

£100,000 NEEDED FOR DAY NURSERY IN SEVENOAKS AREA.

The need.

Whilst many people have recognised the need for a Day Nursery in Sevenoaks, it was Dr Margaret Bates who decided that something must be done to provide this urgently needed facility; a nursery where children aged 6 months to 5 years can be cared for throughout the day. Playgroups provide splendid facilities for the morning in term time but the only day-long facility is at St. Julian's which provides for a mere handful of children.

For a variety of reasons some parents are not able to provide a good environment for their children and the pre-school years are of the greatest importance - a mother suffers chronic ill-health, a father has a mental breakdown, the family has to give increasing help to grandparents because one of them has had a stroke, marriage has broken leaving a single parent to maintain a home and children, housing is cramped and inadequate.

The children in these families need help to enable them to grow up healthy and self-supporting. A place in a day nursery can supplement what the home cannot provide and ensure a stable environment.

From her experience as community doctor, Dr Olive Munro knows that both parents and children benefit very considerably from the opportunities offered by a day nursery. She is often frustrated by the absence of such a facility in Sevenoaks. There is a readily identifiable need for help, especially for handicapped children and the children of handicapped parents. Such handicaps may be physical, mental or social.

The management committee has already made some progress in getting the project off the ground. A site has been offered by the Sevenoaks Community Association, adjacent to the Community Centre at the Bat and Ball. This has the approval of the Sevenoaks District Council on whose land the Centre stands. Architectural plans have been drawn up to provide facilities for 30 children under the age of five.

The Sevenoaks Day Nursery has been approved by the Charity Commissioners as a Charitable Trust and by an impressive array of eminent local people who have agreed to be patrons.



The next step ...

All the preliminary work has now been completed. The next step is to raise the necessary money to build, equip and staff the Nursery professionally. When this has been achieved, and the Nursery is established and running smoothly, it will become self-financing.

The aim of this appeal is to raise enough money (£100,000) to begin building the new Nursery before the end of 1987. The committee has raised £8,500 through projects which include a Teddy Bears' Picnic, a Fun Day and a Boot Sale. But we have a long way to go. What will you do?

Please send your contribution now, using the attached form to accompany your payment.



Dr Margaret Bates saw the need for Day Nurseries when she worked for the Home Office.

Through research, she saw that young delinquents had usually experienced disruption in their early lives eg. a parent suffering from severe illness including mental breakdown, or housing conditions which were cramped or unsuitable. Such families needed help in supplementing their own inadequate provision in such cases.

"Every town has children in circumstances of this kind, and needs a centre to which they can come for part-time or daily care. Sevenoaks can lead the way in providing such a centre, but we do need your help."



Dr Olive Munro is the local senior Community Health Doctor. She has been working with babies and children since 1949.

Dr Munro and her husband, Ian, moved to Sevenoaks in 1954 with their young family, and she has been closely involved in community child care in the area for over thirty years.

Her work includes finding suitable placements for children with special needs, in conjunction with the education authority and social services. It is this aspect of her professional work which has persuaded her of the urgent local need for a Day Nursery in the Sevenoaks area.

