

ABOUT YOU

Network Members

During the course of the past 2 years the parents and providers project has been in contact with more than **300 families** and over **200 parents & carers** have become members of the network.

Network members are **truly global** coming from **33 different countries**, speaking **25 languages** and you have **310** children between you.

Parent's & Carers Network

29 parents and carers from **16 countries** have regularly been actively involved with 20 network meetings.

Key issues raised are; the cost of child care, support for stay at home parents, finding a nursery, transition to school, health and wellbeing, employment and training, funding of services.

'It's great to come somewhere where there's a crèche. You chat to other parents and find out what is going on'

Volunteers

The Parents and Providers Project has always been about **working together**. Many of you have volunteered your time to support the project and have been involved in a range of activities and roles including administration, event organising and facilitating, baby & you drop-in.

A total of **44 volunteers** have given us **more than 2400 hours** of your time.

Communications group

8 parents have regularly been involved in shaping the look and content of the **Newsletter** and other **Parent & Provider Project** publicity materials.

Baby & you drop-in

2 parent volunteers have ensured the smooth running of the Baby & You drop-in at **Buffer Bear Nursery**.

Over the 2 years **66 different parents and 82 babies and toddlers** attended this weekly parent led group. There have been **80 parent led sessions** with discussions about post natal depression, childbirth, breastfeeding and child development.

20 health visitor led sessions supporting parents around issues such as weaning, sleep, communication and baby massage.

Training & Development

In 2005 **18 parents** enrolled on a **ESOL course** run by **Morley college** at **Johanna school** with child care paid for by **WCDG**. **12 parents** went on into a second year.

Up to date **12 parents** have done a child protection courses, **7 Paediatric first aid**, **2 First aid at work**, **4 food and hygiene courses**

26 parents accessed **Opening Doors to Training & Employment** and from there;

1 person went onto full-time employment, **1** started their own business, **1** is currently doing an **NVQ** in childcare, we supported **1 person** to develop her mobile crèche, **3 people** have to access **Pelestra** pre-employment training. **4 people** became volunteers and **1 person** went onto work placement.

OUTINGS, VISITS, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Over the past 2 years there have been 55 outings, visits or events that you have been involved with, here are just some of them

Teddy bears Picnics

In August of 2005 we worked with **Putting Down Roots** and **St Johns church** on our **teddy bears picnics**. 8 adults and 17 children joined in discussions on **healthy eating and nutrition**. Volunteers helped the children make animal masks and lavender bags.



9 adults and 18 children came along to a second picnic in September where the children did **gardening activities** with **Waterloo Green Trust** and supervised play in the play area. Some of the older children & adults joined in a food quiz. Your comments were

'It's really good to see this children's play area being used. It's often empty'

'It was good to meet the other women, I have seen them before but never spoken until now.'

In 2006 We worked in partnership with **Waterloo Green Trust** on a series of 4 healthy living bear themed picnics on millennium green and in **Waterloo Action Centre**.

We also worked jointly on 3 healthy living sessions with **Blackfriars Settlement**, 3 with **SE1 United**, and supported **Coin Street family and Children's Centre**, **Family links** sessions for families.

With the support of **Waterloo Green Trust** the Baby & You group also grew their own flowers & tomatoes.

The project also supported **2 community days** at **Hatfield's**, with crafts workshops and helping with the picnics.

Museums



In the autumn of 2005 a small group of went with buggies to **Museum of Garden History** housed in a peaceful old church the museum runs well prepared family workshops in its library.

In a joint project with **SE1 united** a small group of **Young Parents** went on fantastic day out to **Horniman museum** in early summer 2006 there were lots of activities & exhibits for children, great gardens for a picnic, small animal enclosure and a newly refurbished aquarium. **020 8699 1872**

Imperial War Museum has lots of **Free** activities for children & families 14 of us went to see the children's Exhibition in the summer of 2006. And with comments like 'Wow! look at all these planes' and 'This is just like a real house' and I had never been in here it's so fine and so big. **020 7416 5320**



Boat trip & Somerset House

30 adults and 45 children were booked on the **river cruise** on 18th September 2005. On the day there was a long delay due to the boat breaking down and this took us on a n impromptu visit to Somerset house . this is what you thought' **Wow it's so beautiful, I bet it's fantastic in the summer'** and **'Come on children outside here there are beautiful things'**

16 of us visited again on 24th January 2006 this time for **Ice skating** in perfect cold crisp weather and the sun going down we had a great time. **'look mum I'm standing on my own'**



OUTINGS, VISITS, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Seaside



It's so good to get out of London look at how she (her daughter) is enjoying it'

Working in partnership with **SE1 United** a coach trip to Margate was organised. **39 people** including young parents went to Margate on the 30th August 2006. We had lovely sunny weather and a great time paddling in the sea here's what you thought'

'Look at this lovely seaweed'

'Isn't this great everyone sharing food?'

We hadn't met before'

London Eye

The project launched both the Parents & Carers Network and the Parents & Providers Forum from **Coin street Family & Children's Centre** followed by a flight on the **BA London eye**. 'Its so good to see all these parents here' 54 of you came to the first flight in July 2005 and 67 on the second on 7th July 06.

'It is very good to be able to come today. I have 4 children everything is so expensive, we cannot afford to do things like this'

Theatre

In march 2006 **7** parents and carers went on a backstage tour and in November **20** parents went to see a Moon for the Misbegotten.

9 parents and **14** children went to the **Pig and the Princess** at the Young Vic.

Galleries

A group of us visited the Tate modern, 4 of us were involved in the **small steps** project.

In the Summer of 2005 a small group of us went to the **In Praise of Women** an art exhibition at the OXO tower celebrating African women '

Cinema

Club Cinemastatic

This year the parents & providers project has been working with the BFI National Film Theatre. NFT have generously donated **over 450** tickets so that local families have had the opportunity to see **12 fantastic films** and attend some great workshops with directors and actors.

We have also have had the pleasure of being part of an advisory group for the NFT'S **Parent Baby & Parent toddler cinema** which is due to start in May 07. The Parents Network are really excited at the prospect of cinema sessions starting and we hope to help keep the cinemas filled with the sound of gurgling babies and giggling toddlers well into the future.

In the meantime if you would like to attend a **special preview** of the BFI new building in see diary dates for details.

Arts Projects

Families from the network have been involved in the a number of arts projects including **Jubilee Gardens consultation** which was an interactive arts project done over a 4 week period.

Parents were involved in the **Trading Places** poetry and photography Project and there photographs were exhibited on the south bank.

Parents and children from the network sang songs and told stories for the **chairs installation** outside the Queen Elisabeth Hall.

Parents with young children also got involved with volunteering for the **Waterloo Carnival** both in Johanna school and here at WCDG

We are currently working with the **Southbank Centre**, the centre for primary learning & education on a 6 week poetry project that will help launch the Poetry library

WORKING TOGETHER

Partnerships

All the projects we have worked on during the course of this project have been a collaboration with a number of different groups, agencies, organisations and individuals.

- Local Parents
- Coin Street Family and Children's Centre
- Buffer Bear Neighbourhood Nursery
- SE1 United
- Family Links
- Blackfriars Settlement
- Hullabaloo
- Geraldine Mary Harmsworth 1'oclock club
- Waterloo Gingerbread
- Waterloo Green Trust
- Putting Down Roots
- Great Lakes African Women's Network
- Johanna School
- Waterloo Action Centre
- Morley college
- Waterloo Job Shop
- London boroughs Lambeth and Southwark
- Estates and TRA's
- Primary Care Trusts
- Waterloo Arts & Events Network
- Imperial War Museum
- Museum of garden History
- Somerset House
- National Film Theatre
- Tate Modern
- South Bank Centre
- BA London Eye
- Old Vic
- Young Vic
- Funders: WCRT; Awards for All—Lottery; Local Network Fund

Providers Partnership

This meeting offered providers an opportunity to share information, good practice, plans for the future and partnership working.

This meeting and the Forum meeting have resulted in two occasions where funding for under 5's activities or play equipment has been brokered.

Some good partnerships have established. However, engagement with the partnership has not been frequent by some organisations and not been attended at all by others.

A shared & strategic vision for the future is the aim, how this is achieved is still a work in progress. This needs to be in tandem with the Community Coalition.

Parents & Providers Forum

The parent providers forum has brought together parents and providers on an equal footing to share views, experiences, ideas, fears and information. This forum enables both parents and providers to highlight what their priorities are and how to achieve them.

Publications

Over the last 2 years **600**, sets of **maps** have been produced. **12** editions of the newsletter have been created going out to more than **400 families** through the Waterloo Parents & Carers Network, health visitors and other professionals, clinics, groups and drop-ins.

And Finally...

The thing that cannot be counted or measured are the informal support networks that have developed, friendships made, experiences shared, comfort given, tears shed, & laughs had. That's what makes the world go round.