

Annual Report Sept 2020—Sept 2021

Hello Everyone!

Since September 2020, when Barnardo's Children and Family Centres re-opened across Warwickshire, I am pleased to say that we remained open throughout two further national lockdowns, providing essential services for children and families. This included not only midwifery and health visiting services, but also one-to-one services by both our staff and other partner agencies.

This year has been incredibly challenging for our staff teams, keeping services open for families whilst home schooling their own children or caring for other family members, and I want to formally thank our staff here for their continued hard work and dedication. Centres have remained open when dealing with ever changing guidance: risk assessments are being constantly reviewed to ensure we are delivering a service that is as safe as possible. We will continue to review these throughout the next year as circumstances change, at all times keeping staff and families as safe as we can.

This year we have kept our online offer going to families whilst re-establishing more and more face-to-face services. Whilst many families have reported that they are happy that face-to-face services are resuming, many have also enjoy accessing services in their own homes, at times that are convenient to them, so we have retained a 'blended' offer. I am delighted to say that despite all the restrictions, our centres supported more children and families than the previous year, last year supporting 5,463 individuals and this year 5509!

Whilst we are proud to have reached out to more people, we are also aware that inequalities have widened during this period. We held a virtual conference in November 2020 that celebrated what we had done to reach vulnerable families. We are building on this learning, and from the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, looking at what we are doing to tackle racism in our services and communities. The title of 2021's staff conference is 'No Ifs, No Buts - We are all in this together'. This has highlighted to us how much more work is still to be done.

Some of the plans for the year ahead include:-

- Recruiting staff to co-locate with the health visiting team in Nuneaton to ensure closer working and reaching out to new families in need as identified by their team
- Getting more partner services back in our centres to expand on our 0-25 offer for families
- Work with the local authority on building the new Children & Family Centre in Kingsway, Leamington and overseeing this transition from the current building
- Expanding our Parent Champion scheme, supporting the volunteers to reach out to more families
- Setting up the aligned services of 'Arts on Referral' for Children, Young people, parents and infants

I hope that you enjoy reading just some of the highlights of the year in this report.

Sue Berry – Assistant Director – Children's Services

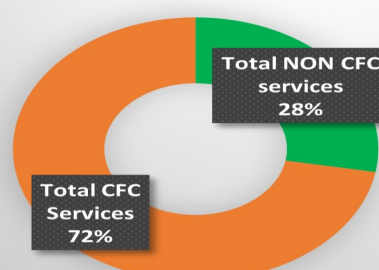
Footfall for Children & Family Centre, & Partner Services

As of 30th
September 2021, our
total footfall was

80,478

for Children & Family
Centre and Partners
services.

Footfall attendances



Footfall—a number of occasions an individual has accessed services

- Total NON CFC services
- Total CFC Services

Supporting our Partners

Partner organisations include:

- 0-5 Public Health Services
- Early Help and Social Care Services
- Family Information Service
- Midwifery
- Schools; Early Years settings and Health & Wellbeing Service
- MIND / RISE (CAMHS)
- Speech & Language Therapy
- GPs
- Faith and community organisations
- Strengthening Families
- Department for Work & Pensions
- Adult & Community Learning
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Targeted Youth
- Youth Justice
- CAB
- Relate
- Refuge



Supporting families with family fun days

Our Children & Family Centres in Warwickshire offer activities for under 5's, and work with partners to provide support for families with children or young people aged 0-19 (or up to 25 for young people with additional needs).

Many Rugby families attended our Family Fun Days at Claremont Children & Family Centre themed around 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and Long Lawford Children & Family Centre themed around 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The families enjoyed a range of craft activities, messy play, sensory walks, singing, group picnics and more! The feedback received was very positive for both days.

Parent feedback from Long Lawford:

"Today was our first day at stay and play. We enjoyed being around the other children and mummy let me get wet playing in the water. Thank you for a wonderful day."

"We loved that we've had so many activities, amazing staff and lots of children."

"I liked singing and the going on a bear hunt walk experience."

"Our favourite part was all of it! The ice cream stand was great."

"M... loved the painting activities the most."



**RUGBY
August 2021**

Supporting families where English is their second language

A family with English as a second language was supported to navigate their way through homelessness and access the wider support needed. As a young family with a new baby, they weren't eligible to stay in dad's accommodation provided through work. They were supported by using the Centres facilities to wash their clothes, and signposted to FIS who supported them to be rehoused. Weekly phone support by an Early Years worker ensured that Early Help support agencies assisted in this transition. A Barnardo's Young Persons Grant funded a carpet so that the baby could have a safe place to play and develop, and white goods were sourced through other charity applications.

Support enabled the parents to continue working to support their family; Dad brought the baby to our parent and baby session whilst mum slept (as she did shift work). Through attending the centre they: made connections with other families; know where to access support in their community if needed in the future; have developed peer support with other families in the local area; and are no longer isolated. The Baby Time sessions have enabled them to focus on their daughter's needs, and she is developing well.

A child whose mum is the main carer was referred via the speech & language therapist. The child came to a session at an outreach centre to support in preparation for school. The practitioner gave support in school readiness and also provided advice and support around managing the child's behaviour. During the session the practitioner provided screening and followed up by speaking with the speech & language therapist to ensure that appropriate support was available for the child. The family were really pleased to receive support at short notice before the school term commenced, and were very grateful for the support received.

Parent feedback:

"I have been coming to the centre since they started face to face sessions. Before coming to the centre I was very anxious, both going out to different places and what the expectation would be once at the centre. From the moment I arrived in the centre I was made to feel welcome and I immediately felt relaxed. The practitioner made me feel secure in knowing that I could follow my child's lead. I have since attended Baby Massage, outdoor play and are currently booked onto the next course for Baby Chatter matters. As my child also has a medical condition, knowing that I can feel relaxed and talk to other parents or staff makes me feel less anxious and enjoy my time with my baby. Thank you!"



WARWICK 2021

Supporting our Parent Champions

**Warwickshire September
2020-2021**

Warwickshire Parent Champions

The Parent Champion project in Warwickshire was a new initiative in partnership with Coram in 2020. Training was usually delivered in the classroom, but Covid changed everything. In October 2020, 8 volunteers embraced new ways of learning, attending training by Zoom and engaging with online catch-up meetings to network and plan ideas. Many volunteers had not used Zoom before and others were not confident with IT, but everyone responded with patience and good humour. The Parent Champions were issued with work mobile phones to help them in their role, to provide an additional source of support and guidance for families.

The Parent Champions have been proactive with ideas to support families in the community, using social media to advertise their role and signpost parents to the right services. Two Parent Champions recorded a video to talk about their role and motivation, that was used on the Stratford Children and Family Centre Facebook page to celebrate Volunteer Week 2021. The Parent Champions have distributed flyers and newsletters in community venues to share local information for families.

In July 2021, 3 Barnardo's Volunteer Coordinators and a Community Development Worker facilitated Coram's Parent Champion Training course for the second cohort of eight Parent Champions. These Parent Champions are now actively signposting parents in the community to appropriate services.

Parent Champion Comment:

'Best thing about the Parent Champion role is the feeling you get when you have pointed someone in the right direction so they can help themselves. Empowering individuals is important, and this brings about positive change'

In the spring and summer of 2021, the Parent Champions helped Children and Family Centres resume services by supporting outdoor activities. They attend community groups, reaching families not aware of the centre's and support available, and provided a listening ear at family sessions, empathetic to parents needing to share their concerns about the effects of lockdown on their children, and sharing ideas for combatting isolation.

January to September 2021: Parent Champions signposted 268 parents to support services to meet identified needs.

Volunteer Coordinator nominated Warwickshire Parent Champions for a Marsh Trust Barnardo's Group Award 2021

Supporting our Volunteers

From 1st Sept 2020 to 30th Sept 2021, our volunteers across the county provided 1902 hours to support us with our service delivery.

"I had a really enjoyable morning putting together craft packs with MH (volunteer). After such a long time of being locked down and unable to see many people, it was lovely to be able to come into the C&FC for a touch of normality. As always, we were made very welcome and felt perfectly safe with all the measures that had been taken regarding hygiene and social distancing. MH and I had a good chat while we assembled the bags with plenty of laughs and comparing of lockdown experiences – it was a great way to cheer ourselves up. Everything had been left ready for us so we just had to fill up the bags with all manner of exciting goodies and imagine all the little fingers that would soon be cutting and sticking to make some fantastic pictures. It was a real tonic and an excellent way to pass a couple of hours"

North Warwickshire and Nuneaton October 2020

Creative/information packs – Early Years teams kept in touch with families during lockdown by putting together themed creative/information packs to be delivered to local families. Volunteers across Nuneaton and North Warwickshire supported by coming into their local Children and Family Centres to put packs together. A total of **464 packs** have been put together by volunteers!!



Supporting our wonderful Dads.....

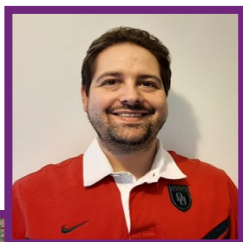
Visitors to SaturDads

"SaturDads Volunteers are outstanding, making everyone welcome and encouraging friendly play and swapping stories between the dads".

Three Dads recognised a gap in our services at Rugby Borough Children & Family Centres and within the local Community.

Just over 4 years ago, they approached us and worked with us to form a new group called 'SaturDads' which would provide a safe and fun environment for male carers to visit with their children. We now also have a new volunteer, who has joined the SaturDads team recently.

The SaturDads Volunteers provide a quality session for families. They run the group independently on a monthly basis with background support from Nicola Sharpe, the Volunteer Co-ordinator.



"We offer a safe space for Dads and male carers to have fun with their kids. It can be daunting being out with your child alone for the first time. So coming to our group is a safe and easy way to get out with the kids."

Rugby September 2021

Finally...

Whilst we have achieved a lot this year, the year ahead still presents us with lots of challenges as Covid is still very much prevalent. We will keep centres open and expand our offer from partner agencies particularly around services for 5-19 year olds where we can. We are also very much aware of emerging speech and language needs of younger children, as well as the offer for children with disabilities, and will work with partners to address this. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead!

Contact Us

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