

Chair's Report

This report marks the completion of my two years as Chair for Children First and it gives me an opportunity to thank all those who have accompanied me on this journey. Special thanks to all the volunteers whose hard work, loyalty and generosity help to make the Centre so successful. Families using the Centre deeply appreciate your kindness, care, warmth and understanding.

On behalf of the volunteers, parents, children and members of the Ecumenical Group, I would like to thank Annie for her hard work and may God continue to bless you with good health.

Financially, our accounts are not as healthy as last year and we need to approach different individuals, Charities and Trusts for funding. To try and address some of the shortfall, it was suggested at the last Trustees Meeting that the Churches involved should increase their annual contribution from £50.00 to £500.00, or more if possible. It was also suggested that families using the Centre should pay a minimal amount of money if they continue to use the Centre after the initial six months.

Children First would like to offer their thanks and deep appreciation to Hackney CVS, CAF/CASS and Bridge House Trust for their financial support and generosity.

As I hand over to Father Charles, the new Chair for Children First, I hope that it will be an enjoyable experience and I wish you all the best in this mission.

Wishing you all God's blessings,

Revd. Lena Ali



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
			2008	2007
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Donations and fees	-	2525	2525	2935
Grants	3000	17500	20500	31000
Bank Interest	-	1057	1057	861
Total Incoming Resources	3000	21082	24082	34796
Resources Expended				
Charitable Activities				
Staff Cost & Training	20	23909	23929	20538
Volunteers Expenses/Training	1161	41	1202	807
Children Events & Activities	459	162	621	347
Occupancy	408	6001	6409	9591
Governance Costs	-	910	910	564
Depreciation	-	-	-	49
Total Resources Expended	2048	31023	33071	31896
Net Incoming (outgoing)				
Resources for the year	952	-9941	-8989	2900
Fund Balances Brought Forward at 1 April 2007	0	38690	38690	35790
Fund Balances Carried Forward	952	28749	29701	38690

The accounts are summarised in this leaflet. Full accounts and policies are available from the centre manager on request.

Bankers:
HSBC
160 Clapton Common
Stamford Hill
E5 9AH

Independent examiner:
Cyndi (FCCA)
6 Royal Crescent
Newbury Park
Ilford
Essex
IG2 7NH

Children First

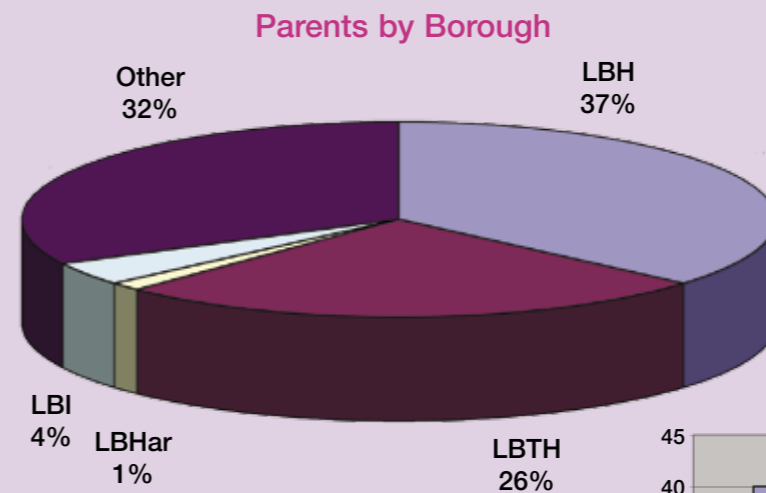
Child Contact Centre



Annual Review 2007-08

Our mission

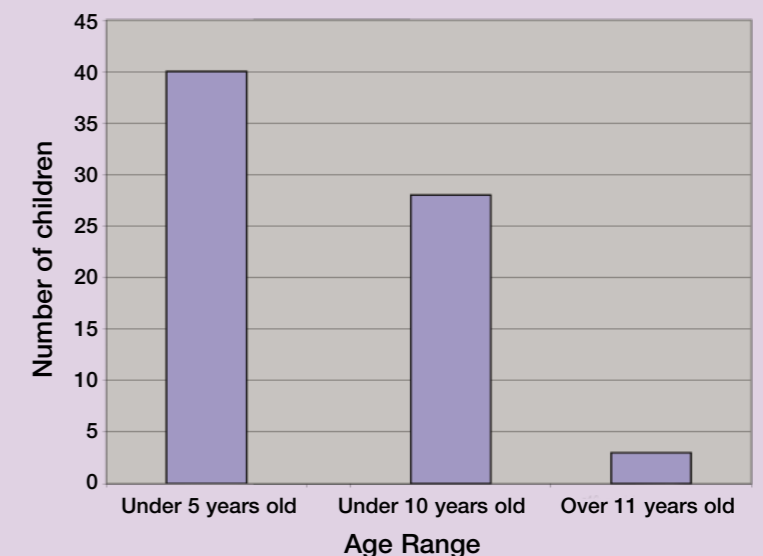
A place for children to meet with their non-resident parent or other relatives during divorce or separation when there is no viable alternative.



Key to London Boroughs

LBH Hackney
LBHar Haringey
LBTH Tower Hamlets
LBI Islington

Children's Age Range



Venue and Postal Address:
St Thomas Church,
37 Clapton Common,
London E5 9AA

Tel/Fax: 020 8806 7750
E-mail: cfccc@freeuk.com
www.cfccc.freeuk.com

Charity no. 1080383
NACCC membership no.
4/052

There are 246 Member Centres offering supported contact in the British Isles (excluding Scotland).

These centres enable children to develop and maintain positive relationships with non resident parents and other family members where there is no viable alternative. **15,000 children keep in touch with both parents through NACCC Child Contact Centres each year. That is on average 61 children per centre. 5,660 volunteers (an average of 23 each centre) support the children and their families.**

(Figures based on NACCC membership at 2006/7, analysed from the Annual Statistical returns from Member Centres received)

How does Children First fit into the scheme of things?

Children First is one of these 246 supported child contact centres. We are pleased to show that we are an above average Centre all round.

Children First is a NACCC accredited contact centre based in Hackney, one of the most deprived boroughs in Greater London. The Centre served all the neighbouring Boroughs and some parents came as far away as Manchester.

When is the Centre open?

The Centre opened weekly on 48 Saturdays from 10am to 1pm for contact.

How many children have contact with a family member at the Contact Centre?

71 children of 40 families have kept in touch with their non-resident parent at Children First. 449 family contact sessions and 819 children's sessions were provided.

How old are the children?

56% of children who attended the Centre were 0-5 years old, 38% of children 6-10 years old and 6% were 11 years old and above.

What Activities for children?

During the year the centre introduced healthy snacks for the tuck shop offering fresh fruit and dried fruit.

The annual children's party was another success. The children enjoyed the bouncy castle and face painting as much as having both their resident and non-resident parents in attendance.

The centre deferred replenishing toys and equipment due to storage space. This has now been resolved and we look forward to an improved and fun stock of toys!

How about the volunteers?

A total of 29 committed volunteers have put in an amazing 600 hours this year. Without their dedication most of the children would completely have lost touch with their non resident parent and half their heritage. New winter uniforms were purchased and distributed at the Christmas party which was enjoyed by everyone. We are grateful to Andrew who donated his services and Christian karaoke machine free of charge in honour of the work the volunteers do.

Awards were also given to those overworked volunteers who have always been prepared to stand in at short notice.

What about training?

Volunteers are trained to help parents to progress towards amicable contact arrangements. This year 26 families have moved on to make alternative contact arrangements

NACCC training session on 'The Reluctant Child' was warmly received by volunteers. Committee members attended training in Roles and Responsibilities of trustee.

Who funds Children First Child Contact Centres?

The Centre is funded through a range of sources including grants, fundraising, fees and memberships.

Children First also works in partnership with CAFCASS who have been our biggest financial supporters - accounting for 33% of the total funds. Our work is dependant on fundraising efforts and we are also grateful for the support we have received from The City Trust and Hackney Council for Voluntary Services (HCVS) this year.

Does the Centre charge?

Currently there is no charge to families. However, the centre requests a referral fee from the referrer.

What do they say about the Centre?

The Feedback has been very positive. Here are some samples...

Well run centre. Volunteers always happy & helpful. Annie - co-ordinator & her volunteers seem to know their families well and get involved in the contact as and when necessary without being obtrusive and imposing to the family. CAFCASS officer

Annie you and your staff have been great. Keep up the good work. Thanks for all your help. Wishing you all the best.

I found the centre very helpful. The volunteers are very friendly and comforting. There are a lot of facilities available for the children i.e. food/snacks and toys which I think helps the children to feel relaxed and comfortable.

One suggestion - please keep door to lift at entrance open.

Thank you. Annie.



Healthy eating for the children at the centre



Children queueing for face painting



Children and both parents enjoyed the party together!