

Work with children and young families

Meadow Well Estate is an area of high social stress which is ranked in the bottom 1.25% in terms of deprivation, and in terms of income deprivation in the bottom 0.3% nationally and ranked in the bottom 0.5% in terms of 0-15yo's living in income deprived families

In Chirton Ward 51% of the population have dependent children, in Riverside Ward 49% of the population have dependent children. Of the children in Chirton Ward 39% live in low income families, 37% for Riverside Ward (Borough-wide 19.9%)

All of the schools in Chirton Ward have a higher percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals than the Borough Average.

65.8% of 10/11 year olds on the Estate are overweight or obese

In the two Wards 119 families are part of the "Troubled Families Programme" this represents approximately 25% of the Borough total.

Until recently there has been no active play facility on the Estate.

Our Response

The Trust has developed a range of responses to the issues faced by children and young families. Much of the current success of our work has its roots in personal contact and word of mouth. We will continue to focus upon building and strengthening positive relationships within the community, learning from the successes of our Drop-in and community listening activities and building future programmes and activities from that baseline.

During the past 2 years we have spent a great deal of time listening to residents about the challenges they face and access to play and childrens services have featured highly on the ambitions of residents. Building upon the successes of our Parents Plus and holiday programmes we have developed a range of responses.

Parents Plus:

Parents plus was the beginning of our co-ordinated response to the requests for parenting support from the Trust. The project developed from our long history of working with families and children to tackle some of the challenges faced by families on the Estate. Parents Plus currently works with c.200 families.

Wor Bairns:

A newly formed group focusing upon the specific needs of the child, targeting pre-birth to 3 year olds and working cooperatively with Parents Plus and our childrens programmes.

PlayLab:

A new way of developing play activity across the Estate, PlayLab aims to develop opportunities for play linked with learning for children aged 4-11yrs.

Holiday Activities:

Cedarwood continues to offer a range of holiday and seasonal play opportunity as resources become available