



THE REVIEW





CHRISTIAN FAMILY CONCERN MISSION STATEMENT

Christian Family Concern seeks to express the love of Christ in action.

It provides services to help parents meet their children's needs, to support the welfare of young people and works with all sections of the community without discrimination.



WELCOME TO OUR REVIEW

This year we have decided to theme our publication using the five aims and outcomes from The Children Act 2004:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic wellbeing

so we hope you will find this a useful way to hear about the work of the charity.

A major development for us during 2005 and 2006 has been the completion of the internal building works that have enabled us to move our offices into a slightly smaller space and create additional accommodation for young mothers on the ground floor of Wallis House. This means we can offer 'internal move on' to more or less self contained units, each with its own kitchen and bathroom, whilst still providing support and continued preparation for fully independent living. This is already making a difference to young mothers still waiting for tenancies of their own, with all the benefits of greater privacy and more space for their growing babies.

We thank God for providing the wherewithal to carry out this work but at the same time are grateful to all those who responded to our specific appeal for funds and indeed, to those who left us legacies in previous years that have met the cost of this major development.

It was great to follow up our Annual Thanksgiving Service in June with an open day and relaunch of our expanded Wallis House Mother and Baby accommodation, with lots of visitors including our local MP Andrew Pelling who unveiled a plaque marking the occasion for us.

The plaque refers to 1 Corinthians 13.7.

'Love ... always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres...'

It is not just in our work with the young mothers that we have tried to live up to this calling but throughout all of our work.

Our audited accounts for 2005/2006 are available as part of our Statutory Annual Report, but the broad financial information we have included on pages 14 and 15 is nevertheless accurate. Please do contact our office if you would like a copy of our Annual Report and Accounts.

The general work of the charity could not have continued on its present scale and form were it not for the continued support of donors big and small, individuals and churches to our general running costs.

We have received the majority of our voluntary income through private donations and legacies but we have also received contributions from a number of churches and organisations.

It is the combined generosity of all of our supporters that has enabled us to do all that we have through the year as earned income on its own would not cover all of our costs. We know that many who cannot support us financially continue to take an interest in our work and uphold us in prayer.

I hope you enjoy reading this Review and are able to pass it on to others. Please contact our office if you would like additional copies.

Leslie Hillier
Chief Executive

THE OUTCOMES

BEING HEALTHY

Providing a nursery and kids club where:

- Children are able to make healthy choices around food and diet with an emphasis on fresh and 'home prepared' food.
- Lots of opportunities for indoor and outdoor play...getting regular exercise and fresh air...keeping children fit and active.
- Children are encouraged to talk about their emotions, supporting self-esteem and confidence in settings where they and their parents can feel secure and not anxious.
- Young children especially are helped to develop good personal hygiene habits.
- Children with extra or special needs are positively welcomed and included, backed up with staff preparation and training.

In our family support work in Explorers Family 'Drop In' and our Supported Housing Bedsit Schemes we:

- Provide information and support to help mothers succeed with a choice to breastfeed.
- Provide information and discourage smoking and substance abuse.



- Ensure that those living with us are registered with GPs and Dentists, etc and take up health services which include child development, immunisation and child health screening to support infant growth and development
- Promote Support and encourage choices that promote sexual health.
- Support individuals with mental health difficulties to (re)settle successfully in the community.



THE OUTCOMES

STAYING SAFE

- Early in 2006 we had our Health and Safety Policy professionally reviewed with very positive outcomes.
- Work place and other risk assessments are carried out on a regular and systematic basis. Regular inspections are undertaken by Environmental Health with good outcomes. High standards of fire detection, prevention, and fighting systems and equipment are in place
- We have strong policies and practice around safeguarding children and protecting vulnerable adults. These include sound practices for the collection of children, restricted and protected entry into the buildings and clearly recorded signing out procedures.
- Clear procedures for administering and recording prescribed medicines where this is requested by parents.
- Providing children with good adult role models.
- Zero tolerance of bullying, abuse or discrimination.
- Response to any issues around domestic violence that might be affecting the families we work with, led by focus of child and adult safety.
- All staff and volunteers subject to Enhanced CRB checks.
- 24hr access to support for resident young people.
- Promoting an atmosphere where boundaries are clear, grown out of our Christian ethos and where children, young people and adults can feel they will be heard.



THE OUTCOMES

ENJOYING AND ACHIEVING

- Complete integration of Birth to Three Matters and the Early Years Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum.
- Successful integration of children with special needs into our Kids Club and progress towards this in our nursery, benefiting all of the children, not just those with special needs. Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators appointed for both Units.
- Emphasis on praise and recognition for effort and participation as well as progress towards goals that maximise each child's full potential.



- Support to young people living with us in returning to appropriate education, training or employment and where necessary helping to arrange suitable childcare.
- Providing a warm, friendly Drop-In where all families, including those who feel vulnerable, feel welcomed and less isolated.

- Full use is made of our indoor and outdoor spaces that are big enough to maximise choice and opportunity but are still on a domestic-like scale. Frequent use is made of community resources.



THE OUTCOMES

MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

- Aiming to support the development of strong, individual children and young people, with well developed self awareness, self esteem, personal skills and value systems appropriate to age and development.
- Across the age range discouraging anti-social behaviour and encouraging young people to keep themselves and others safe.
- Helping young people who might otherwise feel marginalised or on the edges feel included and central to what we are doing.

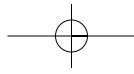


- Young people in supported housing are enabled and encouraged to find a voice and express their views constructively whilst shaping their own support plans.
- Opportunities for young people to volunteer or get work experience, particularly in our childcare provisions.



- Emphasis on listening to children and young people, e.g. children in the Kids Club participate in reviewing and setting 'rules'.
- Children participate in our annual Thanksgiving and Christingle services.

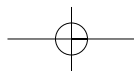




THE OUTCOMES

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELLBEING

- Providing high quality childcare on a not for profit basis enabling parents to work, study or train.
- Increase in the number of young parents accessing the nursery funded by Care to Learn (Government support to return to education).
- Helping young mothers and young single people in our supported housing plan for returning to education or training.
- Helping young people develop good financial habits and budgeting skills.
- Prudent management of the charity's own resources to provide the best value we can for all of our service users.



EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

Overall the indications are that our services have been relevant to the families of Croydon and are well used. In particular Birdhurst Nursery has achieved a much higher level of occupancy than for several years, with the increased capacity created in 2003 now being well used.

Our last Ofsted inspection in January, 2005 had a good outcome and since then we have been working closely with the Early Years Team on making further improvements. The nursery staff have a challenge in the coming year in responding to the developments and increased expectations in early years practice.

We have welcomed the opportunity to be working with more families on a lower income or who are disadvantaged in some other way. Our families come from a huge breadth of backgrounds, having in common the need for high quality reliable childcare whilst enabling them to work and meet the high cost of living in Croydon.

Birdhurst Kids Club has consolidated experience gained since its inception in 1997, in particular seeing children with disabilities accessing both the Afterschool Club and the Holiday Playschemes on a regular basis. Feedback from children and parents indicates a high level of satisfaction particularly with the quality of the relationships between staff and children and amongst the children where the latter are well known and understood as individuals and feel cared about and valued whilst they are with us.

Patterns of attendance in Explorers have varied enormously through this year as they have in previous ones. Some families attend just occasionally, others on almost all the occasions we are open. We have teenage parents, grandparents, and everyone in between coming. All seem to value Explorers as a safe place for them and their children where they can share as much or as little as they want with the staff or other families. The possibility of setting up one session specifically for families where there are children with special needs will be explored in 2006/2007.

In the Wallis House mother and baby scheme we have seen a significant shift in the user group with fewer of our users coming from care leaver or asylum seeker backgrounds and more coming from homeless families referrals. This has not necessarily meant that the levels of support needed have come down, but that we are more often the only professionals involved with young mothers for any length of time.

In December we were at last able to begin the building work on a long planned and awaited extension of the mother and baby unit by creating four studio like units on the ground floor of Wallis House where there had previously been office accommodation. These are of a very high quality, each with its own kitchen and bathroom. In taking this route we have not just increased our capacity, but improved the quality of our accommodation enabling us to offer an internal 'move on' once mothers have given birth. During this time we have got to know them and established a working support relationship, but they are still in a situation where they might have to wait some time for independent tenancies in either the public or private housing sectors.

The main kitchen that serves the existing bedsits on the first floor has been completely refurbished and a small laundry/utility room has also been created. The work was carried out at a time when we had the window of opportunity of having lower occupancy upstairs before we built up to higher numbers.

Trustees believe that 2005-2006 has been a successful year for the charity where we have continued to build on the work of previous years and allow for further improvements in years to come, meeting the needs of families in Croydon ranging from the 'ordinary' to more specific or extra.

Our charitable purpose, as stated in our governing document, 'is the relief according to the principles and practice of the Protestant Evangelical Faith...of children.....young persons.....parents and pregnant women in need of care and protection.'

In pursuit of this purpose our services have followed a similar pattern to previous years. We have detailed on the following pages information as to the usage of our services.

In all that we have been doing, in keeping with our purpose, we have sought to be expressing the love of Christ in action.

EXPLORERS FAMILY DROP-IN

EXPLORERS FAMILY DROP-IN

providing very informal support to families typically with children under five through three four hour sessions a week with a range of children's, parents' and children, and occasionally adult resources and activities.



	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006
Total number of families using the service	22	28
Total number of sessions provided	102	102
Families where English is a second language.	9	9
Families where there are housing issues.	4	2
Families dependent on benefits or very low income.	4	5



USER COMMENTS;

- 'Children can roam around with different rooms to play in.'
- 'The staff know the children and take the time to talk to the mums'
- 'My grandson loves it and I am very comfortable here'
- 'Lovely, friendly relaxed atmosphere - I like it here'
- 'Good because the children can learn to play with others before they start school'
- 'There is a lovely, friendly atmosphere with free use of the kitchen.'

BIRDHURST NURSERY AND BIRDHURST KIDS CLUB

BIRDHURST NURSERY a fifty place registered day nursery for children under five.

	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006
Total number of children using the service	85	102
Total number of days of childcare used	8,714	10,997
Overall percentage occupancy through the year	71%	87.6%
Percentage of children funded through Social Services, Care to Learn or in some other way family assisted in respect of low income or child in need status	1%	7%



BIRDHURST KIDS CLUB with up to forty registered places at any one time for after school care or holiday play schemes, for children 4 to 11years.



	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006
Total number of children using the service	146	163
Total number of After School Sessions Used	4,933	10,997
Percentage occupancy of After School	77%	83%
Total number of Playscheme day sessions used	1,692	1,541
Overall % age occupancy of Playscheme	62%	66%
Percentage of children with special needs in the afterschool	Nil	2%
Percentage of children with special needs in the Playscheme	Information not available	4%

USER COMMENTS;

- 'I recommend Birdhurst Nursery, the staff are very friendly and my son enjoys coming'
- 'It has been great for my daughter and a lifesaver for me'
- A visiting parent commented - 'I found a special atmosphere at your Nursery'
- 'We chose Birdhurst Nursery because we felt it would be the right place for him given that he had some special needs'
- 'I am impressed with the welcome given to the children in Birdhurst Kids Club'
- 'As a parent I felt comfortable knowing that my child felt at home very quickly in Birdhurst Kids Club'
- 'The toys and play equipment in the Club are excellent and the staff are very friendly'

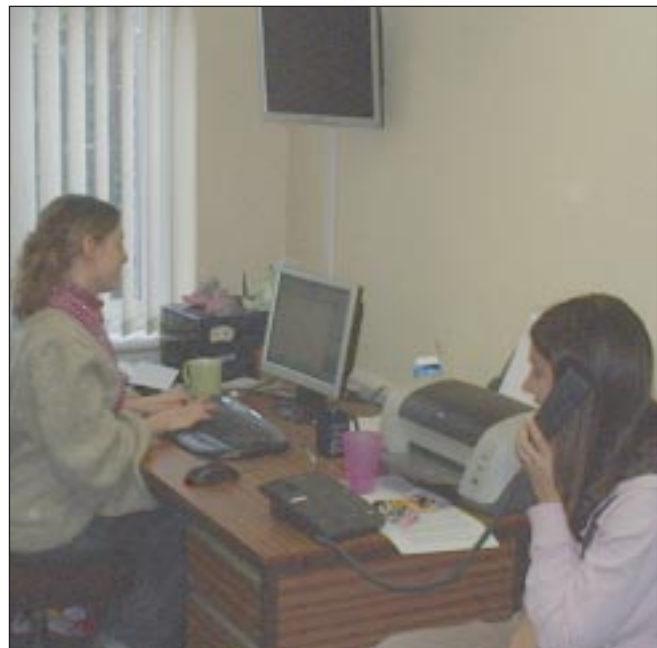
SUPPORTED HOUSING

BERACAH BEDSIT SCHEME providing semi independent accomodation with support services for up to six young people aged 16 years plus.

	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006
Total number of young people accessing the service	7	11
Percentage Occupancy	72%	76%
Refugees/asylum seekers	6	6
Individuals with mental health difficulties	3	4
Care leavers	4	6
Homelessness status	0	1
Planned move on	1	3



AGE OF INDIVIDUALS AT TIME OF MOVING IN BY %		
AGE	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006
16 years	28%	40%
17 years	14%	10%
18 years	14%	20%
19 years	28%	20%
Older	14%	10%



USER COMMENTS;

'You're like a family to me'

'It seems like you are the only ones who care about me'

'I have to admit that I really miss this place' (said soon after she had moved out)

'Living here gives me more independence'

SUPPORTED HOUSING

WALLIS HOUSE BEDSIT SCHEME providing semi independent accommodation primarily for young first time single mothers, pregnant young women, and occasionally single young women with support needs. During 2005-2006 Wallis had capacity for six women plus babies.

	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006
Total number of mothers accessing the service	11	14
Percentage Occupancy	83%	94%
Refugees / asylum seekers	7	5
Individuals with mental health difficulties	2	3
Child welfare issues	1	1
Care leavers	6	4
Homelessness status	4	8
Planned move on	5	8
Individuals using the nursery 6 months after move-on	2	2



AGE OF INDIVIDUALS AT TIME OF MOVING IN BY %

AGE	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006
16 years	18%	14%
17 years	45%	35%
18 years	18%	14%
19 years	9%	21%
Older	9%	14%

USER COMMENTS;

'It is an advantage to be here as they help you prepare yourself before you are on your own.'

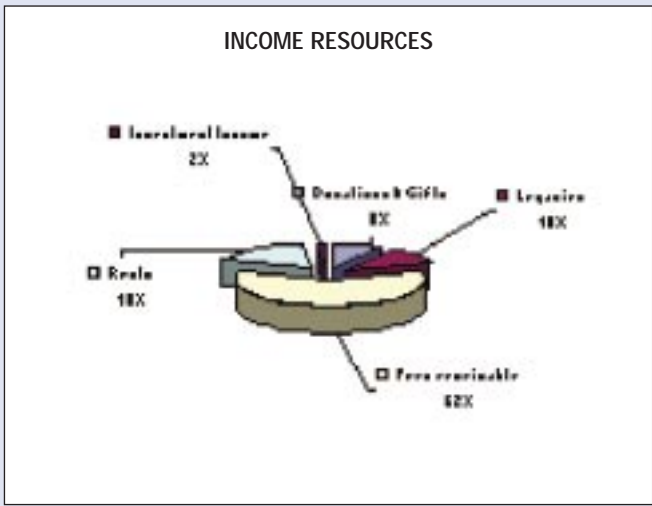
'CFC encouraged and taught me skills of living as a mother'

'I love my room'

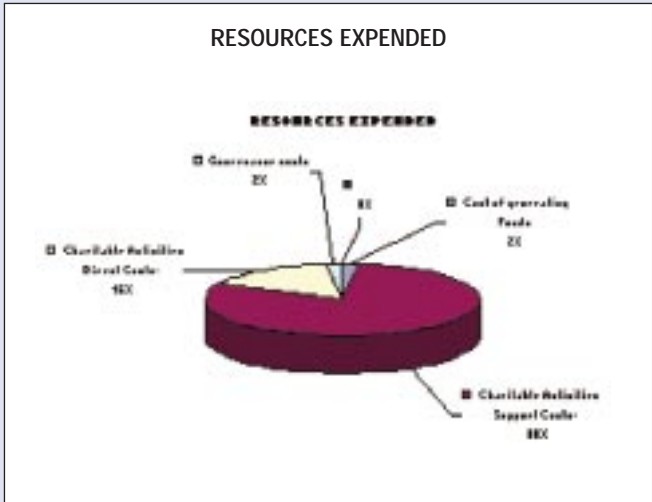
'The staff are very nice and helpful and have done a lot for me.'

FINANCIAL REPORT 2005/2006

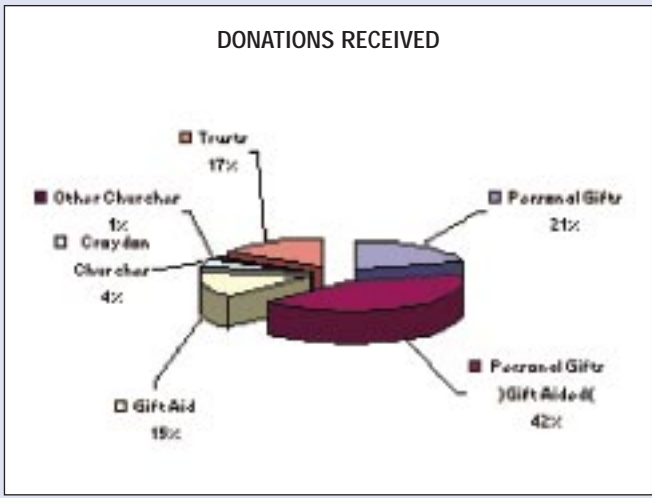
	2005	2006
INCOME RESOURCES		
Donations & Gifts	41920	55396
Legacies	45685	63714
Fees receivable	330806	416867
Rents	109464	121903
Investment Income	11122	10797
Sundry Income	315	3936
TOTAL	539312	672313



RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Cost of generating Funds	9626	11047
Charitable Activities - Support Costs	501548	471920
Charitable Activities - Direct Costs		95137
Governance Costs	10217	11930
TOTAL	521391	590034



DONATIONS		
Personal Gifts	11162	11444
Personal Gifts (Gift Aided)	14198	23548
Gift Aid (Tax Claims)	3849	8040
Croydon Churches	4700	2206
Other Churches	1936	827
Trusts	4800	9231
Other	1275	100
TOTAL	41920	55396



FINANCIAL REPORT 2005/2006

The summary income and expenditure information set out on these pages is extracted from the Financial Statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2006, and as such may not provide a full understanding of the financial affairs of Christian Family Concern.

The Annual Report for Christian Family Concern, including the full Financial Statements, were approved by the Trustees on the 14 August 2006 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies. They have been audited by Jacob, Cavenagh & Skeet, Chartered Accountants and received an unqualified opinion. The Trustees Report and full Financial Statements are available free of charge from our registered office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The committed support you have given us over the past year is particularly important in sustaining our work.

This year we have been very encouraged by the level of support we have seen for the expansion of our 'Wallis House' mother and baby unit. At the end of March 2006 the total amount received was £12,743 and this has helped us to equip the new rooms to meet the demands of the young families. Additionally the 'Joyce Muddiman' appeal raised a total of £1,930 and these gifts have now been used to help refurbish the Wallis bedsits kitchens. The appeal fund has now been closed.

During the year we have benefited from a number of legacies and we give thanks for our dear friends who have remembered us in this way. The giving of gifts in this way can be a very emotive subject but, we would ask that you consider us when making or revising your will.

Many local and not so local churches now support us either financially or by sending gifts at harvest and Christmas time, all gifts are greatly received and are put to real use. This year we felt it appropriate to list those churches who have sent us financial gifts:- Emmanuel South Croydon, East Croydon URC, Diocese of Southwark, Emerson Park Evangelical, New Addington Baptist, Purley Baptist, Sanderstead URC, Selsdon Baptist, St Francis (Monks Hill), St Peters South Croydon, Kingswood Fellowship, Holy Saviour Addiscombe, St Mildred's PCC Croydon, Bethel Welsh Chapel, Culver Evangelical, St Neots PCC, Waterloo Road Free Church, Winsham URC, Chard Baptist, Worcester Park Baptist, Bradfield & Rougham Baptist,

Whilst acknowledging the importance of financial support we would also wish to thank those supporters who keep our work on their prayer lists. Without Our Lords' guidance nothing would be possible.

Once again thank you in the name of Our Lord.



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Ian Hamlin
Sharon Mclean
Hazel Taylor (Chair)

**Chief Executive and
Company Secretary:**

Leslie Hillier



Formerly Mission of Hope for Childrens Aid & Adoption

Incorporating the work of The Mission of Hope (founded 1893) and the Homeless Children's Aid and Adoption Society and F B Meyer Children's Home (founded 1920)

Registered in England under the Companies Act No 1486298 Registered as a Charity No 279962