

Families Matter

at Hythe URC

Trustees' Report and

Financial Statement

For the year ending 31st March 2025

Includes:

Trustees' Annual Report
Chairman's Report
Treasurer's Report
Receipt and Payments Account
Independent Examiner's Report
Project Reports

Registered Charity No. 1097108

Cornerstone (Hythe URC)
New Road, Hythe,
Southampton,
Hampshire SO45 6BR
Telephone: 023 8020 7623
E-mail: office@families-matter.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Peter Blasby Chairman



This year has been challenging. As you can see from the report we have continued with our traditional areas of work and in some cases been able to expand the work we have done for many years. The same needs, why Families Matter was

formed over 25 years ago, still exist today and I am so proud of the commitment and skills of Laura Gray, our Project Manager and our staff and volunteers for the skills they bring each day to these difficult situations. We do make a difference to not only the individuals lives but also ease the tension and emotional strain within the family unit. To help someone and provide them with a life skill, or a listening ear during a difficult patch or simply helping them to know they are not alone is the greatest thing we can do and the reward is seeing a successful outcome. Please take the time to read this report and feel free to talk to any of us if you have a concern.

I want to add my thanks to all the organisations, group and individuals that are supporting Families Matter in this work, some for many years. Fundraising is always time consuming and stressful at the best of times but this last year our manager, Laura Gray has spent more time doing fundraising bids and received more replies along the lines of a great project but the demands on our funds have increased so much that we can't support you this time. It is both stressful and soul destroying. We employ only 9 part time staff; these are supported by over 20 volunteers. We are very grateful to Hythe URC who give us our office, heat and light, they also give us the use of the building for our various groups. What is achieved by this charity is remarkable for the minimal operating cost it needs. If you can help in any way in this area please talk to us.

Finally, I must thank the Trustees and Mary York who have been very pro-active again this year .

ADMINISTRATION

Bev Hall Secretary



Another year has flown by and Families Matter has been busier than ever. It has also been quite a challenging year. Reading all the reports it is amazing what a small charity like ours can achieve. There have been ups and

downs, but where there have been problems the team have managed to overcome them and carry on with our clients being none the wiser. I really wonder how Laura and Eva manage to keep up with all the work that comes into the office.

This year fund-raising has been high on the agenda. A great deal of office time has had to be used filling in application forms for funding. This task can become quite overwhelming and at times distinctly unrewarding, but without the funding Families Matter would cease to exist. So a very big thank you to Laura and Eva for their hard work and perseverance.

Computing issues have been a big issue over the year, but hopefully, with the help of John Greenwood, it has all been sorted out and things are running smoothly now. As confidentiality is of paramount importance in Families Matter, members of staff have been provided with laptops purely for the work, which also makes record keeping simpler and more efficient.

Our Trustees have a variety of useful skills which have greatly benefitted the running of Families Matter and they deserve our sincere thanks for their support and help. We are also so grateful to Carol Lee who has been meticulously going through all the policies, updating and amending them - quite a colossal task. And a big thank you also goes to all the members of staff who work tirelessly and give Families Matter the good reputation that it has.

So we feel quite positive about the future, and look forward to what will happen in the coming year.



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	Day 1 st	Month April	Year 2024	To	Day 31 st	Month March	Year 2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Families Matter at Hythe United Reformed Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1097108

Charity's principal address Cornerstone

Hythe United Reformed Church

Hythe, Southampton

Postcode SO45 4BR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Peter Blasby	Chairman		Charity Members
2	Beverley Hall	Secretary		Charity Members
3	Peter Blasby	Treasurer		Charity Members
4	Margaret Yapp			Charity Members
5	Joy Drake			Charity Members
6	Nick Tustian			Charity Members
7	Carol Lee			Charity Members
8	Derek Olden			Charity Members

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by members at AGM

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Families Matter maintains a full set of policies and procedures

Families Matter works with two other local charities, The Handy Trust and Youth and Families Matter and some statutory bodies

We have working agreements with The Handy Trust

All major systems and procedures are the result of collective management discussion

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance public education and awareness in the promotion of good parenting and other areas of family life and to build self-confidence and resilience. This is achieved through the provision of support, training, advice and information.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Parenting courses, group activities, one to one support, working in schools and other places.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Families Matter does not supply grants to other people or organisations

Families Matter do not have an investment policy

Families Matter relies to a great extent on volunteers to provide much of the service provision and to support our paid workers

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Over 200 families helped during the year which equates to 700 people

Active response to an increased need in the area of children and young people's mental health

Again a big number of children mentoring after OTRT in the senior schools, 19 pupils this year

An increase in parents attending parenting courses and a pilot group set up in a Primary school for parents to support them with daily challenges.

A new extended program and also a new WhatsApp group set up to support members in the Women's Wellbeing group.

A new course "Healthy Relationships Awareness" started in January 2025.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Many years ago, we took the decision to start a reserve fund which has grown over the years and now represents almost six months of our expenditure. We will continue to grow the fund.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Principal sources of funding – Waterside Community Fund, Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, plus many smaller amounts coming from other sources including fundraising which all help to maintain this work.

Feedback from all areas of work shows the need and the success of our work.

Families Matter does not have an investment policy.

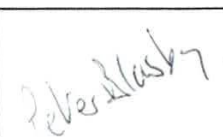
Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Peter Blasby	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	27.06.2025	

FAMILIES MATTER ACHIEVEMENTS

Over 220 families were impacted during the year by our various groups and activities.
The figures are shown below

Activity/group	Number of families helped	Estimated number of people helped
On the Right Track	60	240
School mentoring	19	76
Family Support 1:1	16	64
Parenting courses	26	104
SWANS	10	40
SWANS Activity days	15	60
Women's Wellbeing Group	23	46
Hythe Huddle	27	27
Our Time	5	10
Memory group	10	20
Sovereign	8	32
Freedom Programm	6	24
Total	225	719

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 1/4/24 to 31/3/25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
A1 Receipts				
Donations	£ 14,992	£ -	£ 14,992	£ 2,875
Hythe URC	£ 5,000	£ -	£ 5,000	£ -
Waterside Com Fd	£ 25,000	£ -	£ 25,000	£ 25,000
Bank interest	£ 1,280	£ -	£ 1,280	£ 412
SWANS	£ -	£ 838	£ 838	£ 14
BBC CIN	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 10,475
Huddle	£ -	£ 718	£ 718	£ 1,500
OTRT	£ -	£ 3,787	£ 3,787	£ 2,964
WWG	£ -	£ 5,795	£ 5,795	£ -
WWW savings	£ -	£ 155	£ -	£ -
Sovereign	£ -	£ 3,000	£ 3,000	£ -
Total	£ 46,272	£ 14,294	£ 60,410	£ 43,240

A3 payments

Office costs, note 5	£ 52,601	£ -	£ 52,601	£ 30,892
SWANS	£ -	£ 1,408	£ 1,408	£ 172
BBC CIN	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 8,012
Huddle	£ -	£ 3,524	£ 3,524	£ 1,297
OTRT	£ -	£ 3,787	£ 3,787	£ 3,569
WWG	£ -	£ 9,610	£ 9,610	£ -
WWG savings	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Sovereign	£ -	£ 1,195	£ 1,195	£ -
Total	£ 52,601	£ 8,719	£ 61,319	£ 43,942

A4 Accounts & cash funds 1 April 2024

Cheque account	£ 10	£ -	£ 10	£ 10
Deposit account	£ 37,662	£ 12,833	£ 50,495	£ 50,495
Reserve Fund	£ -	£ 15,887	£ 15,887	£ 15,887
Petty cash	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total	£ 37,672	£ 28,720	£ 66,392	£ 66,392

A5 Accounts & cash funds 31 March 2025

Cheque account	£ 10	£ -	£ 10	£ 10
Deposit account	£ 25,025	£ 2,623	£ 27,648	£ 50,495
Reserve Fund	£ -	£ 24,371	£ 24,371	£ 15,887
Petty cash	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total funds	£ 25,035	£ 26,994	£ 52,029	£ 66,392

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2025

	unrestricted funds	restricted funds	Total funds
B1 Accounts & cash funds			
Current account	£ 10	£ -	£ 10
Deposit account	£ 25,025	£ 2,623	£ 27,648
Reserve Fund	£ -	£ 24,371	£ 24,371
Petty cash	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total	£ 25,035	£ 26,994	£ 52,029

B2 Assets No value to assets - see note 4 £ 3,299

	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	When due
B3 Liabilities			
HMRC	Unrestricted	£ 522	April 2025
Un-cleared payments	Unrestricted	£ -	April 2025
	Total	£ 522	

date of audit by Mr R. M. C. Harvey

Approved by the treasurer
on behalf of all the trustees

P C Blasby

See Independent Examiner's Report

Notes to these receipts and payment accounts

- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission recommended practice 'Accounting and Reporting' May 2007.
- All amounts are to nearest whole £.
- Families Matter has no Endowment funds or investments.
- The only tangible assets are office equipment which are written-off over four years at 25% per year of the original price.
- The expenditure by the office is for courses, one to one support, admin support, support of shortfalls in funding and payments to HMRC.
- Families Matter is committed to providing a professional service and this year £1049 was spent on staff training.
- Families Matter employs one member of staff on an annual basis, a number of sessional staff whose payments are arranged termly and a large number of volunteers who only receive expenses.
- A reserve fund has been established which is reviewed each year.
- The Trustees have not claimed any personal expenses again this year.
- Families Matter thanks Mike Harvey for auditing our accounts and his advice.
- Families Matter would like to thank the following people and companies for their continued financial support and in many other ways;
 - Hythe United Reformed Church for their continued support of the FM project.
 - Waterside Community Fund for their support to the FM project.
 - Barker Mills for their support to the FM project
 - Beaulieu Beaufont for their support to the FM project
 - And many other donations, including from individuals, that all ensures that this service to the community can continue.

Independent examiner's report of the accounts of Families Matter at Hythe United Reformed Church

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Families Matter at Hythe United Reformed Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/25

Charity no
(if any)

1097108

Set out on pages

One page

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention that needs attention, in fact the accounts were well presented and the procedures used in preparing and maintaining the accounts were comprehensive and transparent. In light of this I have not had reason to raise any items and hence I have not used the 'Section B – Disclosure'.

Signed:



Date:

05/06/2025

Name:

Ronald Michael Colliss Harvey

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body:**

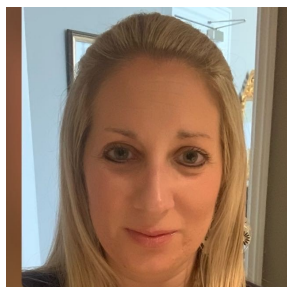
Chartered Mechanical Engineer, M.I.Mech.E, B Sc (Eng)

Address:

26 Velsheda Court, Hythe Marina Village, Hythe, SO45 6DW

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Laura Gray



What a year it has been! We have seen a significant increase in demand for all our support services with every project experiencing an increase in members or level of need.

We have continued to strengthen our partnership with Sovereign Network Group and successfully received funding under the Police Crime Commissioner bid to support Anti- Social Behaviour within the community. As part of this bid, we have begun work to support The Handy Trust with detached work within a deprived area within our community. We look forward to expanding this project in the Autumn Term by running an additional parenting course at Waterside School.

Fundraising has been a priority this year. On average at least two applications are completed each month. We are very grateful to our current funders including The Waterside Community Fund, New Forest District Council, Sovereign Network Group, Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation, The Barker Mills Foundation, Tesco's Stronger Starts Grant, The Listeners Trust, The Charles Burnett Fund and Cornerstone Boys Brigade. We have continued to raise awareness of our charity by creating a promotional video and updating our donation options on our website. I have spoken about Families Matter at Camio Ladies and New Forest District Council and attended local events such as 'It takes two concert' to promote our charity. Trustees have done a charity drive at Haskins Garden Centre. I will also be speaking at Marchwood Gospel Church and U3A over the next few months. We also took part in the Rotary Charity Walk in June.

We have successfully run our first Domestic Abuse support group through The Freedom Programme in January. This twelve-week course included information about a healthy and unhealthy relationship.

Members learnt to recognise the signs of Domestic Abuse, understand the beliefs and myths surrounding this abuse and learnt practical suggestions to support those experiencing Domestic Abuse. This support group offers empowerment and safety planning along with signposting to agencies who could help them with their situations. We have our next course booked to begin in September. We are incredibly grateful to Amanda Dukes and Eva Pallister for running this group on a volunteer basis.

Our Women's Wellbeing Group has grown significantly this year with 23 members on roll. Our staff are doing an incredible job supporting these women every single week. Recently, we have met with Solent Mind at Marcella House, to understand what other local support is available during the week. We hope to refer our members to the wellbeing groups/sessions which Marcella House offer.

We have welcomed two new employees this year, Lisa and Catherine. We are grateful to them both for also picking up additional roles as deputies of Women's Wellbeing Group and SWANS alongside their original roles as School Workers. We have also been fortunate to have two new women volunteers at our Women's Wellbeing Group.

Reflecting on the year by taking a step back is truly rewarding. I recently wrote a case study about a lady we have been supporting under several projects. When we first met this woman in November, she was at her lowest point, after a month, she was engaging in support. Six months later, she has joined our Women's Wellbeing Group and has a regular volunteering job and has successfully completed a nature course. It has been a pleasure to see this woman grow in self-belief and confidence. This is just one success story amongst many that Families Matter have supported over the year.

OTRT—On The Right Track

**Nicky Wallis, Emily Milton,
Kelly Hall, Lisa Taylor
Catherine Adomah**

We have welcomed Cadland Primary School to our On The Right Track programme for the first time this year. It has been wonderful to build positive relationships with both the staff and students at this school. We also welcomed back five other local schools who have enrolled on our On The Right Track Programme for 2025. As a result, we have supported more children across the year, with a total of 60 children supported on this programme.

At the beginning of the year, we hosted a new online parents information evening for all our parents with children on our programme. This provided parents with the opportunity to learn more about what topics are covered during the programme. We also ran a face-to-face parents evening alongside this at one local school.

MENTORING

**Nicky Wallis, Emily Milton,
Kelly Hall, Lisa Taylor
Catherine Adomah**

We had 19 children in total on our mentoring programme throughout 2024. This included 6 children specifically at our new school in Beaulieu Village Primary School and 13 from our On The Right Track programme. This number is down from the previous year, but in this case, we are pleased, as it shows that more children were settled moving to their chosen secondary school.

We extended our mentoring sessions for one child this year (until February half term). This was to support this child who had multiple needs and to extend support to the whole family.

1:1 SUPPORT

Laura Gray

Over the year, we have experienced a real increase in referrals from schools for more one to one family support. Showing the ever-increasing need for both practical and emotional support to help with various challenging situations in the lives of local families.

Feedback from our six local primary schools tells us that the proportion of families experiencing difficulties are rising quickly. Amongst our schools, the statistics vary from 25% to 42% of families needing advice/support, awaiting diagnosis or being affected by changes in their circumstances. All our schools have confirmed that the level of need is on the increase and they are seeing a greater complexity around need with multiple issues rather than single issue situations. Reductions in school budgets prevents them from offering the one-to-one support they want to; therefore, our school staff are able to meet this demand.

Many families too are struggling with the cost-of-living increase and our food bank referrals have also increased. With this in mind, we have shared with all our support groups, information with vital contacts for anyone who feels they are in a crisis.

This year, Emily Milton has worked with 13 families, some of these have only wanted quick emails or one off home visits to signpost them to other agencies or to get involved in other parts of Families Matter, for example Swans or parenting courses. Others have been longer term and have some cross over with Swans attendance as well. We have done 6 initial calls, 9 home visits / office meet ups, and lots more emails! The reasons for contacting us for 1:1 support have often been about struggles with behaviour related to neurodiversity at home and challenging family dynamics. But we have also spoken with people about eating disorders, potty training, respite care requirements, financial challenges, CAMHS and social services involvement.

PARENTING COURSE:

Liz Beaven

Courses continue to run at both Totton Baptist Church and Cornerstone, Hythe alternately, facilitated by Kelly Price and Liz Beaven.

There have been three courses organized since April 2024, concentrating on younger children, with a course for teenagers currently running this term. Numbers vary, but on average we have between 5 and 8 participants which has been slightly lower than previous years. We help parents use strategies to manage their children's angry reactions and share ideas, tips and experiences. Parents also find the support between group members valuable and share problems within the sessions. This is an important part of the course. The groups are interactive with plenty of hands-on tasks and activities and time for discussion. We have a range of needs but continue to support many whose children are on the autistic spectrum or show ADHD types of behaviour.

Parents find the courses positive and find their confidence is improved when managing difficult situations. This year we also had three fathers join us who accompanied their wives, which was beneficial.



WOMENS WELLBEING GROUP

Jen Mansbridge

Our Women's Well-being Group continues to thrive, experiencing sustained growth and engagement. We now have 15 regular attendees, with 23 members on our register, and are currently at full capacity. Encouragingly, new members continue to return each week, and we recently welcomed back a former member who has re-joined the group.

Our programme remains diverse and user-led. At the start of each half term, we consult with members to shape upcoming activities and discussion topics. Recent themes have included relaxation, memory sharing, improving well-being, and reducing isolation. We've also hosted a range of creative and therapeutic workshops such as wood engraving, cake decorating, angel keyring making, cookery, crochet, and music therapy.

Group outings have been a highlight, with visits to Stewarts Garden Centre and Exbury Gardens offering valuable social time and new experiences for members.

We're proud to work in partnership with organisations including Acrylic Art, Marcella House, Solent Mind, and Itchen College. Their BeWell Programme, run for free by one of their staff, is designed to support adults who have mental health needs. It focuses on enhancing wellbeing by building confidence, resilience, and self-reliance, enabling learners to move forward in their lives.

These collaborations have enriched our offerings and were very well received. Peer support remains central to our ethos. It's heartening to see members forming friendships and meeting outside of regular sessions for additional connection and support.

In July 2024, we were honoured to receive a generous donation from the Charles Burnett Fund. This funding has allowed us to appoint Lisa as our Deputy Leader, expand our activity programme, and provide a taxi service for seven members who would otherwise face transport challenges.

Following group consultation, we have also adjusted our meeting time, and now gather from **10:00 - 12:00** each session.

We're grateful for the ongoing support from our partners and funders, and we look forward to building on this positive momentum next year.

SWANS

Emily Milton

Swans is a support group for families who have children with additional needs. We run weekly drop in sessions for parents and carers on Friday mornings 10.00 - 12.00 in term time, these are attended by a regular core of up to six parents / grandparents (and preschool children) and we had a few families dropping in occasionally.

Swans also run activity mornings once during each school holiday which are usually attended by between 8-13 children, both children with additional needs and their siblings. We've run an animal encounter experience where children had the opportunity to hold different animals, we had lots of fun with an amazing bubble artist, and an all time favourite for small and big feet are the bouncy castle and the big slide. These mornings are well received by the parents who often find school holidays especially challenging.

We are very grateful for the funding we have received and are just finalising our plans for the next summer holidays.

We welcomed Catherine Adomah as Deputy Leader for our regular group. She has a wealth of experience from her role as a school worker and previous profession as a teacher.



OUR TIME

Margaret Yapp

This past year we have welcomed Angie Wicks as another facilitator for the group. Angie brings a wealth of experience and compassion to our meetings.

The group has been very stable over the past year. We are now meeting monthly at a venue in Hythe and keep in touch regularly by WhatsApp.

We are always ready to welcome new members and are currently making efforts to publicise the group in appropriate places.

Addictions within a family are often kept secret and we offer a confidential space where family members can share openly and receive support and understanding.

THE FREEDOM PROGRAMME

Eva Pallister

We have successfully run our first 12 week course with 4 - 6 members. This course was run voluntarily by course leader Amanda Dukes (supported by Eva Pallister) who's a qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advocate. Her wealth of experience and training enables the course to be tailored to each individuals circumstances.

We learn:

- To understand the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- To recognise the signs of domestic abuse.
- To understand the beliefs and myths around domestic abuse.
- Practical supportive suggestions.

The support and empowerment in the group is equally important and valued with the members.

We have rebranded our course and the new Healthy Relationship Awareness course will start on Tuesday, 9th September, 19.00—20.30

HYTHE HUDDLE

Peter & Pat Dudley

We have seen a significant increase in members at Hythe Huddle across the year, with new members joining at every single session.

At our last session in June, we welcomed 8 new members alone. We have thoroughly enjoyed the variety of entertainers as always, including: Amanda Parsons, Retro Rita and local groups such as Melody Makers and Burnt Toast. Each performance has been different and provided the opportunity for our members to reminisce about fond memories. We have also offered seasonal crafts (Easter bonnets and Christmas wreaths), which members have thoroughly enjoyed.

This year, we have begun working in partnership with the Dementia Care Hub (Hythe). Alex Herring (Dementia Care Hub Manager) now attends each month and is available to chat to our members offering advice and support.

We are very fortunate to have loyal volunteers who give their time each month and always welcome our members with a friendly face and a selection of refreshments.



MEMORY GROUP

Liz Beaven

We continue to meet on Mondays at 13.45 for a range of different activities. This is a small and friendly group for those with mild to moderate memory problems. The sessions are created to promote stimulation and mental activity, and we include memory tasks, creative activities, discussion and games. Recently, we have done some sculpting with clay and made small animals; created Spring gardens; tried a fruit tasting session and enjoyed exercising to music. We also arrange occasional outings such as trips to Lepe and Fairweather's Garden Centre, although meetings are mostly at Cornerstones. Support and transport are provided for those in need. We currently average about seven members, plus helpers.



SAFEGUARDING

Joy Drake

All Families Matter staff and Trustees are required to have a thorough understanding of our policies and practices and to undertake regular Safeguarding training. We are grateful to Paul Lailey of Trustworthy Services for running sessions for us which are informative and interesting and particularly tailored to our work.

We have an approved system for reporting any safeguarding concerns, which is communicated to staff and volunteers, with our manager Laura as Safeguarding lead, and Liz Bevan as her deputy.

At each Trustee meeting the number of safeguarding reports for the previous month are provided to Trustees. Most of these will just be a “cause for concern” which will be logged on the central system, and when they involve a school child, will be notified to the safeguarding lead of the school concerned. Any more serious concerns will be escalated to the appropriate authorities where a decision can be made about any necessary actions. Information about the people involved is kept confidential and not given to the Trustees.

My role as Safeguarding Trustee is to ensure that we have a rigorous policy in place, which is regularly reviewed and that the requirements of the policy are followed.

Our safeguarding email is:
safeguarding@families-matter.org.uk

PERSONNEL

Bev Hall

We were lucky enough to recruit two new school workers who started in September 2024. Both bring a wealth of experience of working with children. Catherine has now taken on the additional role of Deputy Swans Leader supporting Emily. Lisa has left her mark as appointed Deputy leader of our Women’s Wellbeing Group.

Our list of volunteers has increased too. Elaine Ketley in our Women’s Wellbeing Group and hopefully someone else joining soon.

Also, Amanda Dukes has joined and she’s successfully ran our first Healthy Relationship Awareness course. Welcome!

