Shepherds Bush Families Project & Children's Centre

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FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY

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SHEPHERDS BUSH FAMILIES PROJECT & CHILDREN'S CENTRE SUMMER REPORT 2015

"The children really had a good time on the trips they were so excited and happy"

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.

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What we did during the summer 2015

We ran a programme of outings trips and activities that lasted 5 weeks and included:

- ☺ Family trips to the beach, farm and funfair
- ☺ Play-scheme for children and young people in two age groups: 5-9yrs & 9-16 yrs
- ☺ Drop-in centre for 1 day each week which allowed parents and children of all ages to come in a spend stress free time together in a safe space where noise and messy play was not a problem.
- ☺ Participation in Hammersmith & Fulham Play Day

We started our Summer with an EID party that was celebrated by the multi faith users of our centre

43 families took part in the summer programme & play-scheme this was 46 adults and 95 babies, children and young people.

Why we did it

Poor housing can have a profound effect on families and in particular Children & young people (C&YP)**, who may react badly to the stigma of homelessness, poor housing and the poverty that often goes hand in hand with this.**

The difficulties and pressures experienced by families living in temporary unsuitable overcrowded accommodation are compounded during the long summer holidays. Families are cooped up with no space, privacy or time apart. Children and C&YP no longer have the space afforded them by attending school and parents have the added expenses of providing a midday meal and entertainment. Older C&YP can often feel neglected during this time: they see their school friends going away for holidays and going on trips and outings. They see friends visiting each others homes, but C&YP living in unsuitable, overcrowded accommodation which is often in a state of disrepair, feel ashamed to invite friends home and they can feel very isolated. C&YP can become frustrated and the resentment they feel often leads to increased tension between not only their siblings but C&YP and their parents. We live in a very materialistic world and sadly C&YP who do not have what their peers have or the opportunities that their peers have can often feel extremely excluded.

An Ice-cream or lolly at the end the of the day is a bit of a tradition

We took our 5-9 year olds to see Two by Two & our 9-16 year olds watched Ant-Man before then spending the rest of the day in Holland Park

Some of the Outcomes:

- ☺ 95% of Children & Young People stated they had a good time and felt happier
- ☺ 55% of Children & Young People said they had made a new friend
- ☺ 95% of parents stated it had allowed them to spend stress free time with their children
- ☺ 95% of families visited a place they had never been to before
- ☺ 100% of staff felt it had been a great summer with some amazing days out with the children, young people and parents

None of which would have been possible without the support of our funders and donors and the hard work of a very dedicated and committed staff team

We had a great time thank you for letting us come

Where did we go

Families coach trips

- ☺ Bognor Regis
- ☺ Bournemouth Beach
- ☺ Wicksteed Park, parents and children enjoyed this so much we decided to do a 2nd trip there for our children 5-9 years as their final trip of the holiday
- ☺ Clacton Beach & Air Show

"This is the first time my sons have been to the beach, they are really enjoying this" -- Mother of 4 boys aged 10, 9, 7 & 4 years

Children and young people's trips - two age groups – 5-9yrs and 9-16 years

- ☺ Wicksteed Park and funfair
- ☺ Southend, Adventure Island
- ☺ Battersea Park
- ☺ Moors Valley Country Park – Hampshire
- ☺ Hampstead Heath – two trips both age groups
- ☺ Cinema & Holland Park
- ☺ Princess Diana Memorial Garden and Centre activity

Preschool and parent & child drop-in (under 8's)

- ☺ Hobble down farm

"At the farm we saw the big birds"

What was the aim of the summer programme

The Summer Programme of activities and outings and C&YP play scheme is an integral part of the work we do with families and C&YP The work we do is aimed at giving families and C&YP sharing a commonality of experiences, a safe place to come to take part in activities and outings, increase their social skills and give them a better understanding of their local environment and an opportunity to explore the wider world. We run activities in the centre for the whole family.

For those C&YP whose parents do not have the financial resources to take them out, we provide an opportunity for them to not only experience something different but also to have something to talk about when they return to school after the long holidays, further reducing the sense of not fitting in or feeling excluded.

One of the aims of the play-scheme for C&YP is to ensure that they have a safe space to come and allow them to keep themselves safe. The aim is to prevent C&YP playing/being on the streets and in parks unsupervised and thus reducing the risks of them becoming victim of crime and/or anti social behaviour and also becoming involved in anti social behaviour out of boredom and through peer pressure.

The latter is a very real risk for C&YP who may already feel excluded and have a need to 'fit in'.

"We had a great summer, the best"

I was dreaming of the trips

I wait all year to go to Southend with my friends