

**BUILDING**

**COMMUNITY**

**CAPACITY**

**Thorney Bay Under  
5's group**

SEPT- Castle Point team



# Thorney Bay Caravan Park



There are around 1,100 caravans on Thorney Bay and around 200 children 0-19 years of age.

Local Services, Local Solutions



# Methodology of need identified

Parent's recognition of their own isolation within the Thorney Bay community.

# Aim

- To reduce isolation and promote community capacity for parents and children living on Thorney Bay.
- To incorporate health promotion in relation to child health and development, enabling families to identify their own needs.
- Work in partnership with children's centres provide a venue for parents to seek advice and support.
- Create a self sustaining event that could eventually be managed by the community.
- Enable H.V. staff to signpost vulnerable families.

## Thorney Bay Under 5's Group



Thursdays – 09.30-10.30am From 14<sup>th</sup> March

Please come straight from school run, don't worry about being a bit early or late.

- Refreshments for parents and children available.
- Tell us what you want the group to involve.
- Meet other parents living on the park.

A Health Visitor will join us some weeks and will be available for help and advice.

Please contact Lisa on 07943954437 or Donna on 07939882396 for more information as needed.

To whom it may concern,

As newly qualified Health Visitors we are undertaking government's targets of community capacity building in our area, Canvey Island. We have decided to focus on the more deprived area of Thorny Bay Caravan Park. Here we experience families living in poverty and poor conditions, many of which are isolated and unsupported by friends and family. What we are hoping to do is set up a group once a week in the outreach caravan based on the park where mothers can meet with each other and their under-fives. Our aim is for parents on the park to eventually support and befriend one another to reduce the isolation factor of their lives.

We also felt that this would be a good opportunity to offer some health promotion and education to parents. This is where we hope you can help as we are looking for donations of samples we can use for health promotion and aid levels of poverty in the form of baby equipment and food. Anything you can offer would be greatly appreciated as many of these children and babies are in great need.

Some ideas would include:

- Food samples or parcels.
- Baby feeding equipment such as bottles, teats, feeding bowls or spoons.
- Toys, rattles, cardboard page books or teething rings.
- Nappies, wipes, blankets muslins, cotton wool.
- Baby mittens, socks, tights, hats or clothing.

We hope to start our group in March with the incentive of some great donations.

We look forward to hearing from you soon; please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely

Lisa Seager- Health Visitor 07895079075

Donna Gosling- 07939882396

# Outcomes

- To reduce the isolation of individual families.
- Promote awareness of health and safety issues, for example, Dental hygiene, healthy eating, home safety and learning through play.
- To be economically sustainable.
- Building confidence and friendship within the community of Thorney Bay families.
- To empower families to sustain the group independently.



# How we engaged users

Through interaction with families living on Thorney Bay members of the health visiting team have identified isolated families.

# What Learning Has Been Gained

- Client group has variable levels of motivation and needs.
- Professionals learnt to adapt their skills to meet clients needs.
- Breaking perceptions of professional barriers.
- Relationship required grounding before client would become entrusting.
- Collaborative working.
- Project management skills.

# Implications for practice

- Use of Family Partnership Model
- Use of Health Visitor offer.
- Adapting to suit client base.
- Encouragement of sustainability for the project.
- Project management skills enhanced.
- Using new innovative ideas.

# Organisational Implications

- Solidifying relationships with voluntary agencies
- Raised profile of Health Visiting and SEPT with local community.
- Time spent running project.
- Currently the project has been unable to continue, due to the transient population nobody has been able to continue the running of the project.

# Community implications

- Enabled networking
- Enhanced ability to access services.
- Health promotion and reduced Isolation.
- Local shops where written to requesting donations of baby equipment, toys and food samples/parcels to be able to provide to parents

# A final pearl of wisdom you can share.

- Funding for advertising and refreshments would have enabled us to raise the profile more.
- Maintaining professional motivation is difficult with a client group which is very transient.
- Maintaining relationships with local community.
- Use of principles of Health Visiting.