



Newsletter ~ Spring 2018



Update from Families Matter Project Manager

We have had another very busy year at Families Matter in 2017/8. Our work has grown to include six local schools, three dementia groups, more parenting courses and family support, as well as our on-going groups. The need has grown in our community, partly due to local authority cutbacks in services.

More and more families are coming to us in greater need, and we are doing all we can to help them, working in partnership with the Handy Trust and Youth and Families Matter from Totton. We are very grateful to Dibden Allotments, and Sainsbury's Blackfield for supporting us as their local charity of the year, as well as to our local Tesco for funding from their "Bags of Help" scheme. We also wish to thank many others who have supported us over the year.

Julia Cross - Project Manager



Special Needs Activities

We have a parent drop in every Friday at Cornerstone, which is attended regularly by about five to eight parents. They are able to support each other, share valuable information and give each other confidence. Knowing that they are not the only ones going through difficulties and they are not bad parents, is invaluable for their self esteem.

We try to have an activity morning at Cornerstone every holiday so that the children can have fun and parents can have time to chat. These events attract more people so we are now in touch with at least fifteen families. Parents are always very grateful for these mornings, saying how much their children look forward to coming. They certainly do not want to go home at the end of the session.

The next activity morning will be Wednesday 11th April from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.

Bev Hall



On The Right Track

We have run a very successful schools programme called 'On the Right Track' for nearly twenty years now in the local primary schools, helping pupils to manage the next big step up to secondary school.

This can be a very stressful time, so our schools workers Kerry and Angela help by visiting the children every week and taking them on trips to their new school.

Currently around forty pupils from four schools are enrolled in this programme, and they love their special time with our workers. One Mum told me it's the highlight of her daughter's school week.

We also engage with some of the parents if they need support, as it can be a difficult time for them too!

Angela Lambert