Relational Group 1:1 Social Work Support -Therapeutic Support -Advice & Advocacy- Adult Groups & Classes -Crèche for all adult groups - Summer Programme- School Holiday Activities for Children and Young People- Christmas Party- Celebration of Religious and Cultural Festivals - Clothing Store - Laundry - Cooking Facilities.

With the exception of the subsidised laundry all services are free, thus preventing any family being excluded due to financial constraints

The heart of the project is our Parent and Child Drop-in

At Shepherds Bush Families Project we have a large hall which gives us the facility to run a vibrant, warm, friendly and very welcoming drop-in centre, where families in housing need can come for support and to make and meet friends for tea/coffee and a chat. The drop-in is for all parents and children living in hotels, hostels and other forms of temporary, unsuitable accommodation and runs four days a week. It is a safe space for families to come, and many friendships have been forged and families have found mutual support and comfort from each other. By the provision of a drop in centre, we offer families sharing a commonality of experience i.e. homelessness & poor housing, a place to seek respite and to meet and gather with others in order to break the cycle of isolation and loneliness. In addition to those families living under housing stress our drop-in is open to all families who live in our children's centre reach area with a child under 5 years.

"I like the family centre as I was able to meet new mothers and also the staff have been very welcoming. My son has really enjoyed coming here he has settled in well and made new friends. I am happy that I was able to do a first aid course as well. The drop in is a very relaxed environment and I really appreciate that we are able to stay and play with our children" – Suad Ahmed (Hamza's mum)

We seek to promote a friendly, stable and safe environment for adults and children to be in. The drop-in is informal, free of charge and families have no obligation to attend every day or even stay for whole sessions, although many do both. The drop-in is an opportunity for both parents and children to socialise in a safe stimulating environment where noise and messy play are not a problem and are actively encouraged. The children and their parents have the opportunity to join in many different activities and parents are able to spend stress free time with their children. It gives children the opportunity to get to know play staff and the environment with their parents close by, thus enabling them to join the crèche or playgroup with ease when they are ready.

"I have been coming here for over four years, my two young ones practically grew up here, and well my children love it here, so do I." (Rozina, mother of Isabella and Maximillion)

The drop-in also offers a space for other agencies to come in a talk to parents, offering advice and information on a range of issues and services available, regular visitors to our drop-in are Tashia and Alice – Speech & Language services, Melissa – NHS Health Trainer, now running 1:1 session with parents and Miranda & Nia from Masbro Children's Centre – our Hub Centre

PRE-SCHOOL PROVISION

The Pre-school was set up in June 1992 and has grown in response to identified needs. The pre-school offers an opportunity for children to learn through play in a safe, stimulating and welcoming environment. The main aim of our pre-school is to ensure that children aged 1-5 are given a firm foundation in communication, social, emotional and physical skills and that they reach their expected milestones prior to starting formal education, thus reducing the real risk of children falling behind, failing to flourish and reach their full potential.

Some of the children present at our project with additional support needs; we offer the best possible start for children by ensuring we intervene as early as possible to address any identified needs. Each child has a personal profile which, through observation and photographic evidence, charts their progress and ensures that the needs of individual children are met. The profiles are shared each term with parents who have an opportunity to comment on their child's progress and how they can further support their learning

The fact that we have children age 1-5 years in the same, very large, space means that we are able to encourage younger children to try new things and develop their self help skills by watching and engaging with older peers and our 'older' children develop their caring and nurturing skills and are encouraged to do new things to 'show the little ones' how to do it.

At our last unannounced Ofsted Inspection we received an 'overall Good' with 'Outstanding' in the area of engagement with parents

"Happy about the service we get here, especially for my son before he started coming here he won't speak much, now after being here he's speaking more, talking more confidently" – Mother of 3 Yr old

Our pre-school is the only one in the area set up in order to meet the specific needs of children who are living in inadequate poor housing and allows children the space to 'let off steam' whilst learning, growing and building self confidence and esteem in an environment where noise and messy play are not a problem: often in complete contrast to their living conditions. We work closely with other professionals to ensure we address any additional needs. We employ four Early Years Practitioners (EYP's) who are qualified to level 3 or equivalent. We consistently work closely with the Speech and Language service in the borough. This has supported EYP's to look at their work with any key children who may have additional speech and language needs. All EYP's have undertaken additional speech and language training during this time

Quotes from our pre-schoolers

"I like playing with Isabella, I like going up the slide"

"I like to run and I like the trains"

SOCIAL WORK SUPPORT, ADVICE & ADVOCACY

A VITAL AREA OF THE WORK WE DO

Development of this service occurred early on in the project's history, as outreach work and contact with families in the centre revealed the extent to which people were experiencing hardship, misery and stress; how this was taking its toll on individual family members and their relationships with one another. Then, as now, many of the issues that people raise and seek assistance with relate not only to the crises which have propelled them into homelessness but also to the rigours of the housing and homelessness system itself, and the privations that many of them subsequently encounter.

In December 2014 there were *1,149 households in temporary accommodation in Hammersmith & Fulham, 944 of these households had dependent children, there were 1,865 children living in temporary accommodation. These are just the official statistics and statistics of those in temporary accommodation. Other families, a number of whom attend the project, fall outside the statutory definition of homeless and include those living in poor quality overcrowded properties in the private sector, those who have 'outgrown' their permanent housing and are overcrowded and those who aren't eligible for housing assistance due to their status or because they've been found intentionally homeless. Then there are the families living in refuges and fleeing domestic violence.

* *Source - Department for Community & Local Government -*

Some of the families we come across are literally roofless, some are forced to move between friends and relatives, and yet others are trapped in poor quality, overcrowded housing in the private or public sectors. For the majority, accessing any kind of housing assistance, emergency or otherwise, requires passing through and over a series of hoops and hurdles, which continue to be present in one form or another, up to and even after the arrival of the Holy Grail of permanent housing. Helping families to navigate the homelessness system, understand what is happening to them and to cope with the fall out from long periods spent waiting and dealing with uncertainty is just one but important aspect of the support and assistance offered by our social worker.

The situations of the families who come to the project represent/reflect the many different facets of the housing and homelessness crisis in the United Kingdom. Primarily they are families dependent on low incomes (from employment or on state benefits) who cannot afford to buy their way out of their problem, which is having nowhere decent, secure and affordable to live. These are families competing for an increasingly limited resource, namely social housing, which is scarce due to 'sell offs' (or 'Right to Buy') and the failure of political will and commitment by successive Governments to replace lost stock or invest in public house-building.

One-to-one advice worker works with individual families in need of practical advice, assistance and information. This includes signposting & referrals to other more appropriate agencies and acting as an advocate on behalf of families.

"I enjoy coming to SBFP & CC because we get social help concerning education; education for babies and education for adults. I like coming here because I meet friends, socialise and there are different activities here – for kids and adults. Summer social activities are beneficial and the first aid course was valuable". – **Saliha Djebba**

THERAPEUTIC, COUNSELLING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Many of us welcome the opportunity to talk to someone about the problems and difficulties we experience, and the parents and young people we work with are no different. Sometimes family and friends are all that's needed. At other times, or in their absence, it is necessary to speak to someone else. We have long recognised this, which is why providing a very individualised, private and professional advice and support service continues to be a priority for the project. Some people need to come just once or twice, for advice about tackling a problem to do with their homelessness situation or housing conditions, or for advocacy assistance when they are not being listened to and their problems ignored, or perhaps about having aspirations but feeling stuck and seeking guidance, or else for help with obtaining a needed service. Others seek more long-term support, often arising out of emotional fallout from a severe life crisis or an issue surrounding loss or multiple losses resulting in compromised states of physical and psychological health and wellbeing. With limits to the length and types of intervention available, and pressures on mainstream service provision, accessing timely or adequate help can be a problem. We assist when and where we can, which will include working collaboratively with other professionals and agencies as well as making referrals to specialist providers.

We have been successful in securing funds to increase the therapeutic/counselling work; this includes funds to restart the parent & infant relational group and systemic family therapy. Both of which came about through clearly defined needs

> "***Life has been much easier for me since I started coming here; staff are very kind and helpful"*** **– Mother of 2 ½ Year old**

ABOUT FAMILIES - Systemic Family Therapy - a new group

Change is all around us and for families this is no different. Most change may go unnoticed, such is the inner sense of competence and confidence families naturally generate. But sometimes, there are changes in families which are harder to overcome. These sorts of changes often require more time and attention to detail particularly when it involves the youngest members of the family. Sometimes, there are transitions and change in families which are harder to overcome. These sorts of transition and change often require more time and collective attention to detail particularly when it involves the youngest members of the family.

About Families is a therapeutic service for families who would like some help to tie together and organise their existing strengths to overcome difficult changes such as:

- **Parents struggling with their child's behaviour.**
- **Parents wanting to understand why their child may seem anxious or sad.**
- **Transition into adolescence and early adulthood and relationships with parents, grandparents, siblings.**
- **Transitions and changes attributed to parent's role over time as children grow up and as circumstances change.**
- **Change and transition in family composition such as the arrival of new member of the family, parent's relationship post-separation, experience of bereavement.**

CRÈCHE PROVISION

The crèche sessions at the project are run to enable parents to attend their weekly classes, groups, family support and advice sessions. Crèche provision is pivotal for parents who are attending any groups or sessions. Again all activities are available to the children and are supervised by the same Early Years Practitioners who work in the playgroup and drop-in, thus allowing for continuity of care. The crèche is an on site crèche and helps make an easy transition for children leaving their parents- as all parents are in the building they can quickly be called if their child becomes distressed. The crèche, as with the drop-in, has the aim of preparing children for the Pre-school or nursery/reception. The crèche runs alongside the drop-in and as many of our children attend more than one type of session they get plenty of opportunities to learn through play, make friends and socialise.

CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS

At SBFP&CC we enjoy celebrating and taking part in the festivals celebrated by our diverse user group. This includes Christmas, EID, and Divali amongst others. Wherever possible we will encourage families to take the lead on their particular celebration. Our Christmas party, which was a combination of a traditional children's tea party, with a visit from Santa Claus, and food from the many backgrounds represented at the project, was as always, very popular and well attended by families from different faiths, cultures and background. Our Celebrations have included: **CHRISTMAS, HALLOWEEN, CHINESE NEW YEAR, CARNIVAL, DIWALI,**

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB AND HOLIDAY PROVISION

Our After School Club is for Children and Young People (C&YP) aged 5 –15 yrs. During the sessions the children and young people that attend get an opportunity to try out different forms of art and take part in a number of physical activities, role play and have numerous table top games. Many of the children attending the project have little or no personal space in their home environment; the After School Club gives them much needed respite from the stresses imposed by living in poor, overcrowded conditions. During the after school club children and young people also have the opportunity to do homework and school projects, where possible we will ensure that the children and young people have access to resources needed to do this.

ONE OF OUR HOMEWORK PROJECTS
MOON LANDING

We encourage C&YP to use their imagination, open up their creativity, explore their ideas, have fun and give them an opportunity to talk about issues that affect them thus allowing them to feel more confident about trying new things.

By providing a range of activities/outings we lessen the risks of C&YP becoming isolated/excluded, thus minimising the likelihood of them becoming victims of/involved in anti social behaviour.

"The reason I like coming to Shepherds Bush Families Project is because the staff are friendly and the family project provide a range of activities and also help with learning. Also there is always something for everyone"

Working with Hammersmith and Fulham Refugee Forum and Hammersmith and Fulham Volunteer Centre: Giulia Bruzzone has been visiting the After School Club to assist C&YP to participate in the 'Our Stories Our Voices Project' which is funded by a LBH&F fast track grant. The project aims to help young refugees produce stories (illustrations and writing) which will help with build their skills including confidence, self-esteem, communication and team-work. It is hoped that this will create an increased understanding of diversity, raise awareness of issues faced by migrant and refugee communities and most of all encourage community spirit.

SUMMER PROGRAMME OF OUTINGS AND EVENTS

During the long summer holidays we offer a programme of activities and events to alleviate some of the daily stresses caused by the poor housing and overcrowded living conditions, the stress put on these families can often become magnified at this time. For many of our families the costs of taking their children out is very prohibitive. Our summer programme is aimed at giving these families an opportunity to spend quality time and enjoy being together. Sadly we did not have the funds in 2014 that have been afforded us in previous years; however we still managed to take children & young people on a range of park trips in and around the Capital:

Parent and Child Drop-in users enjoyed a trip to Hounslow Urban Farm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & PLAY-SCHEME

We have outings and activities for children and young people aged 5 to 16 years. The Children and Young People take part in planning days to make informed choices about where we go and feedback sessions to let us know how they felt about the activities and trips.

As well a number of activities in the centre during the school holidays, Children & Young People have also enjoyed visits to Battersea Park; always a great favourite with parents and children, Hampstead Heath & The Olympic Park.

CHESSINGTON EASTER 2015

TOY AND BOOK LIBRARY

Our toy library runs on a weekly basis and we have toys, games, books, drawing/writing activities and DVDs'/videos for children aged birth -16yrs. Parents and carers are encouraged to use the library as often as they wish and our Early Years Practitioners on hand to offer parents and carers advice and assistance to find age/stage appropriate toys, books or activities for their children.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Conversation Confidence Building Group:

Many of the families who attend SBFP&CC come from migrant and refugee communities and do not have English as a first language. This initiative developed in response to needs identified by women attending the project. It had been noted that many parents attending the centre express a desire and show ambition to undertake work placements, vocational training or ESOL classes and gain employment. However it appears that although the parents are quite eager, many do not take the desire forward.

Our original thinking was to run a conversational group, as the women had expressed a desire to improve their language skills, as they believed their lack of English was preventing them from moving on in life. Whilst acknowledging this, we thought an equally important and essential ingredient was that they have the confidence to use the skills they have, develop good self-esteem and belief in their individual abilities.

The aims of the group were to:

- Reconnect women with the hopes and aspirations they had before coming to the UK.
- Help them remember their skills and achievements and to find a way to use these in the present.
- Find new strategies to manage difficult situations and to learn problem solving skills
- Build confidence in speaking English and become more able to express themselves and deal with their own issues.
- Encourage and support the development of their self confidence and self-esteem.
- Offer opportunities for discussion of current difficulties and problem-solve.
- Enhance their skills and confidence in order to allow them to access further education or vocational training and obtain paid or voluntary work or placements.
- Develop skills to be confident when approaching teachers and other figures of authority.
- Create a support group to continue after the life of the group.
- Identify and agree future self-development and action plans.

Feedback from Term 2 of the group – the 3 main things I gained from the group

Gained confidence
Can share my problem with others
Felt better afterwards

Friendships – I have got to know more about women from SBFP, I would not necessarily had time to get closer to.

Self Confidence
Listening & Talking Skills
Information on various subjects

First aid course:

We ran two, 2 day First Aid courses for parents – funded by Awards For All. The courses enable parents to gain a clearer understanding of children's health and dealing with minor and serious injuries. 100% of parents that attended said they felt more confident about dealing with injuries and illness.

Creative Writing Project in partnership with Hammersmith United Charities:

A group of creative writing students from London South Bank University came in to talk to families in order to shed some light on what we do and why we do it through the voices of the people who benefit from the grants given by the HUC. The students came into the drop-in centre to capture families "stories" that is their view of life, their aspirations, their perspectives on the project. The students then produced a piece of creative writing inspired by what they heard.

PARENT AND INFANT RELATIONAL GROUP

Just as parents need each other, babies too need and respond to being with their peers.

We understand that parenting doesn't come with a 'How to ...' rule book and that every parent with a new baby, however much wanted, planned for and anticipated, experiences massive change in their lives and a mass of shifting emotions that at times can be overwhelming. There are no hard-and- fast rules. The idea that maternal love, for example, is somehow instinctual and to be taken for granted is a heavily promulgated myth that leaves many mothers feeling bad, inadequate or guilty when the experience fails to be one of unmitigated joy. Sometimes things do go wrong and this can be hard for both parents and babies to manage. The experience of giving birth may have been a 'let-down' – even traumatic; there may be feeding or sleeping problems to cope with or the baby won't stop crying and nothing the parent seems to do can stop it. Understandably parents and their babies too, can feel overwhelmed.

This group is for parents/caregivers of babies aged from birth to 18 months and meets weekly for 1½ hours. The underlying premise behind the group is that we live in a relational world - innately predisposed from birth to connect and interact with others, we are bathed in relationship, in the first instance, with our mother/primary caregiver.

Although it functions as a 'drop-in' (reflecting the instability of the situations of many of the families who use the centre for whom regular commitment can be challenging) the focus is on creating a secure enough space that feels safe and welcoming and rewarding enough for families to want to attend on a regular basis and become involved with one another as well as with the two co-workers. It is hopefully a space in which feelings including fears and doubts can be expressed, acknowledged and listened to free of judgement. For each of its members, the group provides potential for learning and 'reality checks' through comparison with others who likewise are struggling with their parenting. It also provides potential for friendship and mutually supportive relationships to grow and develop away from the group.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENT PLACEMENTS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

From April 2014 to March 2015 we have supported students on work placements and experience at a number of levels. We have had students on long term placements who are working towards their Early Years Educator qualification; we have 1 student completing level 3 & 2 students completing level 2. In addition we have facilitated students undertaking long term placements on Health & Social Care Courses. We are pleased to say that in all cases it looks like the students will pass and in fact one student is now a paid member of our Early Years Team.

During the time of this report we have once again worked in partnership with the Education Business Partnership, this is now tri-borough so we have and continue to offer placements to school in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster including: Paddington Academy, St George's, St Augustine's, Phoenix High, Burlington Danes, Bridge Academy, Beechcroft schools, to name but a few. In March we also welcomed students from Germany who were on a two week exchange visit. The children in the pre-school enjoyed making German flags with them and learning a bit about their country.

Work experience is often a young person's first step into the real world of work. We often receive students who are not sure what career path to take, but think they may like to work with children or be a social worker. Due to the nature of the work undertaken at our project we can offer a real insight into this type of work. Students get to see the good and not so good bits of working with children. In addition to the work experience students from tri-borough schools we have also had students on placements from Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College, William Morris Academy, most have been undertaking health and social care courses.

QUOTES FROM STUDENTS

"I learnt many skills that I know I'll need in the future, in additions I could improve a little my level of English and I am grateful

"I really enjoyed my time with you and found the work interesting and challenging, I particularly enjoyed helping the children play games & do activities".

"I am writing to thank you for accepting me in your organisation to do my work experience. I really enjoyed playing with the children and I had a good time with your team. Thank you for all your help"

Funders April 2014 – March 2015

London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham
BBC Children in Need
John Lyon's Charity
Tudor Trust
City Bridge Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Kelly Family Trust
Hammersmith United Charities
Fitton Trust

29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
Daisy Trust
The Coutts Charitable Trust
Awards For All
The Albert Hunt Trust
Trusthouse Charitable Fund
London Catalyst
Dr Edwards & Bishop King's Fulham Charity
Co-operative Community Fund
Toy Trust

OTHER GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

The Portobello Panto

We have been supported by the Portobello Pantomime for 5 years and year on year the donation of money raised from their box office sales has increased.

Knickerbockerglory TV

Knickerbockerglory TV is an independent TV company who have supported us for 4 years generously donating 10% of their profits to charity again we have seen a year on year increase

Finlay Brewer

Finlay Brewer- Shepherds Bush road have supported us for 2 years now, with donations from calendar and books sales and collection days at the Christmas Tree Market on Brook Green

Volunteers & Volunteers events

During the course of this report we have received a great deal of help, support and in kind donations and activities much of which has come via the Hammersmith & Fulham Volunteer Centre and Works4U, these events and activities have included:

- Sorting and clearing of our clothing and toy store
- Healthy Living Session for C&YP in our After School Club, including making healthy wraps and taste testing game
- Clearing the hall in preparation for our Christmas Party
- Facilitating and organising donation of a range of items

In addition we have had support from

- Lendlease organised a Charity football match, this was held at Linford Christie Stadium
- A number of volunteers working in the After School Club. Including students from Latymer Upper School and Bethlem who attended this centre previously.

THANK YOU

Special thanks go to:

The Tudor Trust, whose help, faith and support ensured the survival of this project through a very difficult time due to an uncertain financial climate

Caroline Wallis, who as you would have read in the Chairs' Report, stepped down from her Joint Manager role on 31st March 2015. Caroline has been a collective manager at SBFP since its inception 27 years ago. Whilst Caroline will continue to offer social work, therapeutic and counselling support, in a freelance role, we should not forget the role she has played in the growth and success of SBFP as was and SBFP&CC as now is. Caroline's role as Joint Manager, Social Worker & Advice & Advocacy Worker has often informed the wider work of the organisation and led to funding being sought for new services.

Additional Special thanks go to:

Keren Smedley (KSA) Consultant Supervisor
Sarah Banks and all at Bute House Prep School

We would also like to thank all those who have supported us in kind and through other avenues:

St Mary's C of E Church West Kensington, Dynamic Futures, Sobus (previously CaVSA), Walt Disney Hammersmith, St Mary Abbots School, Hammersmith & Fulham Community Law Centre, BBC Worldwide, Amey, General Electric Capital, Dairy Crest, Lloyds Bank –Hammersmith & Fulham Branch, Hammersmith and Fulham Volunteer Agency, Bella Freud, Myrtle Nixon, Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank, Angela Donovan, Masbro Centre, Yacoba Godwyll, Saskia Hornivus, Lendlease, Hilton Hotel Olympia, Friends of Stepping Stones, Little Owls Nursery, Fiona Cook, Mark Harvey, Liam Clipsham, Nigel Kay, Juan Moreno, Sary Eleini, Victoria Wren Hose, Music House for Children, all link staff at Tri-Borough EBP, Melissa Thompson, Alice Towler, Tashia Pillay

Apologies if we have forgotten anyone- please be assured we hold in high esteem all who support the work of SBFP&CC

Thank you to those students on placements, who give so much in order to learn,

Mina, Cody, Liona (now a qualified EYP employed in the pre-school) and all work experience students who have undertaken work placements at SBFP&CC

Thank you to Volunteers:

Anna Creasy
Bethlehem Berihun

FINANCE AND THE FUTURE

At the time of this report our accounts for year ending 31/3/2015 are not yet prepared.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS:

As with all charities the financial future continues to be uncertain and risky. However during 2014/15 we were fortunate enough to secure a number of 3 year grants which have offered the organisation some stability to build and grow. As an organisation we have identified the need to offer families increased support to move out of the poverty trap so often caused by high rents and low paid jobs. Therefore as we move into a new era we are looking forward to once again securing funds to enable us to offer a variety of groups and classes that will not only assist parents back into education, vocational training and well paid work, but also those that will strengthen intra-family relationships and enable families to live healthy lives. SBFP&CC has previously been in the forefront of campaigning for decent, secure and affordable housing, we hope once again to be able to take up the campaigning mantle.

TRUSTEES AND STAFF

We have a volunteer Board of Trustees who meet regularly to ensure the organisation keeps within its charitable objectives and complies with its governing document this includes overseeing financial activity & the overall running of Shepherds Bush Families Project & Children's Centre .

A number of trustees resigned during the last year due to their holding different priorities for the organisation. We have recruited new trustees who we welcome onto the board. We look forward to working with them

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (April 2014 to May 2015)

Chair:	Amanda Hawke
Secretary	José Tsuchihashi
Treasurer	Ashley Beck
Trustee	Sarah Chamber (resigned October 2014
Trustee	Suzanne Wait (Resigned October 20140
Trustee	Amy Rennison (Resigned October 2014)
Trustee	Claudie Farndon (Resigned October 2014)
Trustee	Tory Dean (Resigned October 2014)

PROJECT JOINT - MANAGERS:

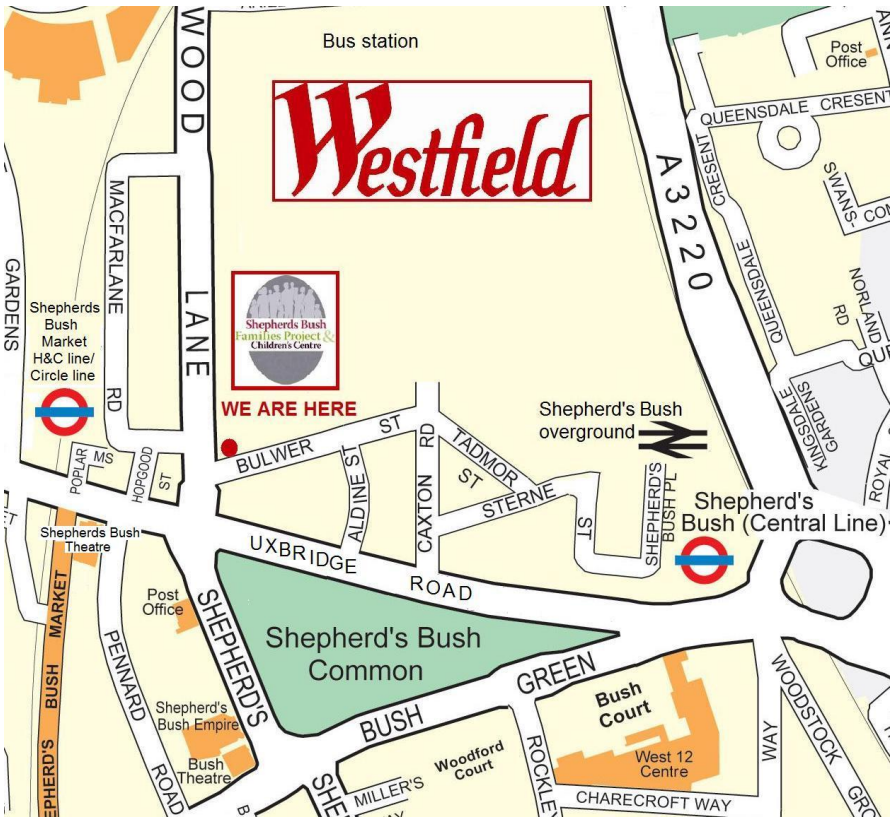
Caroline Wallis: Social Work, Family Support, Advice and Advocacy
(**Stepped down from managers role 31st march 2015)**

Tina Mayers: Children and Young Peoples Services Co-ordination and Fundraising/Finance
(Took on sole manager role from 1st April 2015)

SUPPORT STAFF:

Early Years Practitioner:	Mehrun Karim
	Carrie McGrath
	Thakshayine Jeyakumar
	Andrulla Apostoli
	Liona Joseph
Administrator	Bernice Wood (from April 2015)
After School & holiday	Richard Freitas
Play scheme workers	Alexander Freitas
	Suzy Wedderburn
	Daniel Hancox (holiday worker)
Finance:	Barbara Lambert

PRODUCED BY
SHEPHERDS BUSH FAMILIES PROJECT
&
CHILDREN'S CENTRE



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Sure Start Children's Centres

h&f putting residents first