



Briefing on Camberwell After School Project (CASP)

Introduction

CASP's mission is to support local parents who wish to work or study by providing good quality and affordable out of school child care.

Over the course of a week over 200 children are cared for through provision of a constructive, safe and happy environment before and after school, and safe travel to and from school in the Camberwell and Walworth areas of Southwark. We also provide a full day service during school holidays.

Whilst with CASP children follow a busy programme of activities which includes help to improve school performance. They are encouraged to develop socially through satisfying group play which we support through the provision of a healthy diet. The individual needs of each child are paramount.

Background

CASP began as a community project - 26 years ago - and over time has catered for thousands of children since inception. It is now a charity (No 1085664) and a registered company (39408654) run by a board of Trustees. Although our aims are to enable the organization to be self sufficient – we are proud to be a valued local community project. Carmen Lindsay MBE, manages a professional organization which comprises of a team of over 25 highly valued and dedicated part time staff who are also drawn from the local community.

CASP is registered with OFSTED and in line with the Children Act 2004, is regularly inspected to ensure that the organisation meets the required national standards

CASP's Key Services

CASP is structured into **four different childcare and learning services:**

After School Collection 3.00pm - 6.00pm

- Children aged from 4 to 11 years are collected from local schools, and brought to the **Badsworth Road Centre, Camberwell** and **Jack Hobbs Centre, Walworth**.
- Both sites provide refreshments for the children, and a range of fun, educational, play and learning activities both on and off site.

Morning Escort Service 7.45am - 9.00am

- This service caters for up to 25 children who attend any of the four schools listed above. The service is available at **Badsworth Road and Jack Hobbs site**.
- The children are served a healthy breakfast, in a quiet environment, and a range of activities of their choice before being escorted to school.

Holiday Playscheme 8.00am - 6.30pm

- Provision is made for 40 children during the school holidays at **Badsworth Road** and 48 at the **Jack Hobbs Centre**.
- During this period a wide range of recreational and fun educational activities are available, including arts & craft, sports, drama, music, games, quizzes
- Regular off-site and outings are also provided, from which children choose freely.

Saturday school 10.30am - 1.00pm

- The Saturday School provides supplementary education for up to 36 children between the age of 5 and 11 years and provides an environment to help children build up their confidence and enhance their knowledge and learning.
- The scheme of work taught is based on the national curriculum key stages 1 & 2, specialising in Math, English, PSHE, African History and educational trips
- Children are also provided with light refreshments.

In addition we also aim to deliver

Young Achievers Programme

The aim of the Young achievers Programme is to raise the aspirations and attainment of young people in particular black boys by assisting participants to identify and deal with some of the barriers that prevent them from academically achieving their natural potential in school.

It provides tools and target experiences that improve self esteem, boosts self confidence, build trust in self and others and develop a sense of community responsibility.

The provision of this valuable service depends however on the availability of funds

Special Needs Integration

Our aims is to provide an integrated service for children with special educational needs and mild to moderate behavioral difficulties enabling them to participate, interact and integrate with their peers.

This is managed through staff training.

CASP in the wider community

CASP sets very high standards in service delivery. It is recognised by **Southwark Council**, as well as by **4 Children** and other regional and national childcare bodies as an exemplary service provider and one of the most successful parent's initiatives out of school childcare provider in the country.

CASP has grown steadily since it began in temporary accommodation with four members of staff and 30 children in 1985. It now runs three sites, employs over 25 part-time staff and looks after over 200 children per week. We are situated in an area of Southwark which is generally characterised by factors such as social deprivation, poor housing, high unemployment and a high percentage of single parent families.

Our aim is help the many local residents in need to use our services to help them achieve a higher standard of living through being able to enter the labour market, and in so doing help their children achieve higher levels of educational attainment. CASP has over the years demonstrated through its annual reports evidence of its success in addressing many of these issues through the provision of its range of services.

CASP Performance and achievements

Additionally, CASP has won a number of plaudits for its work and has been the focus for a number of ministerial visits and national media coverage concerning its activities in the changing childcare environment over the years.

Some more specific achievements have included:

- Continuing to deliver and improve the quality and scope of relevant childcare services to over 2000 local children the community.
- Supporting employment opportunities and quality of life enhancement for hundreds of local parents

- Providing dedicated Special Needs provision to several children to enable their parents to work or study.
- Facilitating the access to IT systems for children to use at two centres.
- Partnership working with local schools including all local Primary schools as well as with St. Michael and All Angels Church of England Academy,
- Partnership working with agencies such as Southwark Children's Services in support of child care, and social cohesion events and activities
- Developing work programmes with the National Black Boys Can Association in delivering the Young Achievers Programme (YAP).
- Maintaining several work placements each year for social work undergraduates from South Bank University in partnership with Skills for Care.
- Fundraising from several sources including Camberwell Traders, Charitable Trusts and Southwark Council.

CASP's Future

In response to the challenging and austere financial climate faced by all voluntary organisations and the changing requirements of funders, CASP has been engaged recently in a process of review. Building on previous studies Trustees, and staff - supported by consultants - are in process of repositioning the organization for the future. This involves:

- **Creating a new financial model for CASP.** This will mean that service costs will need to become balanced by income from fees and charges - year on year - with less need to rely on external fundraising efforts. Though due to our location such efforts will always be required.
- **Continue our desire to work carefully with some children with challenging behavior and learning difficulties.** This work requires high staff ratios and specialist training. We see the development of provision for special needs children is a way forward towards an integrated specialist service.
- **Develop our range of activities for our children.** The computer suite and educational software at Badsworth Road has been a great success for increasing children's activities and researching information for their homework topics; it has also improved new focus to the Saturday school teaching. This work is being developed and taken forward at the Jack Hobbs centre.

- **Develop a range of networks and partnerships.** This will enable us develop services to meet local needs in as efficient and economical way as possible through greater use of our existing premises and other resources.
- **Continue to deliver The Every Child Matters Outcomes.** This will provide the basis for which CASP will continue to improve and develop a clear focus to work towards improved outcomes for children, young people and their family. CASP however will require additional funds to provide the various activities, covering other matters such as; Be Healthy, Stay safe, Enjoy and achieve, Make a positive contribution and Achieve economic well-being. This we aim to take forward through a focus on preventative coaching, personal development and citizenship activities, to bring more long term values and benefit to the young people who attend the project.
- **Continue to be aware of the various multi-faith cultures in the community** This is acknowledged in the activities and events that are available for our children and parents, particularly through our language classes.
- **Develop our role as being a Centre of learning in child care.** Over the years CASP has continued to emerge as a **placement provider for, volunteers and students from schools, colleges and universities**, studying child care, health and social care, social work and play workers. They have provided a constant stream of enthusiasm, ideas and support to the organization. We aim to develop this aspect of our work - in cooperation with other local or national agencies and will seek additional funds to do so.

Supporting our work

CASP is unable to provide childcare free of charge therefore it is a fee paying service. Whilst we have the highest aspirations for all the children in our care we see a limit to what we can charge as fees to hard working parents who are often on low incomes. We are engaged with an ongoing struggle to minimize our fees through fundraising and tight financial control to provide the best possible service. **Thus donations and other forms of financial contributions are always welcomed.**

We also rely on the good will of our supporters including, volunteers and local parents who participate in our activities. This can include assisting the staff with outings, teaching assistant, helping with our fundraising efforts or serving on our management committee as Trustees. **Additional volunteers are always welcomed in this and we can provide support through training.**

It is with the help of willing and committed parents and other volunteers that we can continue to provide the quality of service that the children need, while maintaining the fees at an acceptable level.

If you would like to learn more about the services we provide or would like become a volunteer or to support our work financially through sponsorship or making a donation or grant, please get in touch.

Please contact :Carmen Lindsay MBE, Chief Executive Officer

By telephone on 020 7708 2711

By email :carmen.lindsay@caspuk.org

By post at 14 Badsworth Road, Camberwell, London, SE5 0JY.

Or visit our web site at www.caspuk.org.uk

Russell Profitt MBE

Chair of Trustees

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