

REPORT FOR AGM ON 10th JULY 2019 FROM PROJECT MANAGER - JULIA CROSS



In 2018/19 we have seen Families Matter stretch and expand to meet the growing demand for services for local families in need, especially as the children's centres and many other places that used to help them have been closed down or reduced due to funding cuts. We continue to work closely with the local schools, both Primary and Secondary, also with our partners The Handy Trust (Youth services) and Youth and Families Matter at Testwood Baptist Church. Together we continue to run our very popular and much needed free parenting courses, as well as supporting children in Year 6 who are moving on to Secondary School.

Our dementia groups continue to be very popular and highly successful, especially the Hythe Huddle which continues to provide a much needed and highly valued service for local people living with dementia and their carers.

During 2018 we have helped a total of 200 new families, which means that over 600 people have been helped and supported by our different groups during the year. 66% of our families who attended parenting courses said that their children were happier in school and achieved better results after their parents had attended the course.

I am so proud of the work of Families Matter and want to thank all our amazing volunteers and staff who give so much of their time and energy to help vulnerable people in our community. Also a big thank you to our funders, Dibden Allotments, NFDC and Children in Need, among others. We are very grateful for your support.

Julia Cross

ACTIVITY	LEADER	WHEN	WHO IT'S FOR
Hythe Huddle	Sally Wood	1 st Wednesday of month 2.30pm to 4.30pm	People with dementia and their carers
Autism Support drop-in	Emily Milton and Ursula Staszynski	Thursday 10am-12noon - Weekly in term time	Parents of children with autistic spectrum disorders
SWANS group	Bev Hall	Friday 10.30 am to 12,00 noon in term time	Parents of children with additional needs (crèche provided for young children)
'Our Time' Support Group	Madeline Slade, Ann Weaver	First Friday of each month	Families coping with addictions
On the Right Track Schools transition programme	Joy Drake, Kerry Farrow, Shelagh Blackwell	School days at local Primary & Secondary schools	Children in Year 6-7 having difficulties with transition to secondary school
Women's Wellbeing group	Sue Capper	Fridays 9.30 am to 11.30 am in term time	Women with mental health issues
Parenting courses	Julia Cross Kerry Farrow (In partnership with Kelly Price and YFM)	Courses arranged termly for a set number of sessions 6 weeks. Thursday am or Monday evenings	Parents of children and teens experiencing difficulties
Puppet sessions in schools to link with the curriculum	Bev Eyres and Praizin' Hands	By arrangement in schools in term time	Children of various ages mainly Primary.
Adoption Support Group	Joan Shewry	Quarterly	Parents of adopted children
Mentoring children one to one	Emily Milton Kerry Farrow	In schools by arrangement	Children with emotional needs
One to one family support for parents	Julia Cross	Home visits and phone calls By arrangement	Families with children needing support (ages 4-12)