

## Case Study for People helping People

---

<b>Contact name</b>	Fiona Beech
<b>Title</b>	Early Years Coordinator
<b>Phone number</b>	01785 246802
<b>E-mail address</b>	fiona.beech@staffordshire.gov.uk

### **Situation**

The Children's Centre had been delivering Stay and Play sessions in Silkmore Children's Centre for a number of years. The provider who delivered these services decided not to continue with the contract.

The group was very well attended by local parents so we were keen for the service to continue. We contacted the session attendees to see if they would be interested in continuing with the service delivery themselves.

### **Solution**

We made contact with the attendees and 2 expressed their interest in delivering the group. We signed them up to the Children's Centre Volunteer Programme to offer our support in their service delivery.

One of the volunteers already had a level 3 childcare qualification and was able to bring her skills and knowledge to the session whilst mentoring the other volunteer. As part of the volunteering programme we applied for their DBS certificate and trained them in level 1 safeguarding.

Part of the support that we offered was around promotion, the volunteers created their own leaflet that we printed for them. They set up their own social media page and carried out local school and community marketing.

They applied for funding from the local Councilors Fund and secured support for refreshments for the group from the local Co-Op.

The Mucky Pups Messy Play Sessions commenced and provided great fun for many parents within the local area. They were extremely well attended and provided local families with a place to go to experience new ideas for them to try with their children.

After the group had been running for 9 months the 2 volunteers managed to gain full time employment. This then resulted in the need to recruit new volunteers but we were successful as attendees from the group came forward to continue with the service. The session had a name change and continued to run provided by volunteers who have since gone on to deliver more sessions within Silkmore Children's Centre. They set up a new social media page to showcase their work [Silkmore Children's Centre : Messy Monsters](#). These are The Best Foot Forward Walking Group, U5's Special Needs Stay and Play and Treasure Seekers.

### **Benefits**

There have been many benefits resulting from the volunteers leading the session including.

- More families have been able to access the provision.
- The local community have become engaged in delivering and attending much more in the centre.
- The volunteers have gained new knowledge and skills and training opportunities.
- 2 original volunteers who commenced the group have gone back into full time employment.
- The volunteer has increased their confidence and are now an active member of the District Advisory Board.
- Children and their families have been able to access more opportunities within the centre.
- Julie enjoys socialising with the other group attendees and seeing her children interacting with other children. They struggled to find a session within the district that could offer her children a safe environment due to their allergies, where they could enjoy new creative experiences.
- As a result of the group a further 5 volunteers have been recruited.
- 5 parent led groups are now delivered weekly by volunteers, this equates to 10.5 hours per week of the volunteers time. There will be additional time on top of the session hours for planning and sourcing resources.

### **Services provided by other groups or companies**

Funding from Staffordshire County Councilors

Training and DBS check by Pre-school Learning Alliance

Donations from Hobby craft employees

CASE STUDY EXAMPLE

Donations from Penside Champions  
Training provided by Stafford Borough Council  
Support from SCYVS  
Donations from Co-op

**Evidence**

Volunteer handbooks and database  
Social Media  
Group evidence folder  
Capita data