



Newsletter No 2 April 2010

Its three months since the first of our newsletters took flight and we think it's time to flap our wings again. Many thanks to those of you who commented on the first e-letter: we hope you enjoy this brief bulletin too.

Our **4-2-7 pilot**, providing support to disadvantaged children in the 4 to 7 age group and their families in the often difficult period of transition to primary school and the ensuing years, is now up and running, thanks to some initial funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund. To date, it has proved extremely successful: the children really enjoy the group and have shown clear improvements in resilience, well being and the ability to manage their behaviour. Parents and teachers are delighted. All of this has emphasised to us how important it is to obtain further funding to continue and develop this work.

The Banyan Project is the provisional name for our new project supporting young people affected by domestic abuse, and our first group will be meeting very soon. We much appreciate the hard work and ideas of all the well-informed people in the Advisory Group.

We have been continuing to apply for funding to maintain **Art Therapy** at **MCFB** and are also seeking to continue and expand the employment of **bilingual play assistants**: in particular we want to have Mandarin- and Cantonese-speaking assistants to enable us to develop a group for Chinese families.

MCFB was successful in its applications to the **Future Jobs Fund** and two people have now joined the team and are making an excellent contribution to our work.

Although OSCARS or BAFTAS are, alas, unlikely outcomes, several **MCFB** staff and students (along with some mothers and children) were filmed for an Open University DVD, which will eventually be used on OU Social Work and Childhood Studies degree courses. It covers several **MCFB** core activities and gives a real sense of the breadth and depth of the work. We are also collaborating with the OU in supporting BME students.

Several of our inveterate runners have again been pounding the tracks: this time they were taking part in the Sport Relief Mile (or six, in one case) as a way of saying 'thank you' to its parent Comic Relief for funding for **The Banyan Project**. Nearly £200 was raised on this occasion.

If you want to find out more about us please visit our website www.mcfb.org.uk or contact the office.