

St John's Centre
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Annual Report 2005/06

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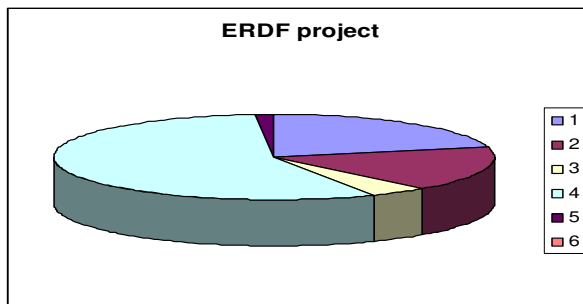
Part funded by ERDF

St John's Centre Project Manager's Report AGM 2005/6

In the last 12 months there has been much change, growth & diversity within the Centre Project.

ERDF project

Our 3 year project funded by ERDF has come to an end. The project ran from July 2002 to December 2005. This enabled us to extend our provision from afternoons only, to mornings also and in addition, extend the crèche hours and employ more staff. The Project was a remarkable success with many, many people from the community accessing the provision, gaining new skills and confidence. We met and exceeded most of the outputs we set in the application.



1. Assisted towards employment (Female) = 232
2. assisted towards employment = 286
3. securing employment = 16
4. provided with learning support = 760
5. Assisted towards employment (Male) = 54
6. Number of learning centre's = 1

New ERDF project

We have been extremely fortunate in that we have been able access a further 2 years of ERDF money, due to an under spend and we will be able to continue with the work of the Centre as a full time project. During these 2 years we need to have a strategy for the project finding further funding, and becoming sustainable post erdf. In addition we also need to find funding for the crèche at least until the end of the ERDF continuation project ends in Dec 2007.

Courses and Numbers attending

Courses at the centre remain many and varied, we have diversified much more this year, but still in keeping with our aims and objectives, which have remained constant throughout the life of the project. We have hosted and been involved in several large events held here, and also had a major involvement with 'Party in the Park'.

Numbers attending have risen year on year and this year has been no exception, with many gaining skills and confidence. There have been slightly less new members, this is due to a decrease in enrolments Sept – Dec 05.

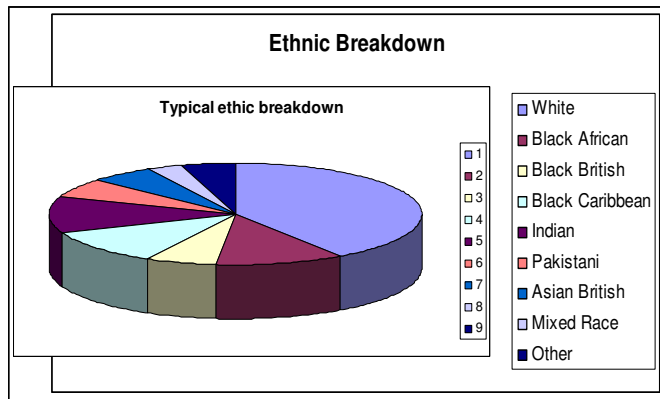
Attendances 5,460 (2004) new members added to database = 173

Attendances 5,806 (2005) new members added to database = 169

Male/ female break down = 20%/80% (average)

We still attract a very diverse ethnic mix of people to the courses and activities we offer, which reflects the make up of the community. We believe that this will continue throughout the life of the project.

Sample taken of 4 qtrs from last 2 years



White = 41%
Indian = 12%
Black Caribbean = 11%
Black African = 11%
Pakistani = 6%
Black British = 6%
Asian British = 5%
Other = 5%

Summer play scheme

Sandra Barber our Project development worker piloted a summer play scheme in July/Aug last summer for 3 weeks using local artists and volunteers. As a new development for the Centre, this was an overall success and we hope to repeat the play scheme this summer and 2007 with funding from the Community Foundation.

Staff & Management Committee

The Rev. Dave Wheeler left St John's and moved on to another church in December also leaving the Centre as Chairperson. Dave was committed to the Centre and its work, devoted many hours to the project and helped us to move forward and become a more professional project, being instrumental in setting up the Management Committee, developing our constitution and ethos statement helping us with finance and management. We owe Dave a vote of thanks for his support, and encouragement.

Colin Barson who has attended our Management Committee as an associate member has taken over as Chair temporarily. Colin is doing a great job in supporting us as an organisation.

Ally Fogg replaced Steven Speed as OTN co-ordinator in October. OTN is going from strength to strength and we hope to be able to extend Ally's contract for a further 3 months. The main issue as ever is funding to continue. Big lottery money is being sought.

Alastair Gillian has joined our team in the role of assistant treasurer. Although we still have Polly Williams as honorary treasurer, as our constitution states that the Treasurer of the Centre must be a member of St Johns PCC. Polly will report back to the PCC on Centre Finance.

Staff development – Chris has completed an NVQ Management level 4, Sandra is on her way to completing NVQ Level 3. Lisa and Shani have attended several courses to update their knowledge for the crèche work they do. The crèche has remained a crucial part of our project and we hope to be able to find another £2,000 needed towards funding the crèche through to the end of 2007.

Office space

Due to the number of staff now working at the Centre, and more people visiting for meeting etc. we had to find more space for ourselves. A new office space has been converted from the storage area and is now being used by the Project Manager and OTN Coordinator.

Management committee - and staff have had an away day on the vision for the future of the Centre and OTN for the next 5 years; this was on 28th April and facilitated by VCAT. We looked at:

- **the aims and objectives** of the Centre project and whether they are still relevant to the needs of the community;
- **Who are our stakeholders** and how we can build up relationships and utilise their support;
- **What is our vision for the Project in 5 years time**
- **How we fit into the vision for Trafford 2021.**

This was a good start, but there is still a lot of work to do. We hope to be able to build a Business plan around the outcomes from that day.

The Management Committee have been a very dedicated team and have supported the project through lots of changes. The newly appointed committee will be helping to take us forward into the future.

To all who have contributed to another successful year.



Christine Aspinall - Project Manager



Children's Summer Activities Project (July 25th – August 10th 2005)

The project was funded by Children's Local Network Fund, total of £3021.00 and MHDA who also made a donation of £100

Duration of the project was 9 days over 3 weeks.

Overall a good pilot project for the Centre, it opened a lot of doors to other opportunities if we had the resources to apply, i.e. after school club, out of term activities and possibly weekend activities for children aged 8 upwards. Unfortunately, due to the holidays being staggered from one school to the next we were unable to establish a set group of young people to work with, also some children only attended on 1 or 2 days due to personal commitments.

Some children felt that the project catered mainly for the younger age group rather than focusing on the 12 upwards; however, we did try to encourage the older attendees to get involved by shadowing one of the co-ordinators giving them the a chance to build their confidence and feel part of the activities. This we hope to improve on if we decide to run another scheme this year.

Information gathered from the young people highlighted the fact that a project like this is needed in this area. With different activities it appealed to all young people, whether they were the arty type or sporty type. Also, it brought back the skill of creating games instead of sitting in front of the TV.

Most parents felt that if there was a charge of £1 per session, it would be more than reasonable due to the fact that their child was in one place, under one roof and kept occupied for 4hrs a day. The TUC shop also was an added bonus, giving us a supplement to purchase food and drinks and sell them cheap, leaving no excuses for any of the young people to leave the premises.

This year we will be running the project for 2 weeks but for 4 days each week. We hope to recruit more volunteers this year to alleviate some of the pressure and responsibility of organising and delivering this service from the Centre staff. Enabling the volunteers to develop more skills and hopefully form a group that will in the future be organised, skilled and able to generate funding for to deliver a project themselves using the resources of the Centre.

Volunteers interested in assisting with delivery = 9

Volunteers actually attending = 6

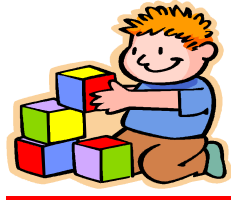
Paid workers = 2

Number of children registered = 72

Average attending each session = 25

Sandra Barber – Project Development Worker

Crèche Report



74 children have registered with the crèche since last September. A large percentage of children come from homes where English is not spoken. For these children attending our crèche will assist them greatly when entering mainstream education, as they have had the opportunity to become familiar with the English language.

The Keep Fit for ladies is very popular with mums; the crèche usually gets full long before the class starts. Other popular courses attended by adults needing the crèche are; English for Speakers of Other Languages, Assertiveness, Photoshop, Painting with Watercolours and Flower craft.

Lisa, Shani and Salma have renewed their First Aid Certificates this year. Lisa regularly attends Local Network Meetings to keep up to date with the latest issues affecting childcare.

Sandra applied to G.M.P for some funding for the crèche, the bid was successful and we received £650.00, Lisa will be using the money to set up a home loan book-bag scheme, the bags will include a dual language book (e.g. English/Arabic, English/Urdu, etc) a toy (relevant to the story) and perhaps a game or activity sheet. Lisa is hoping to have enough money to set up ten book-bags. Parents/ carers will be allowed to bring these book-bags home and share them with their child for a week then once returned they will be allowed to exchange the book-bag. This scheme is run in some schools and has proved very popular. It can help establish an early interest in books.

Some money will be used to buy a T.V./video/DVD, and if there is any left over we will buy some new equipment for the crèche.

The crèche has a very positive impact on the lives of children attending; they settle quickly and have formed close bonds with the staff. They grow in confidence and develop new skills quickly as they learn from their peers and the good example set by the staff. Painting and play dough are a firm favourite with the children.

We asked parents to complete a comment slip asking what they thought of the provision, all came back with positive comments, and some suggested it would be nice to have an outdoor play area and a larger room.

It is very rewarding knowing that the children and their parents/carers are happy with our service and that we are assisting them to improve their quality of life.

Lisa Crosse
Crèche Manager



Report for St John's Centre AGM, May 24th 2006

After a summer/ autumn best described as a period of inactivity, Ally Fogg arrived to become co-ordinating editor of Old Trafford News at the end of October, 2005. The first priority was to recruit some new volunteers and get OTN back on track. The subsequent issue of OTN came out in January, and then the next in May.

In total 23 different volunteers have been involved in these two magazines, 17 of whom have joined since Ally started. Twelve trainees were recruited for a basic skills training course which ran over ten sessions between March and May, and eight of these have expressed interest in becoming regular contributors to the magazine.

There is strong belief in the project now returning among the volunteers. There are still some gaps in skills, particularly with regard to design and layout, web development and administrative support, but a number of the volunteers are expressing interest in learning the necessary skills to take on a more hands-on role in producing the magazine. We hope that courses in desk-top publishing and photography can commence later this year, which should address many of our current shortfalls.

The existing funding that was secured from Parish Mission Fund and Barclay's Bank will soon be spent. Additional funding, hopefully to guarantee the future of the magazine over the next 2-3 years, is currently being sought. In addition there are a variety of small grants, project awards and business transactions should be accessible to tide the project over until long-term backing has been secured.

Relationships with our partner organisations, in particular Trafford MBC, and business arrangements (regarding advertising, sponsorship, consultancy and other services) are becoming ever more strong. Our partner organisations are beginning to appreciate the value of OTN's independence and our ability to connect with 'hard-to-reach' communities, which should have significant advantages in keeping the magazine viable as a not-for-profit business. The goal remains that each issue of the magazine should at least break even – costs of printing and distributing each issue are approximately £4,000. The January issue raised just under £2,000 in advertising and sponsorship, the May edition raised slightly over £3,000 – so we are moving in the right direction!

While there are still many hurdles to be cleared before the long-term future of OTN is secure and sustainable, progress over the past seven months has surpassed all our expectations and we look forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead.

Ally Fogg. Editorial Co-ordinator 24/05/06

Chair's Review AGM May 2006

In my capacity as Temporary Chair of the Management Committee of the St John's Centre I would like to concentrate my review on the people who make the centre the success that it is. The matters of numbers – rising, accreditation – rising, OTN volunteers – rising and more skilled, partnerships supported – rising, external links – rising each portrays the success that SJC had established for itself as a major community resource. The ongoing success is as a result of the people who manage and govern this important and effective community resource. It is to these people I wish to say thanks, for and on behalf of the community they attempt to serve.

SJC was founded in strife against a backdrop of riots in the early 1980s. It has since progressed as an employment based project and more recently as a key player in the life of Old Trafford through the provision of community activity in learning and development. The future I believe is bright for the centre, as more and more learning activity will be focussed on community and community setting.

So what of the people? The people who make SJC a success are the people who manage and govern. The people who learn are equally important and those who use the centre make it a multi cultural experience for all those who share the enthusiasm for developing people to their potential. But those who have the day to day face to face role in developing the centre must be paid the highest tribute. As time moves on and we enter varying phases of the development of the voluntary sector the SJC has continually progressed to enter into relationships with their statutory partners and been a motivated and enthusiastic partner to other community activity. The centre is recognised as a bona fide organisation, one which will meet its objectives and one that can be trusted. These are important qualities. In addition the team ensure SJC do meet the requirements of a multitude of contracts and seek out resources and opportunities for a community in need of continued development.

With this in mind I say a big thank you to the staff of SJC, to those who seek new opportunities and to those who make a significant contribution to the organisation outside the community. Chris has enjoyed another outstanding year as manager, furthering the centre; making relationships with other to ensure quality and service continue to be provided to the community Sandra has led the centres development through opportunities and contributed to life in Old Trafford by building positive relationships with external agencies. Anita has provided the backbone for the centre through which the development can continue and John has ensured the centre is fit for purpose. In addition Lisa and the crèche team have provided the centre with outstanding childcare enabling community members to feel safe in their lives and learning for their children. Ally has recently contributed through the development of the Old Trafford News to the highest standards, standards that raise the eyebrows of the most professional communication experts. A big thank you to all those who work at the Centre and make it what it is. Quoting a research report of the 1990 – Rowntree completed a piece of work on community venues and found that the major influencing factor on whether a community venue was successful was Aesthetics. They stated aesthetics were not only looks but welcome and feel. SJC staff ensure we meet this criteria and this is why we are successful – we make people,

real people feel welcome and once they have entered they stay and become successful themselves. This is the highest accolade I can give to our staff – you are successful because you care and make people welcome, thereby enabling the centre to offer a range of activities for our community in a venue that is attractive and pleasing, well done.

The other people to be acknowledged here are those in the background. The Management Committee. These are they who are not seen but meet regularly enough to keep the staff team centre of attention, offering help and support where they can and being there to govern – not manage the centre. I thank my fellow members and I would like to say publicly that I appreciate their support for the centre and the support they have offered me in my temporary role as Chair of this organisation. The Management Committee have worked hard to ensure the organisation is well managed and works within the guidelines of its own policies and made significant contributions to the overall strategic planning we are currently working on. They do not have any vested interest but work for and on behalf of the community of Old Trafford offering their time and energy, skills and experience for free. It might be free but it is welcome and I value the support I have received.

Finally I would like to thanks to those from the other sectors, Teresa Marriott, Abdul Razzaq, Paul Callaghan, David McNulty, to name only four, who we don't often see but are supportive of the work we are trying to do to move the community forward. I thank those who have offered support and their time and their confidence in us as an organisation and I make one promise - we shall continue to work to put Old Trafford first and work with others to make the community ever more successful and a great place to be.

Thank you

Colin Barson