

Sandy Lane Mapping Report May 2004



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Contents

1. Introduction
2. How was this research done?
3. What is available in the Sandy Lane mapping area?
 - 3.1. Young People
 - 3.2. Schools and College/Training
 - 3.3. Sport
 - 3.4. Arts and Entertainment
 - 3.5. Churches
 - 3.6. OAP Services
 - 3.7. Community Centres
 - 3.8. Parent & Toddler Groups/Nurseries
 - 3.9. Homeless Services
 - 3.10. Drug Services
4. Conclusions

Appendix 1

1. What's on offer outside the Sandy Lane Mapping area?
 - 1.1. Young People
 - 1.2. Schools and Colleges/Training
 - 1.3. Sport
 - 1.4. Churches
 - 1.5. Community Centres



- 1.6. Parent & Toddler Groups/Nurseries
- 1.7. Health Services
- 1.8. Homeless Services
- 1.9. Drug Services
- 1.10. Women's Services
- 1.11. Other services

Appendix 2

Data from phone questionnaire, map references and group contacts

Appendix 3

- 1. Map 1 – Sandy Lane area
- 2. Map 2 – Worksop
- 3. Map 3 – Worksop City Centre



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Acknowledgements

tanc would like to thank all those who have assisted in the preparation of this report.

Important Note.

tanc have taken great care in the preparation of this report in order to present a picture that is as accurate as possible and true to the brief which we were given. As such this report represents a 'snapshot' of facilities in the Sandy Lane and Worksop areas which inevitably will change quickly from the point of the reports' production. We acknowledge that despite the care taken there may be errors contained in the information here presented. **tanc** would like to apologise for any errors or omissions and inconvenience caused.

1. Introduction

- Sandy Lane is a mainly residential area located to the west of Worksop town centre made up of a mixture of Victorian brick housing and prefab low rise flats. Sandy Lane is within the Worksop North West political ward.
- The resident population of Worksop North West, as measured in the 2001 Census, was 6,906. Worksop, on the whole, seems to be an economically active town with 63.7% of the population being employed, compared to 60.6% in the whole of England and Wales. There are clearly pockets of deprivation, though, because the number of people unemployed is 4.6%, which is higher than the 3.4% average for the whole of England and Wales. The crime rate is on par with the national average except when it comes to theft from a motor vehicle, which is higher than the national average.
- Sandy Lane is one of these pockets where social problems are evident. It is a disadvantaged area suffering from the effects of a serious drug problem, anti-social behaviour caused by young people, evident in the vandalism and crime resulting from these problems.



- A survey carried out by Bassetlaw Hope for the Homeless demonstrated the extent of the drug problem in Sandy Lane. 52 individuals took part in the initial survey, all with some level of substance mis-use. When questioned on where they bought their drugs the pattern that emerged was that the greatest amount of drugs were sold in Sandy Lane with Sandy lane averaging 40% in respect to level of drug sales (the most common area to purchase drugs). This illustrates the strong drug culture in the area. Heroin was shown to be the 'drug-of-choice' in Worksop with 87% of the people interviewed being heroin users. The method of use was by injection for all those interviewed.
- tanc was asked to investigate the existence of facilities available for local people in the area.
- To do this a catchment area was agreed by the Sandy Lane Community Forum. This area is bounded by Carlton Road to the East, the Worksop railway line to the North and the Chesterfield canal to the South. The Western boundary was drawn North from the canal to the railway line to include the industrial areas to the west of Worksop just beyond the Worksop Town football Ground.
- Information provided in the annex was found when researching the facilities within the Sandy Lane area. It is included here for interest and for comparison with existing facilities within the area. Since Worksop as a whole was not the focus of this exercise the information given in this annex should not be presumed to be an exhaustive list.

2. How was this research done?

- tanc began this project by contacting a number of members of the Sandy Lane Community Forum to get names and contact numbers of people or organisations that might be able to help.



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- tanc undertook internet research to find community and leisure facilities available in the surrounding area – such things as community centres, churches, parent and toddler groups, youth clubs, health services, homeless services, drug services, OAP services, women’s services, arts and entertainment services etc.
- tanc then produced a questionnaire to find out about the activities of the group or organisation. Such things as whether they worked in the Sandy Lane area or were accessed by Sandy lane residents, if they felt there were any gaps in service provision to residents in Sandy Lane and if they could give me any other people to contact for information.
- This was mainly carried out as a phone questionnaire. A number of trips to the area were also made to verify the information and to photograph different facilities. On these visits we chatted to a number of local groups and organisations.
- This information was recorded in a table and three maps were produced, one of the catchment area and two of the surrounding area of Worksop. We felt that this was important to show the extent of facilities elsewhere, providing evidence as to the level of facilities in Sandy Lane in comparison to Worksop as a whole.

3. What is available in the ‘Sandy Lane’ mapping area?

- Below we have listed the different areas of provision in an attempt to highlight the level of support available to Sandy Lane residents and whether improvements could be made.

3.1. Young People:

- The Teen Club has provided an accessible provision for Sandy Lane young people. Its facilities are dilapidated and the building needs complete renovation. Since the closure of the County Council Youth Club the Teen Club work has been left to the



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voluntary sector. Poplars Church has recently negotiated a lease for the building to explore the possibility of renovation and development into a youth and community centre.

- St John's Church provides a local service to the public. Youth activities are mainly for Uniform Groups such as Cubs and Brownies, Guides and Scouts.
- Bassetlaw District Council works with Redlands School to encourage sports development. This involves helping to develop after school activities. With the renovations providing a new hall and Table Tennis Centre their aim is to ensure that the community use the new facilities and that a range of activities will be on offer to engage local people.

3.2. Schools and College/Training:

- Sandhills Adventure Base is located within the Sandy Lane area. It is run by Nottinghamshire County Council, providing 'adventure' activities for the community in canoeing, kayaking, wind-surfing and sailing etc. NVQs in outdoor education can be obtained. Through interviews with local residents it seems that this facility is not accessed by Sandy Lane residents, being used more by groups coming in from outside the area. Local people do not seem to have much knowledge of what the facility does. As we were unable to talk to anyone involved in Sandhills Adventure Base, despite several calls, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of information relating to users of the facility.
- Redlands Primary School plays a significant part in providing young people and parents with activities and support. The school is currently undergoing a major refurbishment and expansion incorporating a new table tennis centre. There is a wide range of After School activities for the junior classes, aged 8-11. If children are interested in sport there are a range of After School activities. For parents there is an ICT Course, although apparently there is not a huge pick-up for this activity. After the refurbishment has been completed there will be a huge potential for community use. North Nottinghamshire College works in Redlands Primary School providing ICT on Wednesday nights. Once the renovations are complete there will be free courses starting from September, aimed at the 19+ age groups and those lacking skills. These courses will take place in the day-time –



such things as craft-based courses, languages, fitness. Dependent on the space available they can carry out anything that residents want. As Sandy Lane has been targeted as a deprived area, this programme will get built up more in the next few months as North Nottinghamshire College has been funded to do more work in this area.

- The Sea Cadets are based within our mapping area. They teach cadets, from the ages of 13-19, first aid, mechanical engineering etc, but their facilities are only available to sea cadets and not to the wider community. They do have a number of Sandy Lane members.
- B&Q Superstore, on Babbage Way, work with City Training, enabling people to return to work. B&Q take jobless people on, training them in health & safety, etc and giving them an all round work experience of the different departments in their store. This is not a formal, structured training programme like that of employees. Trainees are given experience of working on different departments but they do not receive payment for their work. The incentive is the possibility that if they do well, B & Q may take them on as a paid employee. We were informed that people from Sandy Lane access this training opportunity on a regular basis, and presently they have a Sandy Lane resident undertaking the training course.
- North Nottinghamshire College is not located within the Sandy Lane area but has recognised the need for projects and support in Sandy Lane. They carry out courses in Redlands Primary School, Crown Place Sheltered Housing Scheme, a First Aid course at Worksop Town Football Club and an Angling Club is held at Worksop Miners' Welfare, attended by Sandy Lane residents.

3.3. Sport:

- Sandhills Adventure Base is located in our Sandy Lane Mapping area but does not, as mentioned previously, get used regularly by Sandy Lane residents. If the Sandy Lane residents were encouraged to use these facilities, through advertising etc, this could be a valuable asset, right on their doorstep. As well as the sporting opportunities available it has a decent community room, with tables and chairs and good changing facilities.



- Worksop Town Football Club is another local organisation that could act as a support system for local youngsters so this club has an ideal opportunity to help bring about change. The Chief Executive of the football club, when asked for his comments said that for some children the only discipline they get is through football so Worksop Town is keen to involve local youngsters. At the Under 17s International match on 28th March, schools were invited free of charge, as a way of engaging with the community.
- Redlands School, with its new Table Tennis Centre has an ideal facility to occupy young people and the Headmaster told me that they 'really want to become a part of the community'.
- The Sea Cadets have great premises but unless you are a member of the Sea Cadets you cannot access them. They stated that they have a couple of members from the Sandy Lane area.
- De Burneys School of Dance is within our catchment area. I spoke to one of the dance teachers but she was unsure as to whether Sandy Lane residents used their facilities. This dance school is for aged 2 years and above and teaches ballet, modern, tap and salsa.
- In general there do not seem to be many local sports sessions for young people. Crown Place Community Centre does run a Karate Class but this was said to be quite expensive by a mum who used it, and she was from outside the Sandy Lane area but brought her son there for the classes.



3.4. Arts and Entertainment:

- The Regal Arts Centre has a cinema and puts on live events for all age-groups. Bassetlaw Youth Theatre use the facilities to rehearse and stage events. The Children's Film Club runs on Saturdays and on Monday nights Bassetlaw Drama Group uses the facilities. Young people do not use these facilities as much as older people and families; this is said to be because the films do not come out as quickly as they do in the bigger cinemas.
- The Grafton Hotel has got a football club but the landlady was not aware of anyone from Sandy Lane being involved in it, or of any Sandy Lane residents frequenting her pub.
- Worksop Miners Welfare has a number of regular customers from Sandy Lane. It holds bingo on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Live artists play on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On Tuesday dinner times there is an old ladies group. They go on trips etc. There is also a charity night.

3.5. Churches:

- St John's Church is the nearest church to Sandy Lane, hiring its hall out to Home-Start, who run a Parent & Toddler Group on Wednesdays. They also have another separately organised Parent & Toddler Group on a Friday. Age Concern also use the premises, holding a Luncheon Club. For young people there are Brownies and Guides and Cubs and Scouts.
- Poplars Church is not within our boundary area but it does work in the Sandy Lane area. Poplars have recently negotiated a lease for the Teen Club building based at Shaw Street (within the boundary area) where it holds youth activities mainly aimed at Christian discipleship training. Pete Hardy, from Poplars Church regularly visits Redlands School to develop Church links with children, teachers and parents.



3.6. OAP Services:

- Crown Place Sheltered Scheme is located just off Sandy Lane. It holds a range of courses, some run by North Nottinghamshire College. It has its own lounge that is used for events. North Nottinghamshire College are running a Craft Course there at the moment. As it is a secure facility, when events are held in the Sheltered Scheme lounge they are only for residents.
- St John's Church hosts an Age Concern Luncheon Club, which has been accessed by people from Sandy Lane.
- Worksop Miners Welfare Club has an OAP group on Tuesdays at dinner-time and they have Sandy Lane residents using their premises.

3.7. Community Centre's:

- Crown Place Community Centre serves all age-groups. We spoke to a lady from Bassetlaw District Council who told us that the groups that use the community centre are all local groups from Worksop. The sort of classes held are dancing, an organist plays on Tuesday mornings, bingo, karate, fortnightly social dance, dance night. The karate class is run by a man from Worksop and children attend from all over Worksop but it was not possible to ascertain whether any Sandy Lane young people were accessing this class. We have been told that the Karate classes are £4. This could be excluding youngsters from Sandy Lane, who we have been told come in and sit and watch the classes but do not pay to take part. The Dance Group is attended by OAP's from the Sheltered Housing Scheme and the bungalows. There is also a Keyboard Group that consists of mainly pensioners from the surrounding area. From a conversation with an employee from Crown Place Sheltered Housing Scheme, as well as other local people we suspect that more people from outside Sandy Lane are using the facilities. The number of cars parked at the centre on the nights the classes are held suggests people are travelling to attend. This venue is situated in the ideal position to be used more actively by the community of Sandy Lane. This may be an example of where assistance is needed to help Sandy Lane people acquire money to secure greater access. Money is available to help local groups and this may be something that needs to be publicised more.



3.8. Parent & Toddler Groups/Nurseries:

- St John's Church, as stated previously, hires out its hall to Home-Start who run a Parent and Toddler group on Wednesdays. The lady we spoke to said they attracted mums from Sandy Lane. St Johns Church also has another separately organised Parent & Toddler Group that runs on a Friday. A few young mums attend but most are slightly older. The areas the users come from is not documented but there is a chance that some mums come from Sandy Lane as it is within close walking distance. The lady we spoke to stated that 'there does not seem to be many Parent and Toddler groups in Sandy Lane, yet there are a lot in Worksop in general. This one might be the only one nearby'.

3.9. Homeless Services:

- There are no homeless services that we recorded operating from premises in our Sandy Lane area.

3.10. Drug Services:

- There are no drug services that we recorded operating from premises in our Sandy Lane area but there are a couple of organisations that have community drug workers who go out and meet their clients in their own homes or somewhere nearby:
 - 'Face It' is a young persons drug service (up to 18 years). They provide advice and information in person, going out and meeting their clients at their homes. An employee at 'Face It' told us that they work with people from the Sandy Lane area.
 - North Nottinghamshire Community Drug Service is based in Mansfield but use an office in the Boundary Resource Centre on Watson Road, Worksop one day a week. They have 4 Community Drug workers in Bassetlaw working with drug users in the



community. They have no Sandy Lane residents involved at the moment but have had in the past. They also go out and meet their clients in their own homes.

4. Conclusions

- The Mapping Exercise has highlighted that there are a variety of buildings in the area for the Sandy lane community (Redlands School, Crown Place Community Centre, Teen Club, St Johns Church etc). It has shown that the problem is not a lack of community facilities but a lack of use of the community buildings in the area by groups and services. The physical state of some of these buildings (such as St Johns Church and the Teen Club) and the lack of investment in the area are issues that have been raised by a number of people we spoke to and which may be contributing to this situation.
- By reference to the maps that have been produced in this report it is clear to see that the majority of services in Worksop are not available within Sandy Lane. The parts of Worksop outside our mapping area seem to have quite a good range of services.
- For Sandy Lane residents to access various services they need to travel outside their neighbourhood – such as drug services, homeless services and youth clubs.
- There are attempts being made to engage the local community from a number of sources, such as Redlands Primary School and Poplars Church, but overall services are lacking.
- Youth provision and support is limited in Sandy Lane. The Teen Club is in the process of trying to modernise its facilities, to give Sandy Lane young people a local support establishment but this requires funding.
- Youth services are not being targeted towards Sandy Lane young people, despite the anti-social behaviour being demonstrated by them. There are a number of projects in Worksop aimed at supporting young people but comments from a number of different organisations suggests that these services are not being targeted towards Sandy Lane. A Sports Project Officer



commented that the biggest problem was that 'nothing was going on' in Sandy Lane, meaning that young people had to travel outside the area to access services. Meetings were being set up to address this lack of support and facilities for young people in Sandy Lane. The Valley Youth Club provides a youth service but this is outside the Sandy Lane area, thus excluding young people who may not want to venture far from their local neighbourhood.

- The problem of anti-social behaviour can be further evidenced by the introduction of Community Caretakers, dealing with the growing problem of vandalism by young people. Cresswell Road Community House is the base for these caretakers.
- This problem of anti-social behaviour has led to police in Nottinghamshire becoming the first in the country to set up curfew and dispersal zones to tackle youths causing trouble in crime hotspots and rundown areas. Dispersal zones have been set up in the Sandy Lane and Manton areas of Worksop because 70% of calls to local police involve reports of nuisance behaviour by youths congregating outside homes and shops, intimidating and harassing local people. The hard core of offenders are aged from 12 to 17. The police can ask offenders to leave the zones or, if they live there, ask them to disperse. If they refuse they can be arrested. (news.telegraph.co.uk).
- The social problems in Sandy Lane, confirmed by a Police Officer, councillor and Youth Worker we spoke to, imply that support networks need to be targeted towards Sandy Lane if improvements are to be made. A Police Officer, working in Sandy Lane, told me that the main problem was anti-social behaviour. She said 'With the demolition of the flats leaving a green area, the kids run wild with the main trouble-makers being the 9-16 age group'. The lack of facilities for young people in the area encourages a growing problem. She stated that 'from talking with the young people they say they would like a Youth Club and a skateboard park on the greenery'.
- With a serious drug problem in Worksop there are a number of Drug services available. Bassetlaw Hope for the Homeless (HOPE) is a good example of an organisation that is responding positively to this problem but for Sandy Lane residents to access these services they have to walk a minimum of 15 minutes to reach these providers. With the majority of HOPE's clients being from Sandy Lane the need for drug facilities closer to home is demonstrated.



- A Drug Survey carried out by HOPE in October 2003 emphasises how much of a drug problem the Sandy Lane area has. Most of the drugs bought were purchased in Sandy Lane, illustrating the high level of drug dealing and, therefore, drug use in the area. Such research emphasises the great need for drug service provision in the Sandy Lane area, if the problem is to be tackled.
- Homeless Organisations, such as Framework and HOPE, told us that a large number of their clients were from Sandy Lane, but no support is available in Sandy Lane.
- Consultation with the Sandy Lane residents is vital to see how they feel about their neighbourhood – for example, if they feel that Crown Place Community Centre could be used more as a local facility, and what type of activities they would like to take part in. Would they like a parent & toddler group? What do young people want in the area? What other things do they feel need to be done to tackle the problems in the area?
- There are a number of positive things happening in Sandy Lane, such as the work and future plans of the Teen Club, the activities and future prospects at Redlands School and the work of St John's Church. The map shows, though, that more needs to be invested into the area if problems are to be tackled.



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Appendix 1

1 What's on offer outside the Sandy Lane Mapping area?

Information here was found when researching the facilities within the Sandy Lane area. It is included here for interest and for comparison with existing facilities within the area. Since Worksop as a whole was not the focus of this exercise the information given in this annex should not be presumed to be an exhaustive list.

1.1. Young People:

- Worksop seems to be attempting to tackle the growing problem of disaffected young people, with a number of projects aimed at supporting young people.
- The Valley Youth Club is a busy club which undertakes youth work and provides the young people with sports facilities, an IT room, art room, sexual health and contraception advice from Worksop 4u Youth Health Zone. For young people from Sandy Lane to reach this club they have to venture outside their locality. A lot of young people do not venture out of their local neighbourhood, keeping within the boundaries they are familiar with, so this may exclude Sandy Lane youngsters from accessing the services available on Valley Road. This question could be asked in consultation with Sandy Lane young people. We do not know if Sandy Lane young people access this club as we were unable to contact anyone from Valley Youth Club despite a number of attempts.
- The Albion Family Centre is a Social Services establishment offering family support services. A couple of teenage mums from Sandy Lane do attend a group on a Friday called Parent Zone – which is a peer group for young mothers. Whether more young mums would attend if it were held nearer to home is another question that could be asked in consultation with Sandy Lane residents.



- The Sporting Chance Project, run by Bassetlaw District Council is a youth disaffection sports project, providing young people with the opportunity to gain sports qualifications, work experience and maybe some paid part-time work. This project does not run groups in Sandy Lane, which the lady we spoke to admits to being a problem.
- Worksop Motor Project, based at Vulcan Place, Worksop is open for 13-18 year olds. It aims to engage young people and give them experience of off-road riding, maintenance, health & safety issues and repairs of motorbikes and cars.
- The Salvation Army runs an open childrens/youth club for young people between 6-12 years and 13 years+. It is believed that a number of young people from the Sandy Lane area attend the Friday and Sunday youth sessions. It is about five to ten minutes walk from Sandy Lane. This information was given to me by a contact outside the Salvation Army so I cannot guarantee its accuracy.

1.2. Schools and Colleges/Training:

- North Nottinghamshire College has recognised the need for projects and support in Sandy Lane. They carry out courses in Redlands Primary School, Crown Place Sheltered Scheme, a First Aid course at Worksop Town Football Club and an Angling Course is held at Worksop Miners' Welfare, attended by Sandy Lane residents.

1.3. Sport:

- Bassetlaw and Worksop Leisure Centres both stated that Sandy Lane residents used their facilities, for numerous activities. Worksop Leisure Centre is a five-minute walk from Sandy Lane and Bassetlaw Leisure Centre is a ten-minute walk away.



1.4. Churches:

- The Salvation Army supports young and old people and holds Parent & Toddler Groups and a Youth Club. It is about 5-10 minutes walk away from Sandy Lane. We were unable to contact anyone from Worksop Salvation Army but did collect information from a minister from another local church who told us that the Salvation Army had a Youth Club that was very busy, and used by Sandy Lane youth. They also hold an annual fundraising Christmas band, playing at the flats in Sandy lane.
- Worksop United Methodist Church is about 10 minutes walk from Sandy Lane. We tried about 5 times to contact them but no-one was answering the phone. According to a minister from another church they are restarting a Youth Club but it is only open to young people who attend the church. They also have a Sunday School and Parent & Toddler group. We cannot vouch for the accuracy of this information as it came from sources outside of the church.

1.5. Community Centres:

- Balmoral Community Centre holds a Parent & Toddler Group. This is about 15 minutes walk from Sandy Lane.

1.6. Parent & Toddler Groups/Nurseries:

- Balmoral Community Centre runs a Parent & Toddler Group called Ducklings.
- Westbourne House Nursery School and Day Centre is situated about 10 minutes walk from Sandy Lane. The owner stated that parents from Sandy Lane do use her nursery.
- Alphabet House Day Nursery can be found very near Westbourne House Nursery School, about 15 minutes walk from Sandy Lane. They were not familiar with the Sandy Lane area and said that they had no children from this area using their nursery



- The nurseries listed above demonstrate that there are nursery facilities available in surrounding areas. An owner of one of the nurseries told me that there were four Private Nurseries in Worksop and no demand for any more to be opened. She said that the culture in Worksop is for grandparents to look after their grandchildren so nurseries were never full. The only Nursery facility we found in Sandy Lane was Redlands School Nursery Unit but for parents wishing to return to full-time work, the problem is that children need to be collected when school ends, restricting gaining a 9-5 job. That is unless After School care can be arranged and we did not record any After School Clubs operating in Sandy Lane, although Redlands Primary School are hoping to start one once renovations are complete.

1.7. Health Services:

- Worksop 4u Youth Health Zone Young People's Clinic provides a session at Valley Youth Club, giving sexual health and contraception advice.

1.8. Homeless Services:

- Centre Place provides an important support service for homeless 16-25 year olds.
- Bassetlaw Hope for the Homeless provides support for people to help them find accommodation. Most of their clients are drug users and they refer them on for professional help if needed. This organisation's main users are from Sandy Lane.
- Framework Housing Hostel is based at 55-57 Potter Street. This is a short-stay hostel. They also have 2 other groups in Worksop – the One-stop-shop incorporating the Tenancy Sustainment Team and needle exchange, based at Watson Road and the Tenancy Support Team dealing with mental health problems, based on Queen Street. These services are used by Sandy Lane residents.



1.9. Drug Services:

- Drug organisations, such as HOPE and Framework, deal with a large number of Sandy Lane residents but they operate outside the area. A high number of people inject drugs, with needles being discarded on the street, a problem for local residents we spoke to. They feel that a needle exchange facility in Sandy Lane is something that would ease the concern of local residents facing the problem on a daily basis.
- 'Face it' is a young persons drug service and they do a lot of work with people from Sandy Lane. The workers go out and meet clients. This organisation is based in Mansfield but it is one of the many organisations that works with Sandy Lane residents without being based in the area.
- North Nottinghamshire Community Drugs Service is another organisation that helps people from Sandy Lane whilst not being based there. They are also based in Mansfield but one day a week they work from The Boundary Resource Centre in Worksop. They are also Community Drug workers who go out to meet their clients.
- These organisations commented on the lack of facilities in Sandy Lane. The Centre Place contact said that it took 15 minutes to get to their premises from Sandy Lane.

1.10. Women's Services:

- The Woman's Resource Centre deals with women, referred from all over Worksop. They provide a Drop-in service and hold a number of support groups. The Children's Group (8+) and the Young Woman's Group (13+) are held at the Women's Resource Centre and the Acorn 4 group (Educator Project – 8+) is held at Centre Place.



1.11. Other services:

- Home-start Bassetlaw is a scheme that uses volunteers for family visiting where there is at least one child under 5 and the family is experiencing some stress. They work with families from Sandy Lane, as they get referrals from anywhere in Bassetlaw. They also run a Parent & Toddler Group from St John's Church.



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