

Clearbury Children Centre
Trafalgar School Site
Breamore road
Downton SP5 3HN



02-01-2012

To whom it may concern.

RE: Old Sarum Community Room

The Children's Centre wants to take this opportunity to tell you about the huge asset the Community Room is to the local community, and how it has helped the Centre to promote its services.

Clearbury Children's Centre's Super Output Area covers Old Sarum Housing estate, including Partridge Way. This area (012B Laverstoke (part) and Clarendon Park) ranks 48.8% on the IDM Index of multiple deprivation (higher percentage is less deprivation) . August 10 figures stated that out of the 175 children under 5 who live in this area 18.52 % were living in households dependent on workless benefits. This area also has a high number of lone parents (70) (Aug 08 Personal tax Credit Data). Families living here are isolated, it is about 1 ½ miles to the nearest shop and families have to travel into Salisbury to attend GP surgeries and health visitor clinics.

The Children's Centre works with families with children under 5 and in particular with vulnerable families. We know from the number of referrals we receive from Health and Social Care that this is an area of high priority for the Children's Centre.

It has been incredibly difficult for the Centre to set up adequate provisions to meet the needs of this area. Until the emergence of the Community Room there was no meeting place or centre from which to provide services or opportunities for families to meet.

The Community Room has provided the Children's Centre with a space from which to set up services and it can now be seen as an extension to the Children's Centre. We hold weekly 'Friday Fun' session, where families can meet in a safe and stimulating environment and where children centre staff promote good quality play and identify families in need of additional support i.e. with parenting, relationship problems or debt and avert families reaching crisis point. We know that during the last quarter in total 167 families and children attended the Friday Fun session.

The Community Room has provided the space for families from a diverse background, i.e army families, lone parents, workless families to integrate and provide mutual support and a place from which to access regular services as well as social events such as Christmas Festivities.

The Community Room has given us an opportunity to target the many young parents we know live on this estate, and put on services such as Baby Massage, which we know promotes attachment, increases confidence in parenting and reduces the risk of post natal depression.

Now we have the use of the Community Room, Health Visitors have been able to set up monthly clinics, which has avoided the need for families to travel into Salisbury to see their health visitor

We work very closely with the Community Room Committee and make full use of the Monthly Newsletter which is delivered to every household and helps to promote the services.

We know that the Community Room has been a real asset to families in the area and that it has the potential to increase the services it provide and become a central focus for this isolated area of high need. The services of Suez have been invaluable to make sure the Community Room not only provides services needed in the locality but also promote the centre so it can become self funding and to ensure the provision is cared for.

The Children's Centre would be at a loss as how to continue their support for these families who deserve an adequate meeting place, if this provision would no longer be available or able to run efficiently. We hope that you will look favourable at supporting the application for additional funds to continue this provision.

Yours sincerely

Martie Stanwell
Spurgeons.
Head of Centres.