

SHINE IN THE COMMUNITY

Shine in the Community is a local Charity that provide free after school play sessions and holiday clubs for children aged 4 – 13 years of age who live in socially deprived and isolated areas in Salisbury. We have been working with the children in Partridge Way for just over six years and have become an integral part of community life in this area. On average 20 children attend our play sessions on a regular basis of at least once every other week.

Our specific aim is to involve children in fun activities, increase confidence and develop social skills and to develop an interest in books and reading. To achieve these aims each play session we provide a range of interesting toys, games and crafts, offer team games and provide a mini library and the use of 2 lap top computers.

In April 2011 we secured funding from Children in need for a further 3 years; however this funding was such that we have had to significantly change how we deliver the service. Our old play bus was sold and we have purchased a smaller vehicle purely to transport play equipment and resources.

The use of the Old Sarum Community Room is vital to us, without this facility we would only be able to offer outdoor play sessions in the field opposite the football ground. During the months of October, November, December, January and February we would only be able to offer a very limited service and could not guarantee that we would be able to attend every week, it would very much depend upon the weather. Even during the spring and summer months if the weather were to be unseasonably cold or wet it would be very difficult for us to provide the quality of activities that we are able to offer with the use of the Community room. This would have a very negative impact on the children who rely upon our consistency, continuity and commitment to them twelve months of the year. It would also make achieving our aims very difficult. Our funding has been awarded to us with promise that we deliver quality play sessions weekly during term time and that we can show that we are achieving our aims, if we were not able to deliver what we have promised, the possibility exists that our funding could be rescinded.

The use of the community room has had a very positive effect on our delivery; because of the space and facilities we have extended the range of activities we provide such as cooking, wider choice of crafts and a greater selection of games. We are also able to offer a reading corner and story sacks for imagination play and dressing up. Also because the community room is very centrally placed in the estate, children do not have far to walk home after play sessions and therefore is much safer for them during the darker evenings.

We request that the Community Room is not closed down.

Jayne Pearce

(Shine Out Co-ordinator)

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