

# **Peers Early Education Partnership**

**Annual Report  
2006-7**

**peep**

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## **Section 1 Reference and Administration details**

### **NAME OF CHARITY AND WORKING NAME**

Peers Early Education Partnership (PEEP)

### **CHARITY REGISTRATION NO:**

1049764

### **REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPERATIONAL ADDRESS**

The PEEP Centre  
Littlemore  
OXFORD  
OX4 6JZ

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Sir Colin McColl KCMG (Chairman)  
Tim Brighthouse  
Bernard Clarke  
Michael O'Regan OBE  
Rosemary Peacocke (resigned 16/06/06)  
Alison Street  
Helena Mitchell (appointed 09/03/07)

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Peter Silva

## **Section 2 Governance and management**

### **CONSTITUTION**

The Peers Early Education Partnership was established under a Trust Deed dated 15 September 1995 and registered as a charity on 10 October 1995. The Trust Deed details the objects of the charity and powers of the Trustees and was last amended on 17 June 1999.

### **ORGANISATION**

The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees. New trustees are invited to join the board by the current trustees. The Trust Deed sets a maximum of 10 on the number of trustees who can serve at any one time. Day to day management decisions are delegated to the Chief Executive who is responsible to the Trustees. The Chief Executive is supported by a staff of 17 (FTE), including a small management team.

See organisation chart overleaf.

## Section 3 Aims, Objectives and Activities

### Aims of PEEP

The objects of the Peers Early Education Partnership as set out in the governing document are:

- To advance the education of children between the ages of 0-5
- To promote research for the benefit of the public in the field of educating children.

### Main activities (1) – advancing children’s education

There are two main activities through which the organisation achieves its aim of advancing the education of children between the ages of 0-5.

#### THE LOCAL ACCREDITED CENTRE

The PEEP programme is implemented through a spectrum of delivery modes primarily in the estates of Rose Hill, Littlemore, Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys in Oxford as well as supporting delivery in other areas of Oxford and Oxfordshire through a mentoring programme for practitioners employed by the local authority. This activity is financed and managed directly by PEEP. The Oxford Accredited Centre provides the programme with a base to both illustrate its work and develop it further. Through this local programme, the education of children 0-5 is directly advanced by working with parents/carers to support their children.

**Home visiting.** Families with newly born babies are offered a home visit shortly after the baby is 6-8 weeks old. Visits are also offered to new families in the area and other families who request further visits.

**Home programme.** Home programmes are offered to families that have particular needs but are unable to access other provision because of their specific circumstances. A set period is negotiated with the family after which the situation is further assessed by the family and PEEP practitioner which facilitates a decision on further support to the family.

**Community groups.** A variety of groups are offered to families within walking distance of their homes in a number of appropriate community venues. The standard PEEP groups offer a free, universal service to families on an ongoing basis. Most of the groups are run at a particular age level eg babies, ones, twos etc. The PEEP plus groups are targeted to families with particular needs.

**Settings programme.** Support is offered to families who have children in the Foundation Stage through the setting they attend. This is done in conjunction

with the setting, involving their staff and working to support work that is being undertaken through the PEEP curriculum.

**Open access activities.** These activities focus on drop-in facilities in which parents have the opportunity to get involved in supporting their children's learning without committing themselves to ongoing attendance particular activities at fixed times.

**Comprehensive, flexible access activities.** This particular activity provides a service through a 'shop' in a community shopping centre. The service makes information available to families on a wide range of support that they can access and provides play activities for families which are based around a developmental, spiral curriculum.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

The programme is disseminated nationally to further advance the education of children with whom the Oxford Accredited Centre does not have direct contact. This involves training and supporting other organisations with advice and the sharing of good practice eg local Sure Starts, Children's Centres, Family Centres, Early Excellence Centres, schools and local authorities to run the PEEP programme. A spectrum of services are offered to organisations that are contemplating using the PEEP programme or who are extending its use within their organisation.

**Consultation visits** are offered in which preliminary discussions can take place with senior management in an organisation to determine whether there is any scope for using the PEEP programme.

**Information days.** If a decision is made to pursue the programme, an Information Day is available through which PEEP is introduced to a large number of people who are involved with the organisation, either practitioners, managers or support professionals.

**Visitors' Days.** Visits to the Accredited Centre in Oxford are offered for anybody who wishes to see the programme in operation. This offers the opportunity to see specific activities and talk in detail to practitioners about how the programme works in practice.

**PEEP for Practitioner Training.** Finally PEEP for Practitioner training is available to those who will be implementing or managing the programme. Besides the training for staff, accreditation through the Open College Network also offered to parents/carers.

## **Main Annual Objectives and strategies for 2006-7**

### **Strategic and Funding**

- 1 Develop an Operational Process which will enable the redefined organisation to work efficiently and effectively – including set of Operational Diagrams which explain the operational process clearly.
  - Clarify the three 'sectors' in which the organisation works: community, professional and government/VCS.

- Pilot the operational process through staff and trustee meetings.
- 2 Restructure the governance process.
  - Reschedule the trustee meeting schedule and identify the main focus of each meeting.
  - Construct three trustee working groups to deal with: Strategy and finance, Educational Development, and Research.
  - Pilot the restructured governance through trustee meetings.
- 3. Develop Fundraising process
  - Develop a costing structure that can include full cost recovery for projects.
  - Pilot the new costing structure through an application process to a charitable trust.
  - Sustain applications to central government, local government and charitable trusts.

### **Accredited Centre - Oxford**

1. Maintain a Core Programme through the Oxford Accredited Centre
  - Maintain the central services of the Core Programme
  - Develop flexible services and activities within a Core Programme.
  - Secure sustained funding for the Core Programme services.

### **New Projects**

1. Develop and document the new projects established in 2005-6:
  - Shopping Centre Project
  - Mental Health project
  - Special Educational Needs project
  - Health Clinic Project
2. Establish new projects
  - Early Learning Partnership Project –
    1. Barnardos: South West  
North East
    2. PLA: Staffordshire  
Lake District

### **Dissemination**

1. Training
  - Refine and develop database for training administration.
  - Develop practitioner registration and accreditation
  - Revise training manual
  - Pilot 3<sup>rd</sup> day training
  - Extend Regional Trainer recruitment
2. Support
  - Develop new practitioner support materials
  - Revise publicity material
  - Initiate Local Authority Service Agreements

### **Main activities (2) – Promoting research**

1. Disseminate the findings of two major studies: Birth to School Study and the Enabling Parents Study.

2. Evaluate new projects.
  - Room to Play

## Section 4 Achievements and performance

### Achievements

#### A. Advancing Children's Education

##### LOCAL PROGRAMME

Across all age groups, 382 books and 664 play packs were borrowed during the year.

**Home visits.** Visits to families with newly born babies were continued in The Leys and visits were also made to families who were new to the area. During the year 285 families, with children between the ages of 6 weeks and 36 months, were entered onto the PEEP database and 196 (69%) of the families were visited at home by PEEP staff.

**Home Programme.** The programme worked extremely successfully with a wide variety of families opting for inclusion into the programme e.g

Some examples

There were 24 Home Programmes run over.

- The average number of session for a Home Programme dropped from 5 to 3.5, indicating that families were helped more effectively. Some were able to move on to standard provision.
- 67% of the families involved in Home Programmes were from Ethnic Minorities – Black British, Black African and Pakistani constituting the majority of these.
- Over 65% of the families were referred by statutory service professionals e.g Health Visitors, Social workers, Children Centre Family Workers.

##### Community Groups

**Standard PEEP groups.** There were 21 standard PEEP groups during the year with 154 children and their parents/carers attending. This includes four multi-level groups as well.

There were:       9 Baby groups run with 76 families attending.  
                          6 groups for Ones with 57 families attending.  
                          6 groups for Twos with 96 families attending.

NB: The total of 162 families is less than the total of babies, ones and twos added up, because some families will have attended more than one age group within the same period

**PEEP plus groups** were also run during the year.

One PEEP plus group for parents with basic skills needs ran in the Autumn of 2006, with 7 families attending. A group for Asylum Seekers, in conjunction with Asylum Welcome, ran in the summer of 2006, with 9 families attending.

PEEP ran a group in partnership with the local Children's Centre for isolated Asian mothers. On average 9 families have attended each session. This is now being run by the mothers themselves with some support from the Children's Centre.

**Settings.** PEEP staff ran 12 weekly sessions in 2 settings in the catchment area with 105 children attending each session developing its own format and process.

### ***Open Access activities***

The work in Health Clinics has provided a new way to support families who have not been using other support services. A PEEP practitioner attends the clinic where she is available to support parents and also take referrals from Health Visitors. The summer term had 206 families attending the clinic where immunisations were also given. The clinic moved in the Spring and Winter terms to a Children's Centre with 63 and 40 families attending respectively. In all terms, the PEEP practitioner greeted every family attending the clinic and had extended interaction with 75% of the families.

### ***Comprehensive, flexible access activities.***

The Open access project, in the local Templars Square Shopping Centre in Cowley, has been in full flow for 11 months and has seen a steady increase in attendance figures. 'Room to Play' has received 6811 visits from children with 5130 visits from female carers and 622 visits from male carers, making a total of 12,563 visits. These figures approximate to 100 visits by women each week, 15 visits by men and 160 visits by children.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

### ***Consultation meetings***

Consultation visits have proved a useful tool to introduce the work of the organisation and many information days have stemmed from these meetings. Our chief executive carried out 9 consultation meetings with 54 attendances.

### ***Information Days***

There were 4 Information Days held with 54 people attending.

### ***Visitors' Days***

There was 1 Visitors' Day held with 8 people attending.

### ***Training***

- We saw a substantial increase again this year for attendance at PEEP for Practitioner training. We trained 682 people. Of these 172 were from Sure Starts/Children Centres and 50 from schools/colleges (from nursery and pre-school to universities). The remaining 460 were employed by early years centres, local authorities (including education, family

learning, portage), PCTs/health services and voluntary sector organisations.

- The professionals/occupations of those who attended were wide ranging. The majority were Early Years workers and Nursery Nurses, and the remaining were community/outreach workers, family support workers, health workers and visitors, psychologists, librarians, speech and language specialists, teachers, parents and volunteers.
- The 50 training events were held in 34 different locations throughout the UK. Uptake was particularly strong in the East Midlands, with 187 practitioners being trained, and Scotland, with 102, making good use of our regional trainers in those two areas. People attended from the other regions as follows: Eastern 20, London 26, North East 22, North West 52, South East 47, South West 93, West Midlands 62, Yorkshire and Humberside 32, Wales 20 and unknown 29.
- PEEP inducted 5 new regional trainers, two in Somerset and three within the Bristol area.

### **Registration**

- 255 people who had done PEEP training signed up for practitioner registration on our website over the year
- These practitioners were from around the UK, but particularly from areas/organisations which employed a PEEP co-ordinator
- Pilot Day 3 courses for accreditation at undergraduate and masters levels were held.

### **Website**

- Visits to the website have steadily increased to 6,500 visits each month.
- Almost 1000 documents were downloaded each month

### **Local authority agreements**

- These were signed by Bristol, Aberdeen, Midlothian and Somerset

### **Publications and pamphlets**

- The pamphlet '**What is PEEP**' was revised and has continued to be very useful with 2500 being distributed between April 2006 and March 2007.

## **B. Promoting Research**

1. Continued to disseminate results of the two major studies: Birth to School Study and Enabling parents study.
2. New Project evaluation.  
**Room to Play.** An external evaluation of *Room to Play* (a comprehensive, flexible access project) is being carried out by Oxford University Department of Educational Studies (OUDES). It is taking place in three discrete phases over the three-year

duration of the project. The first phase comprised staff interviews and participant observation and was designed to:

- Document and critically appraise the process of setting up the shop and the first few months of its operation in the light of its aims and objectives:
- To identify any unexpected outcomes/successes/shortcomings.

Phase 1 of the evaluation was completed in June 2007. The issues emerging from the study have informed the on-going development of the project and are contributing to the development of a model for similar provision that could be developed in other areas.

Findings from the Room to Play have been presented at the annual conference of the British Educational Research Association, September 2006. 'Reaching the hard to reach' families: evaluation of a shop-front programme in a shopping centre' Evagelou, M., Smith, S. and Sylva, K.

# **Section 5 Financial review**

The annual accounts for 2006-7 are attached.

# **Section 6 Future plans – 2006/7**

A work plan for 2006/7 is attached.

