

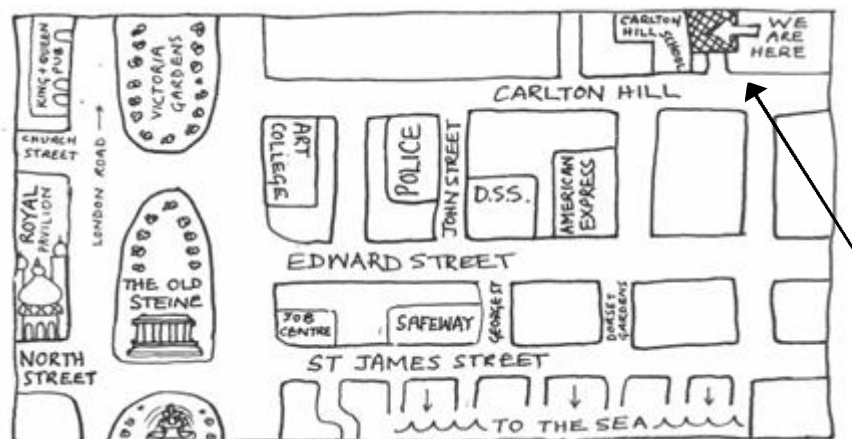
## **Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project**

Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project was set up in 1981 and became a registered charity in 1994. The Centre provides a safe and welcoming community for local people and provides the means and opportunity for people to make changes in their lives. Our aim is to relieve poverty, distress and hardship amongst unemployed, unwaged and low-waged people and their families living or staying in the Brighton area regardless of race, sex, age, ability or sexual orientation.

The Centre is run by the unemployed for the unemployed: the management committee usually consists solely of centre users and volunteers who stand for election at the AGM each year in October.

The Centre is located in Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, i.e. just off Carlton Hill, next to Carlton Hill School and behind the Amex building on Edward Street.

Our premises are leased from the Council and shared with the Resource Centre.



**We  
are  
here!**

Unfortunately there is very limited access to our premises for people who can't manage stairs. We do have *some* parts of our Centre accessible and we do all we can to arrange access as needed: we are currently looking for funding to convert the building to make it fully accessible.

We are open 10-4, Monday to Friday. The first point of contact at the Centre is the reception office, staffed by volunteers who welcome visitors and answer phone calls, providing details as needed about the services we offer in the rest of the building.

We run a free crèche daily from 10:30am to 1pm and Monday-Wednesday afternoons from 1:45 to 3:45pm, with space for up to 12 children between the ages of 0 and 8. The crèche also organises regular trips to outside spaces, weekends away and winter parties.

Welfare advice is available weekdays between 10:30am and 4pm (apart from Friday morning and lunchtimes). The welfare advice service offers free, independent, confidential advice and support on benefits and legal issues; there is also an employment rights specialist available for consultations.

Temporary Housing Support offers help for families in temporary accommodation including transport to the Centre, advice and cheap laundry facilities. We collect donations and store clothes, bedding, equipment in our loft space, either to lend or give out.

A café is open for hot and cold drinks during Centre opening hours and we serve a cheap, healthy vegan meal at 1pm on weekdays, cooked by volunteers. In the main area Allganics Wholefood Co-op sells a wide range of low cost organic produce (open weekdays 10.30am–12.30pm) and there is a free table where you can find donated goods – clothing, toys and books.

We have two classrooms and offer a variety of courses: exercise, dance, languages, computing, and arts and crafts. Most of these take place during the 10-4 opening period but some course or activities take place in the evening or at the weekend. There is a computer room with 8 computers that offers cheap open access when courses are not running.

Volunteers are an essential part of the Centre. In any one year we usually have over 300 different volunteers working in parts of the Centre: as receptionists in the office , cooking in the kitchen, providing childcare in the crèche, serving in the wholefood co-op, advising on welfare rights, dealing with donations, helping with fundraising, providing computer support, and teaching on courses.

At present we have 9 part-time project workers:

- crèche (2)
- education
- family support
- fundraising
- office & finance
- participation
- temporary housing
- welfare rights

These workers form the Project Workers' Group (PWG), the group delegated by the trustees to make operational, day-to-day decisions. All project workers are part of this group, which operates a consensus decision-making model.

The turnover of BUCFP is approximately £300,000. Almost all funding comes from grants (from a variety of sources) although we do generate some of our own income.

More details about the finances of the Centre – and about all aspects of our work – can be found in the annual reports stored on our website [www.bucfp.org](http://www.bucfp.org).

Statutory information is available from [www.companieshouse.org.uk](http://www.companieshouse.org.uk) – click on the WebCheck service link and put in the company number 3537262; or from [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk) – type the charity number 1069236 into the search box marked Search the Register of Charities.

Please feel free to pay an informal visit to the Centre if you wish to do so: there is no need to inform any of the staff unless you specifically wish to speak to someone.