



## Working Together to Improve the Lives of Children and Families

### CEO Message



Hello everyone

At last, we are starting to see a little sunshine, let's hope it is the start of brighter things to come for our service users. April has been another busy month at the Roberts Centre. We have been building up our links with other organisations in the local area to see how we can best work together in the future, we have had some wonderful visitors, including Bishop Jonathan and the Lord Lieutenant and we held our Easter school holiday playscheme for children living in temporary accommodation.

Last month I promised news of our new Human Resources Assistant. Kerry Butler started with us in early May and I am pleased to say Kerry is already becoming a valued member of the team. Kerry will soon be launching our new volunteer program with opportunities in our nursery, such as reading, offering one-to-one support for children with additional needs, helping behind the scenes preparing activities and snacks or helping keep children safe as they play in the garden. Our Child Contact Service also has volunteering opportunities on Saturdays as we always need extra eyes and ears while children play and chatter with their non-resident parents. Or, if you would prefer to volunteer on a less regular basis, then perhaps becoming an events volunteer is something that would suit you better. These are just a few of the opportunities available. If you would like to know more, please email Kerry at [HR@robertscentre.org.uk](mailto:HR@robertscentre.org.uk).

This month I also had the great pleasure of attending the Urbond Women's Conference where, along with colleagues from other organisations, we heard from some local inspirational women, many of whom had started life in very difficult circumstances. One thing that stuck with me from that day was a poem written and performed by one young lady entitled 'Sorry'. It reminded us to stop and think before using the word sorry. I will leave you with this thought: before saying sorry ask yourself a question, do you need to apologise for something you have done or said that was hurtful (in which case, perhaps you should consider saying sorry) or are you apologising for being yourself? (sorry for being upset, sorry for not having the knowledge, sorry I don't have a job, sorry I don't have a home, sorry.....) Don't be sorry for being you.

Hope you enjoy the newsletter.

*Met.*

### St Mary's May Fayre

We attended the St Mary's May Fayre. It took place this year on the Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024 at St Mary's Church and churchyard on Fratton Road, Portsmouth. There was a variety of attractions including a real ale tent, arena displays, a bouncy castle, bands, funfair rides and over 100 stalls. We had lots of fun despite the rain and want to thank everyone who came to say hello to us at our stall and take part in some fun arts and crafts!





AA & AAA batteries are always needed for the toys in our Nursery and Contact Centre.

We are grateful for any donations of batteries, which can be dropped off at: 84 Crasswell Street PO1 1HT



Shop online?

Use Easyfundraising to raise donations!

By logging into their site before you go online shopping it allows you to gain donations for The Roberts Centre from the retailers you shop with.

Register at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/theecrobertscentre/> and click 'support us'.

## Living Eggs in Nursery



Nursery children will be learning about spring and life cycles this month. Children will be able to experience the life cycle process by watching chicks hatch from eggs!

George Pointon is fundraising in August for the Roberts Centre.

George is going to do 29 tasks set by children over 29 days!



This is to represent the 29% of children in this country who live in poverty. Robert Bear will be cheering George on!

Thank you to Paint Chill Co. who donated paintings from their classes to the Roberts Centre.



You can follow George's progress or make a donation at:

<https://givestar.io/gs/challenge-29>

Instagram: Challenge\_29\_

Twitter: @GeorgePointon\_



Our April staff training day was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all our guest speakers including PCC and the fantastic art workshop by Lucy & Jo from Aspex Portsmouth. Staff also got to meet and talk to Jim, one of our amazing Trustees and also win themselves a lovely picture to take home via a silent auction thanks to Paint Chill Co.