



**MARLOW OPPORTUNITY  
PLAYGROUP DRIVE FOR  
DONATIONS TO CONTINUE  
OUR GOOD WORK**

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Ten Year Annual Report to Celebrate the 10th  
Anniversary of MOP 2005 -2015

## **MARLOW OPPORTUNITY PLAYGROUP**

**(Registered charity no. 1108650)**

**10th Anniversary 2005 – 2015**

**The Marlow Opportunity Playgroup is celebrating ten years as a Charity and the continual drive for donations to support the special care that we provide for disabled children.**

### **Forward**

The battle of Solferino in 1859 between France and Austria gave rise to the formation of the British Red Cross. Who would have thought that a military action would one day, also lead to the formation of the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup!

The Red Cross in Buckinghamshire has long had a diverse range of services in the county with a common thread of helping people in crisis. Some 40 years ago a Red Cross service was introduced aimed at helping children with special needs and their families. Two schemes for children with special needs were established, one in the North of the county and one in the South.

In 2004 the Red Cross decided that the children's group could no longer be funded because of increasing demands in other service areas. Such was the popularity and importance of the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup it seemed incomprehensible, that a much needed service in the Community should close.

The Marlow Opportunity Playgroup has always enjoyed a high level of support from staff and volunteers, whose passion and motivation has always been driven by the needs of children and their families. Consequently MOP continued by establishing an independent charity run by a Voluntary Management Committee. The new charity posed significant challenges for the staff and volunteers and was very much "step in the darkness". As far as the children and their families were concerned there seemed very little had changed, but behind the scenes a whole new infrastructure was needed to accommodate Human Resources, Finance, Health and Safety, Marketing, Payroll, Premises Transport. Etc

Funding MOP has and always will be one of the biggest challenges along with having suitable premises to run the service. The Red Cross decided to sell off the freehold of the Marlow site where MOP had been based for many years and a new home had to be found for the service.

After exploring possible premises the current Scout Hall in Woburn Green was chosen, which has been our home since 2011.

The provision of excellence in care and education for children requires highly trained staff and

volunteers that are also caring and empathetic. Quality improvements in standards and service delivery are continually sort by the staff. An OFSTED inspection in 2011 judged the overall quality of service provision as "outstanding" and noted that "children flourish in this exceptional setting" The report went on to say "This rich environment provides children opportunities to develop skills for the future".

Managing a children's setting requires a whole range of skills and expertise. It is difficult to find a balance between providing quality childcare and ensuring that the business activities are looked after as well.

To achieve long term sustainability, it is essential to have good quality in childcare and business activities. In the childcare sector, this includes communicating with parents, managing employees and volunteers, caring for children, handling administration and making sure that the business activities generate sufficient income to cover managed costs and contingencies.

## **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup is to advance the education of children with special needs through the provision of nursery and pre-school care. This is achieved by the education of staff and volunteers in the provision of the care provided. Equally important is the Endeavour to create an atmosphere where children feel happy and their parents feel confident that the best possible outcomes are achieved for their children. The aims and objectives cannot be achieved without sustainable income and financial control.

## **WHAT WE DO**

Marlow Opportunity Playgroup follows a modified version of the Early Years Foundation Curriculum ( EYFS). The EYFS promotes effective practice through each of the seven areas of learning that supports children through various stages of maturity and development. These are reflected in each child's learning journey and individual record folder, providing evidence of advancement and development.

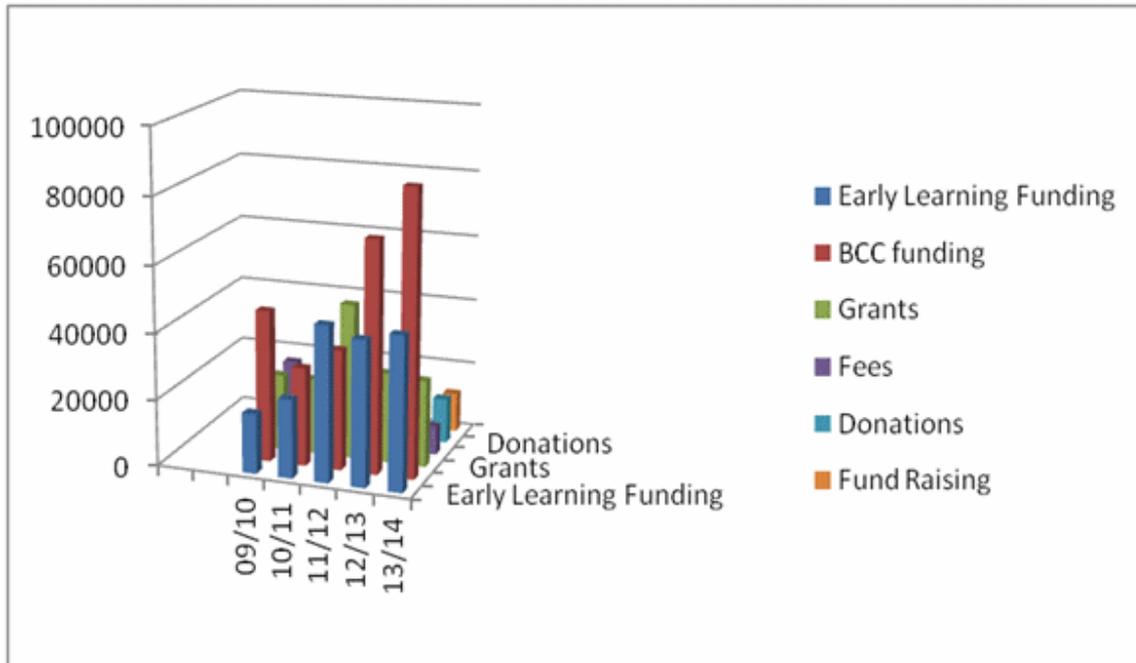
## **PERFORMANCE**

The Marlow Opportunity Playgroup provides up to 22 places per day. This equates to around 44,000 places since the independent charity was formed. The charity is proud of it's performance which is recognised by parent testimonials which include:

- "We would be lost without this playgroup".
- "A truly fantastic playgroup which gives parents of children with complex needs a sense of relief".
- "To watch our children's eyes light up when they know they are going to have bags of fun".
- "I don't know what we would have done without the playgroup".

## FINANCE

### MOP Funding Streams



### Fundraising and Donations

We need to raise in excess of £55,000 each year, in order to:

- achieve the appropriate staff :child ratio
- Provide necessary equipment
- Deliver a wide variety of stimulating activities for the children.

MOP is the only special needs nursery in South Buckinghamshire and is open to children with or without a statement of special educational needs and funds their placement alongside any additional resources the children may require.

## **Grants**

We need to raise in excess of £25,000 each year. Obtaining grants is a cornerstone of MOP income streams, without which MOP could not continue to operate. Historically, grants have been received from

- Children in Need
- The Big Lottery

## **Government / Local Authority**

Children over 3 years of age are eligible for funding from Bucks County Council. In addition some 2 year old children may be eligible for funding.

## **Parent's contribution.**

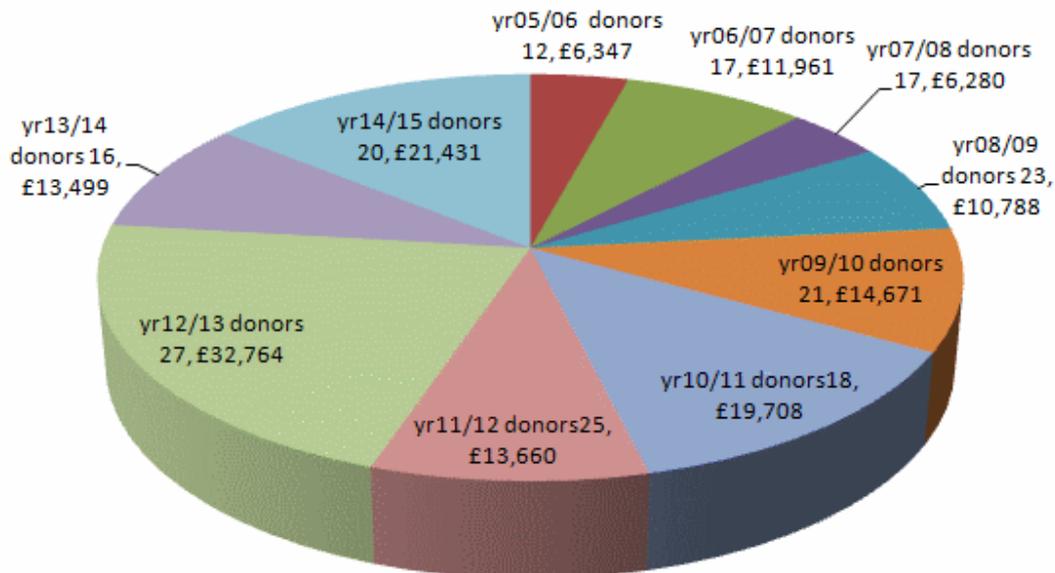
Children under 3 years of age, without a statement of special educational needs contribute £15 / session. The actual cost is nearer £50, the difference being met by fund raising and through donations.

## **THANKS TO OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS**

We wish to thank the organisations and individuals who have invested significantly in our work without whose support we would not be able to continue. These include:

- Michael Shanly
- RunRowRide
- Mason's Lodges
- Churches
- Crowne Plaza Marlow
- InterContinental Hotels Group
- Rotary Club's

**CHART DEPICTING 10 YEARS OF DONATIONS TO THE MARLOW OPPORTUNITY PLAY GROUP SINCE CHARITY FORMED IN 2005 A TOTAL OF £151,111**



*Many thanks to our supporters, Mason's Lodges, Companies, Charitable Trust, Round Table and Rotary lodges, Churches, Banks, Golf Clubs, Retailers and many individuals.(number of donors on chart does not include individual donors)*

**Thanks To Our Volunteers**

**Finally a huge thank you to our volunteers who give their time and energy so freely, and also to our dedicated staff who provide such a high standard of care and so much love for the children.**