



"Supporting, developing and advising Early Years settings,
Practitioners and Families"

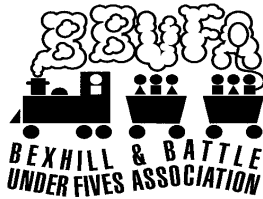
Bexhill & Battle Under Fives Association Ltd

Company Registration No: 5332657
Registered Charity No: 1110025

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Registered Office:
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Introduction from the Board of Directors

This year has seen the support to our member groups continue, and with the introduction in September of the Early Years Foundation Stage this year has perhaps been more challenging than most as groups grapple with getting to grips with the principles of free flow, learning journeys and 'snack bar', not to mention the arduous task of checking policies and procedures against the new Welfare Requirements to ensure that they are all current and relevant.

At BBUFA we too have faced challenges this year with the departure of our longstanding Development Manager Heather Rogers, who left us in August to work for Age Concern and the departure from the Board of Karen Woodgate, to enable her to concentrate further on her Foundation Stage degree. Both Emma Turner and Helen Atkin have also stepped down from the Board, taking up positions within BBUFA.

We would like to formally thank both Heather and Karen for their commitment to BBUFA during their time with us. They have helped shape BBUFA into the organisation it is today. As for Helen and Emma, although their time on the Board has come to an end and we will miss them in this capacity, they are still within the organisation, dedicated to the further growth and development of BBUFA.

From September Emma has taken on the role of Development Worker and Helen Atkin has made the transition from leading the Board to heading up the management of our BBUFA services.

This year has seen some key developments which have included;

- 50% expansion of our Service Level Agreement with EYCESS to include cover for all private providers in the Hastings, Eastbourne and Rother areas.
- 25% expansion of our Toy Library contract from ESCC to enable us to increase the regularity of our visits to our rural toddler groups.

In addition to these services our contract with Rother Children's Centre has continued and we provided over 160 crèches at various Children's Centre locations throughout Rother as well as providing weekly Peapods music and movement sessions and Little Monkeys physical play sessions.

External to our service level agreements we have continued to provide crèches for other organisations such as Hastings and Rother PCT, Rother Voluntary Action and FSN which have provided a valuable source of income for BBUFA to invest in its key services.

With the ever changing sector and the financial pressures that every organisation faces we feel that it is vital that BBUFA continues to remain connected with the practitioners that it was set up to support and to this end BBUFA launched its Advisory Group this year. The group consists of eleven practitioners who meet to network, swap ideas and all importantly to ensure that BBUFA remains true to its member groups and to its organisational aims. Whilst this group is still in its infancy we hope that this will provide an excellent platform to raise ideas and inform BBUFA's work and direction and to ensure that BBUFA continues to be a worthy organisation for your support.

Whilst BBUFA needs its Service Level Agreements to conduct specific pieces of work it is our member groups which are central to BBUFA and without our member groups we would not exist and we thank you all for your continued support – we look forward to working and supporting you all in 2009-2010.

BBUFA Ethos



Bexhill & Battle Under Fives Association Ltd has provided continuous support to its member groups during the past sixteen years.

The Association believes in the highest quality care and provision for all children in partnership with their parents and carers.

The Association Board and staff are a committed and well-informed workforce who bring current thinking and information to its member groups through guidance and training.

The Association liaises and works closely with other local and national organisations to ensure efficient and effective working practices are shared.

The Association is approachable and open to ideas and suggestions both informally through; its staff, the Advisory Group, the BBUFA newsletter, events and workshops with members, and formally at its Annual General Meeting.

The Association has grown substantially during the past sixteen years but its ethos remains firmly with the children, families and practitioners it works with.

BBUFA does this through;

Committee and staff mentoring schemes; Recruitment and staffing advice; Sharing of best practice and networking opportunities; Local training, Events and workshops; small scale project work; Funding advice and support; Termly newsletter; Dissemination of information; Liaison and signposting with other support organisations; Representation at local, county and national level.

To help support and achieve our aims BBUFA have a team of knowledgeable staff, a dedicated voluntary Board of Directors, support from our groups in the form of their membership and various Service Level Agreements with EYCESS, Rother Children's Centres and the Play Development Service.

BBUFA Advisory Group

BBUFA's Advisory Group has been established to help advise and support BBUFA to ensure that as an organisation it remains focused and relevant to its member groups.

The Advisory Group will help inform BBUFA on current issues within the Early Years profession and provide a platform by which these members are able to influence how BBUFA responds to seek to meet these needs.

The Advisory group consists of eleven members;

Ruth Dicken - Netherfield

Lynn Harding - Etchingham

Julie Webster - Little Common

Tracey Maskell - Robertsbridge

Kath Boyd - Ninfield

Helen Clifford - Cygnets, Bexhill

Karen Woodgate - Early Years, Bexhill,

Glenys Cornwall - Crowhurst

Alison Grinham - Ticehurst,

Karen Hathaway - Herstmonceux

Beverley Smith - Asten Fields, Battle

Whilst this group is still in its infancy we are hopeful that it is a positive step in ensuring that BBUFA remains an effective and relevant organisation.

Development Work

BBUFA currently supports 108 Early Years provisions throughout the Rother, Hastings and Eastbourne areas covered by our two development workers, Claire Dennis (Rother) and Emma Turner (Hastings and Eastbourne). The number of providers that we now support has expanded dramatically this year with an expansion to our EYCESS contract to cover development support to both voluntary and private providers. This has proved both interesting and challenging with some private providers reluctant to even have us over the threshold!

This year has seen the trial of the introduction of informal drop in workshops (funded by EYCESS) and these have, on the whole, been well received although in some cases attendance has been patchy. We will continue with these in 2009-10 as they are an excellent opportunity for us to have increased opportunities to liaise with practitioners, owners and committees on targeted issues.

We still remain very much focused on our membership groups with our members receiving termly newsletters, information on available funding, training and regular support visits from the development workers. The creation of our Advisory Group (see information on previous page) will help ensure that the needs of our member groups remain very much at the forefront and heart of BBUFA.

In 2009-10 BBUFA are committed to re focusing on our membership offer by offering enhanced training and topical workshops to help support our practitioners to feel as supported and knowledgeable as possible.

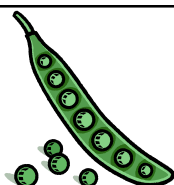
Toddler Group Support

Funding from the Rother Children's Centre enables us to provide support to toddler groups in the Bexhill area. Each group is visited once a term by our worker (Angela Crittenden) who helps extend the play opportunities by providing a range of age appropriate activities, support and information. This funding is continuing into 2009-2010 and we are looking into ways to expand the range and depth of the activities available.



Crèche

Our crèche team, led by Sandra Chambers, delivered in excess of over 200 crèches during 2008-09. These were delivered in various sites throughout Rother both as part of our Service Level Agreement with Rother Children's Centres and for our external partners. Sandra leads a dedicated crèche team which regularly involves running several crèches at different venues in one day!



Pebsham Peapods

Pebsham Peapods is our music and movement group held at the Pebsham Children's Centre. This group has grown in popularity so much this year that we have had to restrict the numbers. We have also introduced a 'Peapods Charter' to help aid parents sign up and keep to the aims of the group.

Funded by Rother Children's Centres

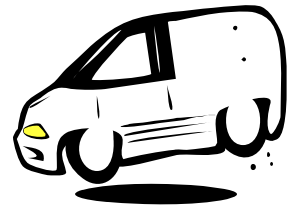


Little Monkeys

Little Monkeys is a physical activity session held weekly at Sidley Community Centre. Parents are encouraged to support and participate with their children and help them to discover and develop new skills during this active play session.

Funded by Rother Children's Centres

Toy Library



BBUFA's toy library service visits Children's Centres and toddler groups in the rural Rother area.

It delivers toys on a regular basis to parents who hire them for free, exchanging them for another toy on the next visit.

Additional funding from ESCC enabled us to increase our visits to fortnightly at most groups and this contract now comes via the Play Development Service.

As part of this service we are able to offer resources to both pre-school and toddler groups. This includes large physical play items, puppets and role play areas.

A recent evaluation of the service showed the following;

How do you find the quality of choice?			How do you find the quality			How helpful do you find the staff?		
poor	1	1%	poor	0		Not helpful	0	
good	40	44%	good	25	28%	helpful	15	17%
very good	48	54%	very good	65	72%	very helpful	75	83%
neither	1	1%	neither	0		neither	0	

This is an excellent service for parents and we are continually striving to ensure that the service reaches as many families as possible.

Food work in Rural Rother and Wealden



Funding from Action in Rural Sussex has enabled us to bring fun and easy cookery sessions into a selection of toddler groups in our area.

Each group has a series of 6 sessions during which a simple recipe is demonstrated. Parents can then take home a bag of the ingredients they need for them to try the recipe themselves.

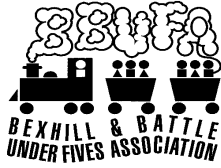
The scheme has proved very popular for participating groups and we have a limited amount of funding to continue this into 2009-2010.

Ticehurst

Robertsbridge

Sedlescombe





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Introduction & Financial Report from the Board of Directors

This information relates to the financial recording for the year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

As always BBUFA has had a very productive year servicing all of our member groups and our contracts. After a difficult year financially in 2007 to 2008 we have looked at the way in which BBUFA conducts its business. This last year has seen us reduce our outgoings considerably, by combining our office and storage units and by looking at which companies provide us with our phones, mobiles and IT support. Our team of staff have also helped us minimise costs and this has had a positive effect on our finances.

Our retained profit at the end of this financial year is now back to the levels of 2007, with £16,613.13. We have managed not to overspend on any of our contracts as we have now been awarded core cost recovery in our main contracts to cover all of the overheads we have previously had to fund.

Our private crèches have once again been very successful and income generated from these has been used to support the organisation and our member groups.

To assist our members in understanding our finances we have once again broken down the information supplied into a more manageable piece, showing the income and expenditure for each of our funding streams. A full copy of our audited accounts will be available for those of you with more of an interest in our finances. For the rest of us we have prepared some basic information which shows how we earned and spent our money in 2008-2009.

Profit and Loss Statement for Financial Year 2008-2009

Profit & Loss Account			
Year	2008 - 2009	2007 - 2008	2006 - 2007
Turnover / Income	£111,817.00	£84,032.00	£105,288.00
Expenditure	£95,203.21	£95,518.00	£93,870.00
Operating Profit	£16,613.16	-£11,468.00	£11,418.00



Contract and Funding Stream Breakdown 2008-2009

Board Income & Reserves	
Brought Forward	£6,980.46
Income	£8,438.32
Expenditure	-£5,266.33
Balance	£10,152.45
<p>Comments: BBUFA reserves to ensure stability of organisation. To enable us to continue to support our members by subsidising training and development opportunities.</p>	

RCC & Toy Library	
Brought Forward	£92.29
Income	£54,894.65
Expenditure	-£51,869.58
Balance	£3,117.36
<p>Comments: A balance from this financial year is being carried forward to support provision of Little Monkeys and Peapods in 2009-2010.</p>	

LNF & Sports Relief	
Brought Forward	£535.73
Income	0
Expenditure	-£19.55
Balance	£515.78
<p>Comments: Funding from previous year.</p>	

EYCESS	
Brought Forward	-£2,475.92
Income	£27,822.12
Expenditure	-£24,922.91
Balance	£423.29
<p>Comments: This year we have under spent on this contract through very careful management. We still have funds to bring forward to cover expenses for the previous financial year. Any balance of funding will be used to support the groups.</p>	

Private Crèche	
Brought Forward	£4,557.40
Income	£20,661.25
Expenditure	-£12,440.47
Balance	£12,778.16
<p>Comments: Income from our private crèche work will be used to support the training and development of our team and member groups.</p>	

Food Project	
Brought Forward	£1,974.02
Income	0
Expenditure	-£684.07
Balance	£1,289.85
<p>Comments: This funding will continue to support programmes across our member groups linked to healthy eating.</p>	

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BBUFA's Board

Lisa Bartlett – Finance Director

Marie-Ange Coxhead – Company Secretary

BBUFA's Staff team

Development Manager

Helen Atkin

BBUFA's Administrator & Bookkeeper

Leanne Walker

Pre-school Development Team

Claire Dennis - Rural Rother

Emma Turner - Hastings and Eastbourne

Toddler Support Worker

Angela Crittenden

Crèche Team & Activity Groups (Peapods and Little Monkeys)

Sandra Chambers - Crèche Team Leader

Julie Roarty - Deputy Crèche worker

Anne Andrews - Mobile Crèche worker

Angela Hicks - Mobile Crèche Worker

Shirley Markham - Mobile Crèche Worker

Sally Crockford - Mobile Crèche Worker

Heidi Jackson - Mobile Crèche Worker

Carrie Spice - Mobile Crèche Worker (on maternity leave)

Lisa Taylor - Mobile Crèche Worker (on maternity leave)

Toy Library

Ewa Biadala-Peters

Elaine Reid

BBUFA's Members

Playgroups, Pre-Schools, & Nurseries

Bexhill: Bexhill High School Nursery, Christchurch Methodist Playgroup, Cygnets Childcare Centre, Early Years Nursery, Little Angels Playgroup, Little Common Playgroup, Patchwork Pre-School, Rainbow Childcare Centre, St Mary Magdalene Independent Nursery, Stepping Stones Playgroup, 1st Friends Day Nursery.

Rural Rother: Battle Pre-School Playgroup, Bodiam Pre-School Playgroup, Catsfield Under Fives Playgroup, Crowhurst Playgroup, Etchingam Under Fives, Herstmonceux Pre-School, Ladybirds Pre-School, Little Acorns Hurst Green Playgroup, Netherfield Pre-School, Ninfield Pre-school, Robertsbridge Children's Services, Sandhurst Nursery School, Sedlescombe Pre-School, Stonegate Pre-School.

Eastbourne: Chalk Hill Pre-school, Eldon Road Pre-School, Lower Willingdon Pre-School Nursery, Pevensey and Westham Playgroup.

Hastings: The Gables Day Nursery, Ore Church Mice Playgroup.

Thank you all for your continued support!