



ANNUAL REPORT 2010 – 2011

STAR

Larkhall United Reformed Church

Avondale Buildings

Bath

BA1 6NO

07969078390

info@star4diverstiy.org.uk

www.star4diversity.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1023528





STAR is committed to promoting diversity, inclusion and equality in early years settings in the Bath and North East Somerset area.

STAR offers practical support and training for Early Years Practitioners, child-minders, teachers, carers and parents, helping them to create an inclusive environment for all children within their childcare settings.

STAR aims to support equality of opportunity for all children and to promote positive images of people of all races, cultures, creeds and physical abilities.

Management Committee.

Chair	Laura Mitchell	Member	Julia Smith
Vice Chair	Emma Nix	Member	Barbara Nix
Treasurer	Sarah Jones	Outreach Worker	Monalisa Mukherjee
Stay and Play co-ordinators	Sarah Brooks and Kathryn Fenton		





There are many people we have said good bye to this year due to different circumstances. I would firstly like to say a big thank you to Mark Brown, the previous Chair, who did such amazing work for STAR including designing the website, running the toy libraries including setting up a mobile library, finding translators and many other tasks that took up a large amount of his time. I would also like to thank Jan who was involved with STAR for many years running the toy library and being the Treasurer and finally to Nereida who was one of our outreach workers. Thank you for taking the message of diversity to many setting in and around Bath. We wish you all well for the future and thank you again.

This is my first year as Chair for STAR and it has been a huge learning curve for me and the committee members that have stayed with STAR or become a new member. In the last six months we have relocated the STAR library, opened up a stay and play session and redesigned the website. Although some services have been lost for example the mobile toy library we have steadily starting to regain the core services that STAR has always offered such as the toy library and outreach services.

The toy library now opens twice a month with Barbara running it. This can be hard at times with only one adult to book toys in and out, so we are looking for more volunteers to assist her in this. The library has slowly regained more membership as the word spreads that STAR is open in Larkhall. We hope that this will increase further in the coming year.

Alongside the toy library we have opened a stay and play session in the church hall. This is in the hope that STAR will attract more members and volunteers and bring the local community together. Kathryn and Sarah run the stay and play session and we thank them for their continued enthusiasm. Also thank you to members of the church that have come to help make teas and coffee. Again we hope that this will increase in numbers in the coming year.

Our outreach work has been able to continue with the funding from BANES and work carried out by Monalisa. We hope to visit 30 Setting this coming year, giving them advice and guidance on diversity. This is a vital part of STAR and we thank Monalisa and BANES for their support.

Also thanks to the work done by Julia and her husband we have been able to redesign our website in the hope of making it more informative and accessible to everyone. Thank you.

A final thank you must be given to Emma the vice chair who has been a great support to me, written up the minutes, printed new leaflets and many other tasks. Thank you.

I also thank everyone else who has given me and STAR advice and supported us through this time of change. As you may have noticed I am pregnant and am due to give birth in December, but I hope to carry on with my duties as chair for STAR as much as possible and I look forward to seeing STAR grow in the coming year.

Laura Mitchell, STAR Chair.



Report from Monalisa Mukherjee (Outreach Development Worker):

Service Level Agreement – Outreach Visits

We would like to thank all the Early Years settings and children that have welcomed STAR into their settings. I am very pleased to report that I have been given the position of STAR's main Outreach Development Worker - I feel fortunate to be doing work that I believe in and to be working with a supportive management committee.

STAR Outreach Visits are funded by B&NES Early Years and Extended Services. We would like to thank them for their on-going support of STAR, and for recognising the importance of the Outreach Service. STAR has visited settings in Radstock, Camerton, Paulton, Wellow, Bath and East-Harptree.

Promoting the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion for all children is an area I am passionate about. I enjoy commending settings for the good work they are doing and discussing areas in which they can develop further. This year we have worked creatively with the settings' ENCO's to set specific goals to reach within six months of their first visit. We have also left multicultural resources with the settings for them to work with between visits.

I believe in the ability of settings to create an environment where all children feel valued and unique thus helping their self-esteem to develop. I also enjoy encouraging settings to find ways to help children to express their feelings. Talking about feelings can be a starting point for children to develop empathy for others.

Training Needs

Several settings felt that they needed more in-depth training to help support them with anti-racist practice in the Early Years. There has been an interest in Persona Doll Training. STAR has plans to deliver training in these areas in the future.

There was also a demand for all levels of Makaton Training.





Promoting diversity, inclusion and equality for all children

Training, Talks and Workshops

As part of the Service Level Agreement STAR has attended Early Years Cluster meetings in which the Outreach Workers promote STAR's work by talking about the ethos of STAR and looking at specific topics such as Multiculturalism and Food. We look forward to attending more cluster meetings in the coming year.

STAR was also invited to an Inset Day by Peasedown St John Primary School in which I delivered a workshop on the importance of positive image resources

Outside/aside from the Service Level Agreement Shelagh Hetreed delivered a twilight training session to Norland Nursery which went very well, but STAR was unable to fund any further training to other Nurseries. We hope this may be possible in the future.





STAR multicultural library and stay and play sessions.

The multi cultural toy library (STAR) has relocated from Riverside to the United Reformed Church in Larkhall (*opposite St Saviours Infant school.*) This exciting move has enabled STAR to start a Stay and Play group on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month **(Term Time only)**.

These sessions will be for childminders, parents, carers and of course children , to come and use the resources, join in activities including singing, socialise over tea or coffee, and see what STAR has to offer. You can become a STAR member for a small fee and then borrow the resources.

STAR is a charity specialising in working with professionals and parents concerned with creating a positive environment for all children under 8 at home and at school or Nursery. STAR's overall objective is to work towards the elimination of discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.

The Mayor attended our official relaunch on Tues 4th October. The event was well attended and we received support from childminders and local nurseries including Norland Nursery and Little Scribblers.

Both the Stay and Play sessions and the Toy library is run by volunteers and help is always needed and gratefully received!! We would like to thank the church for allowing us to use their facilities and for their continuing support.

Emma Nix
STAR COMMITTEE MEMBER





STAR

Promoting diversity, inclusion and equality for all children

Treasurer's Report.

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 March 2011

	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2010/11</u>
	£	£
Service Level Agreements	5,445	6,254
Members Fees	1,166	891
Donations	715	69
Sundries	19	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,345	7,218
Service Level Agreement Costs	3,176	2,621
Training	500	
Rent	547	1,016
Insurance	600	
Office Services	702	15
Office Costs	617	403
AGM Expenses	301	99
Volunteer Expenses	1,159	259
Resources: Toy Library and Office Equipment	3,545	1,679
Publicity and Advertising	560	
Sundries		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,840	6,182
Deficit/Surplus for the year	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-4,495	1,036

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2010

	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2010/11</u>
	£	£
Current Assets		
Debtors		
Cash	5,312	6,280
Current Liabilities	None	



Notes:

- There has been a decrease in membership fees due to the closure of the mobile library. Members wishing to give-up their membership were given a refund pro-rata.
- The increase in rent was due to the library in Midsomer Norton. Note: this is no longer in operation due to a shortage of volunteers.
- As the library temporarily closed in February to re-locate, the insurance was not renewed until it re-opened in the following financial year.
- No training costs incurred this financial year.
- With the relocation and change in Chair-person, many receipts and invoices were misplaced from June onwards. Judgement had to be used in categorising costs. Office costs and publicity were probably much higher.
- Sarah Jones resumed her role as Treasurer in August 2010 after a year on maternity leave.

