

REPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGER JULIA CROSS



I have now been with Families Matter for around 18 months and we have seen a huge increase in the amount of work we do over this period. We now run eight support groups weekly or monthly. Family referrals have gone up by 188% since last year (from 9 to 26 this year) which has been a huge challenge for our one-to-one work. This year we have taken on two new staff to help with this. Our schools programme 'On the Right Track' has also increased from 36 to 48 children (a 33% increase), and taken on two new staff, Kerry and Mel, who are doing a wonderful job alongside Angela in mentoring our young people in the schools.

I have been involved in interviewing and training the new staff and volunteers, covering for absences, including helping with WASSPs since Steffe left, and supervising and encouraging more staff. I now have 13 staff to supervise, which is quite a task. We have regular team meetings, which members of staff said have been very helpful in building the team spirit and encouraging each other. These include a time of prayer for each others' needs.

I have been trying to spread the word about FM and the wonderful work we do, by networking with other organisations such as the local council, Community First New Forest, and Youth and Families Matter at Testwood. I have also given presentations about the work we do to groups such as the Dibden Allotments, various church groups, and the Rotary Ladies Probud club. All this helps to raise our profile in the community and raise awareness of our work.

We have arranged training for staff in safeguarding, autism, and mental health this year, as well as an induction programme for new staff. I have prepared and published our Spring Newsletter, and produced a new banner and postcards to publicise our work. I have also been involved in fundraising, which is very time consuming. A recent success with this is that both Sainsbury's and Tesco's have offered to include us in their charity fundraising schemes over this summer, so please keep on posting those blue buttons in the boxes when you shop there!

A big thank you also to the church for all the support you give to Families Matter on a regular basis, we couldn't do it without you. We are very grateful for all the volunteers who give their time so freely, and for the Trustees who help, guide and oversee the work. We also appreciate the dedicated office space and rooms which are made available for us to use in the church, and the financial and prayer support you give us. Thank you to you all.

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
WASSP Group	Vacancy	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, Jean Womersley	First Friday of each month	Families coping with addictions
On the Right Track Schools transition programme	Angela Lambert, Joy Drake, Kerry Farrow, Melanie Fenn (Handy Trust)	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	Angela Lambert, Julia Cross (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	Vacancy	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)