



DOING IT OURSELVES ARCHIVE

(DIO)

DIO Doing it Ourselves Archive

1979-2019

Name of Creator: Various

Extent: 320 tiff files, 130 jpg files, 18 pdf files, 18 wav files, 18 mp3 files, 1 avi file, 1 mp4 file and physical items

Administrative/Biographical History: On the Record are a not-for-profit co-operative (registered as a Community Interest Company), co-founded by Laura Mitchison and Rosa Schling. The organisation specialises in oral history and community archiving projects. Funding is secured for each new project from external funders, for instance the Heritage Lottery Fund. The organisation works as a co-operative, with each project relying on volunteers and participants to shape the outcome and aims. This collaborative approach means that everyone involved with a project plays an active role in recording the histories and making decisions about how the outputs are shared with others.

Custodial History: Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by On The Record, December 2019.

Scope and Content: The Doing it Ourselves archive was collected from former members of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery in 2018-19 by oral history organisation On the Record, who worked with Eva Turner, a former member of the co-operative to record the history of the nursery. The archive contains documents, photographs, ephemera, a collection of oral history interviews recorded by the project and a record of the project's activities including audio recorded at events and photographs of the project's exhibition. The First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery was a parent-led co-operative nursery that grew from a group of parents that met in Walthamstow in the late 1970s. The nursery opened its day care facility on Verulam Avenue in 1986, and closed in the mid-1990s.

System of Arrangement:

The Doing It Ourselves Archive is divided into the following three series:

DIO/1: Papers from Individuals

DIO/2: Oral Histories

DIO/3: Project Archive

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of handlist available in Researcher's Area.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

DIO/1

Papers from Individuals

1979-1993

Papers, documents, photographs and video, physical and digital, gathered from former members and those involved with the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery (1979-1993)

OPEN

DIO/1/1 **Pauline France** **1981-1990**

Pauline France was a member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London in the 1980s, joining the project in 1983. She worked as a paid staff member from 1985-89 and was also a parent-member as her children attended the nursery. After leaving the co-op nursery, Pauline continued to work in childcare, undertaking a variety of roles in the sector. Her archive contains extensive paper records, photographs (both digital and non-digital) and film.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/1 **First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery newsletters** **1985-1988**

An illustrated newsletter for FNCC members, parents, and staff.

Content includes:

- requests for resources (equipment, materials, expertise, time)
- fundraising
- listing of forthcoming events, outings and activities
- description of past events, outings and activities
- themes for nursery activities
- news about individual staff, parents and children
- recipes
- advocacy for general provision of co-operative nurseries
- songs, poems, children's activities
- organisations updates
- governance, recruitment, sub-group/committee meeting minutes
- political and educational approaches and policies (anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-violence)
- notices of items for sale, wanted, and equipment hire

Editions available: April 1985, May 1985, July 1985, August 1985, September 1985, October 1985, November 1985, February 1986, April 1986, May 1986, June 1986, July 1986, August 1986, September/October 1986, November 1986, January 1987?, March 1987, April 1987,

July 1987, September/October 1987,
November/December 1987, February 1988,
May/June 1988.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/2

Rules of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery Limited and Constitution of the FNCN

1981

Two (identical) copies of the rules of the FNCN from its registration under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965-1975, and the Constitution of the FNCN, in addition to the rules agreed to for registration as a co-operative.

The registration and rules document details the FNCN's objects (nursery care for under-fives and toddler club facilities). It covers who will be classed as members, their remuneration, management in the form of regular general meetings, voting rights, requirement for an AGM and regular audits.

The registration and rules document is signed by the following members: Anne Ruth Smith, Yvonne [last name illegible], Rose Seddon, Glenda Harris, Barbara De Lissandri, Jacqueline Letitia Fulton, Pauline Ann Fawcett. Jacqueline Letitia Fulton also signed as Secretary. At the end of the registration and rules document is an 'Acknowledgement of Registration of Society', giving the FNCN the registration number 23391R and dated 10 September 1981. The Constitution document states that it 'is in addition to the rules agreed to for registration as a co-operative and no points included contradict that statement.' The rules apply only to the 'present part-time arrangements of the group.'

Sections covered include: aims; powers; membership; committee; day to day management; meetings; finance; dissolution.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/3

Information supplied in support of a grant application (+/-1986)

1986

This collection of documents was submitted in support of a grant application in c.1986. The documents are titled:

- Organisation (covering how the organisation is run)
- The development of the FNCN (forward looking, regarding the need to employ a cook, cleaner and clerical worker)
- The history of the co-op summer '85 - September '86 - covering the establishment of the FNCN, move to Verulam Avenue and staffing
- Provision offered by FNCN - detailing what sort of childcare is provided (day nursery/drop in)
- Activities - describing the activities on offer for the children

OPEN

DIO/1/1/4 Waltham Forest Council - Social Services document (type unspecified) 1983

Partial copy of a Social Services document - with main heading 'Children and Families' and sub-heading 'Day care'. It includes a description of the 'Scope of activities' of Social Services Day Care, worth noting because it states "the Department's Day Care facilities assist children who are at risk and who are experiencing unsatisfactory physical and/or emotional development by providing compensatory experiences by way of day care for all or part of the day. This document was used by the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery group putting together grant applications to support their proposal for combined childcare and drop in facilities. The group marked up the document to highlight a passage that says "The Department supports the development of playgroups and "Mother and Toddler" groups in the Borough.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/5 FNCN Policy Group questionnaire and responses 1985

A typed questionnaire issued to Policy Group Members by Jackie Fulton in April 1985 completed by hand by Pauline France. Also typed collated anonymised responses from members, grouped into the following topics:

- Education
- Staff
- Care

- Socialising
 - Membership
 - Management
 - Publicity
 - Parental involvement
- OPEN**

DIO/1/1/6 FNCN Press releases 1986-1989

- Press releases:
- Typed press release about FNCN Diwali celebrations (8 November 1986)
 - Two handwritten drafts of press release for FNCN in 1989 (one written on the reverse of a poster for FNCN Family Fun Day July 1989)
- OPEN**

DIO/1/1/7 Video scripts 1986

- Two handwritten drafts of a script for a video of FNCN.
- OPEN**

DIO/1/1/8 Minutes of Walthamstow Link-Up Meetings 1986-1989

- Minutes from Walthamstow Link-Up meetings:
- St James Area, 20 January 1986
 - East Walthamstow Area, 20 November 1989
- OPEN**

DIO/1/1/9 Documents from FNCN Lobbying Group 1989-1990

- Including:
- Minutes and Memorandum from Lobbying Group meetings:
- 10 April 1989 (handwritten draft and typed minutes)
 - 27 September 1989
 - 11 October 1989
 - 17 January 1990
 - 18 January 1990
- Minutes from Lobbying (Premises) Working Party:
- 13 September 1989
- Minutes of meeting with London Borough of Waltham Forest to discuss grant application 05 February 1990
- Letter from Mike Obasuyi, Principal Economic Officer (undated)
- OPEN**

DIO/1/1/10	Lobbying event	c1989
	<p>Ten photographs of a lobbying event in the large hall at Verulam Avenue, with Waltham Forest Council officials. The aim was to continue the grant or alternative means of funding the co-op, in addition to fees. Showing exhibition panels of FNCN structure, staffing, finance and activities and attended by the mayor of Waltham Forest, an official, a photographer and parents and staff including Bharti and Eva Turner holding her daughter Daniella Schling. PF gave info. OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/1/11	Documents relating to Waltham Forest Council for Voluntary Service (WF CVS)	1989-1990
	<p>Documents including: - Proposal for under 5's co-ordinator - Costings for under 5's co-ordinator - Notices and minutes of WFCVS Under 5's Sub-committee OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/1/12	Magician performance	c1987
	<p>Group of six colour photos of magician, Bobby, who performed for children at Christmas time in big room at Verulam Road ca 1986-1988, according to post-it on top photo. OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/1/13	Diwali celebrations	1986
	<p>Group of 37 colour photos of a Diwali-themed Open Day at Verulam Road Oct/Nov 1986, according to post-it on top photo. Photos showed group of local professional Asian dancers performing; invited local school children doing crafting making Diwali lamps; girls in Indian dress. OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/1/14	Outdoor Provision	c1986-1987
	<p>Group of five colour photos showing children playing and parent gardening. Children were let out after breakfast to before teatime. They had free-flow play indoor and outdoor, Pauline</p>	

France said. Activities included planting, water play and role play. Adults shown included two paid staff plus parents.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/15 Meals 1986-1989

Group of five colour photos: four showing children eating at a table; one of Rose, childcare coordinator taking turn cooking 1986 before cook was employed. Text of post it: "Breakfast/lunch/tea. FNCN at Verulam Ave. 1986-89."

OPEN

DIO/1/1/16 FNCN Grant apps/constitutional matters 1981-1987

Miscellaneous documents on FNCN Grant apps/constitutional matters, gathered by Pauline.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/16/1 FNCN Grant/FNCN structure c1981

One page typed structure chart of FNCN showing decision-making, admin, recommendations, day to day organisation branches. Back also has text but not clear if it is connected. It mentions a stall run at the Children's Festival of Peace.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/16/2 FNCN Grant/letter to Paula Grant 1986

14-pp typed letter from FNCN to LBWF Race Relations and Community Liaison Unit asking for funding to employ community cook, cleaner and a general office worker. Signed by M. Burnett and R. Parkin. Incl. history and development of co-op 1985-86.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/16/3 FNCN Grant/Interview prep 1985

4 typed pages with handwritten notes; appears to be prep for post-GLC funding interview with LBWF. Documents discuss need for nursery provision and there is an attached corporate plan from 1977 to 1983.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/16/4	FNCN Grant/Reports of meetings with Social Services	1987
	Cover letter + two reports of FNCN meeting with Social Services regarding cuts in the council's grant. Pages have bullet points. 9 pp in total. OPEN	
DIO/1/1/16/5	FNCN Grant/Information from the Funding Research partnership	n.d.
	Information from the Funding Research partnership outlining their support services for voluntary organisations. The aim of the Funding Research partnership was to provide advice and information on finance, fundraising and other support services. OPEN	
DIO/1/1/17	Report of Under Fives' Forum organised by London Borough of Waltham Forest	1987
	Meetings were attended by representatives of the FNCN, together with other voluntary nurseries. This forum was tied in with the Public Consultation Review of Under Fives Services organised by the London Borough of Waltham Forest in 1985. Cris Franchi, Senior Social Worker (Under Fives Childminding) was the FNCN's contact at Social Services (see oral history interview with Cristina Franchi). She would review the adequacy of provision report including useful information for private and voluntary nurseries such as how to set up a day nursery (1 July 1987) OPEN	
DIO/1/1/18	FNCN Information Booklet	1986
	Information booklet describing the activities of the FNCN and aimed at parents and carers interested in becoming members. The booklet covers: - the history of the FNCN - detailed pattern of activities and routines throughout the day, running to 5 pages - structure of the FNCN, including narrative description and diagram	

- description of the drop-in service
- comments in reply to a questionnaire (to parents)
- description of the childcare facility, including responsibilities of members
- list of activities the children take part in
- hand-drawn picture of the FNCN building by a local school pupil

OPEN

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| DIO/1/1/19 | Article for Childcare Now newsletter about the development of the FNCN and its structure | 1985 |
| | <p>On behalf of the publicity/lobbying group Pauline contacted the Day care Trust about the FNCN's continuation as a provider of affordable day care without a grant. The Day care Trust responded suggesting the FNCN join their Childcare Now campaign and submit an article about the FNCN and its problems for inclusion in their Newsletter. Documents include a letter from the Day care Trust, leaflets and an application form for the Childcare Now campaign, as well as several typed and handwritten descriptions of the history and structure of the FNCN. Also included is a letter from the Centre for Voluntary Organisation (1 April 1985)</p> <p>OPEN</p> | |
| DIO/1/1/20 | Untying the Apron Strings: Anti-Sexist Provision for the Under Fives', ed. Naima Brown and Pauline France, Open University Press, 1986 | 1985 |
| | <p>Book, 'Untying the Apron Strings: Anti-Sexist Provision for the Under Fives', ed. Naima Brown and Pauline France, Open University Press, 1986.</p> <p>OPEN</p> | |
| DIO/1/1/21 | Papers relating to policy and management | 1985-1989 |
| | <p>Draft policy statement, typed. Anti-racist policy document with illustrations, two pages. Second page titled 'From the Anti-Racist Policy Working Party'. Assorted other papers including a hand-annotated page titled 'Activities', lists of members dated March 1987, December 1987, March 1988, September 1989, November 1989,</p> | |

a Development Worker's Report dated October 1985.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/22	Miscellaneous Papers	1981-1988
	Miscellaneous papers from Pauline France.	
	OPEN	
DIO/1/1/22/1	Papers relating to early days of co-op	c1981-1983
	Photocopied versions of typed documents relating to the formation of the co-op and its fundraising requests. Documents included letters to prospective participants; proposed funding; background to the nursery group; explanation of staffing and charges.	
	OPEN	
DIO/1/1/22/2	Letter to staff and members of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery re: Kelmscott Leisure Centre	1987
	Photocopied typed letter re: using facilities at Kelmscott Leisure Centre once a week for a soft play session (29 October 1987)	
	OPEN	
DIO/1/1/22/3	Papers relating to finances of co-op	c1984-1985
	Papers included tenders for building works 1985; undated changes to constitution; structure of co-op; report re: festival of peace; request to LBWF for supplement to grant; grant application 1987; grant app to GLC Women's Committee 1984 for financial year 1985-6.	
	OPEN	
DIO/1/1/23	Publicity Film: Film and Papers	1986
	Publicity Film: Film and Papers (1985-1989)	
	OPEN	
DIO/1/1/23/1	Publicity film	1986
	Film, digitised from a VHS, showing the parents, children, and staff of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery on one day in 1986. Made as a promotional film for the nursery by a	

filmmaker called Paul Forsyth of Magic Eye Productions, who recorded the voiceover in this draft of the film. The final version was voiced over by Sue Robbie. Shows children doing activities such as face-painting, playing, dancing, eating meal, washing up. No credits on film. 1 mp4 file, duration 21:58.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/23/2 Film footage taken for publicity film 1986

Film footage, digitised from a VHS, showing the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery on 25-26 November 1986. Footage was taken to make a promotional film for the nursery by Paul Forsyth of Magic Eye Productions. Two avi files, duration 01:30:43 and 01:25:34.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/24 Co-op committee reports and Workers reports 1985-1989

Blue folder of typed reports, dated 1985-89. At the beginning of this period the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery was still being set up. The coop group were organising a drop in for children and parents at Harmony Hall on Truro Road. The papers include a memo to all volunteers on the rota for that drop in. Other papers are concerned with matters to do with starting the nursery: devising policies, drafting the constitution, employing staff etc. Draft policy documents show the group's concern with anti-sexist practice urging vigilance "to ensure that equipment and play areas do not become the 'boys toys/area' or the 'girls toys/area'" and healthy eating: "No Sweet Biscuits except at special occasion". Other documents include documents concerning a weekend workshop on 16th-17th November 1985 "exploring who we are as a co-op and how we can work effectively together". minutes of weekly staff meetings held in 1986, Workers' Reports made in 1986, a report from a follow up meeting on 24th March 1986, held after an away weekend with an external facilitator Joan O'Leary about group dynamics. There is a detailed rota implemented from 20.11.1987 and issued to all members "to enable everyone to know exactly what they should be doing during their session". Reports

on proposed changes such as a sliding scale of fees. Copies of staff reports made to members, one undated, one September-October 1988.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/25 Co-op notes 1988-1989 1985-1989

Notebook kept when Pauline was a parent, member and childcare worker in 1988-1989. It contains confidential information: full names of children. It includes several recipes and notes on the facilities and equipment (and a price list). There are also notes for and from the press and publicity committee and meeting agendas. At the back there is a list of fees paid (do we have to have to observe data protection laws?)

OPEN

DIO/1/1/26 AGM and some committee meeting minutes and other documents, 1985-1990 1985-1990

Red folder containing AGM and special and emergency meeting minutes plus minutes from various of committees including housekeeping, fundraising, premises, publicity and lobbying. Other documents include draft policy statement, notes for the proposed video, job descriptions for a childcare support worker and toddler group co-ordinator. Treasurer's reports and income and expenditure reports. Notes from staff to parents on matters such as meeting announcements and warning letters to parents who didn't attend. A letter of protest to Kelmscott Centre re poor crèche provision for a Women's Day of Leisure.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/27 Official opening of the co-op nursery c1985-1986

Six photos showing the official opening of the nursery and work in the garden FNCN at Verulam Avenue c.1985-1986

OPEN

DIO/1/1/28 Developing provision in Verulam Avenue c1986-1987

Fourteen black and white photos and 8 colour photos showing children and adults doing activities, also one of a man building equipment (c1986-1987)

OPEN

DIO/1/1/29 Caribbean Carnival open days 1986

Twenty four coloured photos showing Caribbean dancers, Tekke music drummers and audiences at Caribbean carnival open days (September 1986)

OPEN

DIO/1/1/30 Weekend workshop at Commonwork Centre, Tonbridge Wells, January 1987 1987

Fifteen colour photos of weekend workshop (no 2) led by Joan O'Leary showing the building of the Commonwork Centre and groups of attendees. The photograph outside the entrance shows from the left Saroj Tyler, Ann-Marie, Adrienne Leonard, Liz Muniandy and Veronica Pickering. Five women sitting on a blue sofa include second from the left Ann-Marie, Hashi and Adrienne (23-25 January 1987)

OPEN

DIO/1/1/31 Finance and Employment, 1986-1990 1986-1990

Folder containing a series of documents connected to financial issues between 1986 and 1990, several annotated by Pauline France. These are typed: Report back from a meeting with Councillor Devgun in 1987, Financial reports from Finance Committee meetings, a letter from National Council for Voluntary Organisations on FNCN change of Constitution, Minutes of General meetings with lists of participants and minutes from sub-groups and sub-committees. Handwritten lists of children's names and fees paid for them and details of childcare fees and finance connected to employment, minutes of Finance Group (1989), Minutes of Finance and Fundraising meetings (1989, 1990). Co-ordinator / Childcare worker job description. Letter from LBWF Director of Finance about an audit (1989) and accounts for financial year 1988/89. Childcare policy and practice discussion document and staff support meeting minutes (March 1990). Request from Saroj Tailor, staff member, to do a course. Grant application form to LBWF (not filled). Projected

income on full time children and staff costs for year ending April 1990. A handwritten letter from a member having to withdraw her son due to inability to do her shifts (26.9.1989) (1986-1990)
OPEN

DIO/1/1/32 Small hall and garden at Verulam Ave c1986

Five photos of smaller hall or garden at Verulam Avenue. Three taken inside and two outside, showing the garden. The photographs taken inside show children playing musical instruments, a child playing with cornflour and water, and a child at a table on a baby chair. There was special furniture to allow babies to participate in messy play and eating.
OPEN

DIO/1/1/33 Caribbean events 1986-1987

Three photographs taken at Caribbean-themed events. One taken in June 1987 shows Pauline's children, Kieran and Corrie. This was taken by a professional photographer. Another photo from June 1988 was taken at the Afro-Caribbean carnival march from Hoe St to Leyton cricket ground. Photo taken at the cricket ground shows Pauline with other adults, and children dressed as animals.
OPEN

DIO/1/1/34 Pauline France's leaving party 1989

Three photos taken at Pauline's leaving party in Verulam Avenue. Pauline reading her leaving card includes her children Kiran and Corrie. Group shot is a mix of parents, workers and children. Most were at the co-op at the time and receiving childcare on the day (March 1989)
OPEN

DIO/1/1/35 Garden in early days n.d.

Five posed photos taken in the nursery garden in Verulam Ave in the early days of moving in. The children helped to clear the garden. The church pews were left and used. Photos show separately Kieran Neilson, Paul Martin, Carla Martin, Daniel, Russell John. These were the first children to be left in the nursery's care and

their parents were very involved in running the nursery.

OPEN

DIO/1/1/36

Children playing-early days

1986

Four colour and two black and white photos taken in the large hall in Verulam Ave in spring 1986 show children with staff members at play before they had more formal physical equipment. Shows the children using donated mattresses and beanbags and soft play mattresses to jump on. The two black and white photos were taken at a later date when more equipment had been bought and shows the playhouse which had been built.

OPEN

DIO/1/2 **Norma Dudley** **1986-1987**

Norma Dudley was a parent-member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery from the mid-1980s, when her son James attended for childcare while she worked as a social worker. She helped to run the nursery and was part of the Premises Committee. Archive contains digital photographs showing activities in the nursery. With Mary Burnett, Norma Dudley gave an oral history interview for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery.

OPEN

DIO/1/2/1 **Portrait photographs** **1986**

Portrait photographs labelled with the first names of Norma Dudley and her son James Dudley-Hart taken in for the welcome board displayed at the entrance to the First Neighbourhood Co-operative nursery on Verulam Avenue. Each co-op member and their attending children had a similar portrait on display (c1986)

OPEN

DIO/1/2/2 **Children baking** **1987**

Photograph taken in Eva Turner's kitchen of James Dudley-Hart and Hannah Schling eating cakes they baked themselves (c1987)

OPEN

DIO/1/2/3 **Birthday party** **1987**

Co-operative nursery space being used for a private birthday party of James Dudley-Hart (1987)

OPEN

DIO/1/2/4 **Working with clay** **1987**

Five photographs of children at the First Neighbourhood Nursery working with clay (1987)

OPEN

DIO/1/2/5

African drumming

1987

Nine photographs of children at the First Neighbourhood Nursery taking part in a celebration of African drumming (1987)
OPEN

DIO/1/3 Barbara De Lissandri 1979-1984

Barbara De Lissandri was an early member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, joining in around 1977. She was interviewed for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. Her archive contains digital copies of photographs showing her life at the time she was involved in the nursery.

OPEN

DIO/1/3/1 Barbara holding Daniele c1981

Barbara holding her son (born 1981) at around one year (c1981)

OPEN

DIO/1/3/2 Group of Parents and Children 1979

Photo taken at St Saviour's Small Hall, Verulam Ave. Her daughter Julieta in pink dress front and Barbara RHS back (1979)

OPEN

DIO/1/3/3 Barbara Studying n.d.

Barbara said that the co-op was very important as having people doing organising allowed her to go back and study. If the co-op nursery wasn't there she wouldn't have even been able to think about studying. "You need something else. You've also got to do what you need, in the end it's good for them too because you offer them something more than just a mum at home".

(c1980s)

OPEN

DIO/1/3/4 Daniele Portrait 1983

Barbara left Daniele at Truro Road while she studied. Photo taken on a day when Barbara was not there but she said Jackie Fulton (co-founder of initial co-op) ensured the picture was taken (1983)

OPEN

DIO/1/4 Eva Turner 1988

Eva Turner was a parent-member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery in the 1980s in Walthamstow. She initiated the project Doing it Ourselves which collected this archive and recorded many interviews with other members of the nursery co-operative.

OPEN

DIO/1/4/1 Waltham Forest Women's Health Directory 1988

Eva Turner was a parent-member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery in the 1980s in Walthamstow. She initiated the project 40-page paperback booklet published by Waltham Forest District Community Health Council listing "information about services and facilities in Waltham Forest which women might use." These included fertility, disability, relationships, and mental health services (1988)

OPEN

DIO/1/5 Elizabeth Muniandy 1988-1993

Elizabeth Muniandy was a parent-member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London in the 1980s-90s. With her husband Siva she was interviewed for the project Doing it Ourselves. Their children went to the nursery from 1988-1993.

OPEN

DIO/1/5/1 Christmas Party Lunch 1988

Four photographs showing children and staff and parents at Christmas lunch, 1988. All around the table in the big room at the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. Named where known from left. Photo 1: Adam, Rosia, Saroj, Indira and her daughter?, Ravi Muniandy, Thea. Alison. Photo 2: Siva with Ellie Muniandy, Dorothy, Pam, Isaac (Karen's son). Photo 3: Sophie, Hannah and Daniella Schling, Eva Turner, Indira's daughter?, Alyson, Bruce's baby brother. Photo 4: Bruce's baby brother, Drop-in mother, Alison, Inira's daughter? Eva Turner, Saroj and her daughter Reena, Sue Murry, Dorothy, Jake Gunther (1988)

OPEN

DIO/1/5/2 Member of Staff holding a baby 1988

One photograph showing Judith (a member of staff) holding Ellie Muniandy and watching an activity in the big room of Verulam Avenue (1988)

OPEN

DIO/1/5/3 Lunchtime 1988

One photograph showing children and adults having lunch in the small room of Verulam Avenue. Named where known from left. Aisha's mum, Pauline France with daughter Cori, Jack (Pam and Dough's son) Sue Murry, Judith, Ayna (Anne-Marie's daughter) (1988)

OPEN

DIO/1/5/4 Children at Home 1988

One photograph showing Ravi and Ellie

Muniandy at home (December 1988)
OPEN

DIO/1/5/5 Family Snapshot 1990

One photograph of (from left) Liz, Ravi, Siva and
Ellie Muniandy, in a garden in the snow
(December 1990)
OPEN

DIO/1/5/6 Outing to Windsor 1992

One photograph showing Ellie Muniandy (left)
on electric "train" driving around Windsor (1992)
OPEN

DIO/1/6	Sanoj Tailor	1981-1989
	<p>Photographs donated by Saroj Tailor showing herself and the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery in the 1980s. Saroj Tailor was a parent and staff member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery and also gave an oral history interview for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery.</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/6/1	Photos of Sanoj's Family	1981-1986
	<p>Photo of Saroj holding baby in Manchester 1981; photo of her children Rina and Rajen in Bolton 1986 (1981-1986)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/6/2	Photos of Co-operative Nursery	1986
	<p>Two black and white photos showing cooking in the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery kitchen and Saroj's daughter Rina in the nursery with Saroj in background (c1986)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/6/3	Photographs of performances at the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery	1986-1987
	<p>Photos showing Asian dancers; African-Caribbean performers and the Mayor of Walthamstow visiting the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. Some photographs show children dancing (1986-1987)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/6/4	Photograph of Donor Holding Child	1989
	<p>Saroj Tailor holding child. Original photograph inscribed on back: "Saroj, with love from Claire and Helen 23-1-89" (1989)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/6/5	Children's Activities	1986-1987
	<p>Twelve photographs of children at the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery sitting around a table, sitting on floor, playing with dolls, standing next to a woman and holding hands</p>	

(1986-1987)

OPEN

DIO/1/6/6

Display Album

1980s

Display album of photographs showing activities at the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery stuck on yellow paper with handwritten comments on some pages (n.d.)

OPEN

DIO/1/7 **Mary Burnett** **1986-1988**

Mary Burnett was a parent-member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery in the mid-late 1980s. She held the post of treasurer and helped to run the co-operative nursery. With Norma Dudley, she was interviewed for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. Archive consists of a folder of photocopied documents.
OPEN

DIO/1/7/1 **Papers relating to the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, Walthamstow** **1986-1988**

Papers have been photocopied and comprise: typed minutes of meetings 1986; draft constitution; handwritten minutes of meetings 1986; employment contracts; newsletters with items including recap of outings, recipes, and updates; guidelines to users; also includes a diagram showing the structure of the co-operative (1986-1988)
OPEN

DIO/1/8 Jackie Fulton 1983-1985

Jackie Fulton was involved in setting up the First Neighbourhood Co-operative (co-op) Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London and worked as a development worker in the early days of the project. She was interviewed by the project Doing it Ourselves. Her archive consists of documents and photographs showing the development of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery.
OPEN

DIO/1/8/1 An introduction to 1st Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery c1986

A5 booklet to explain the nursery to drop-in parents. Translated into Urdu(?) and hand illustrated. Stating a price of 50p per session and opening times. Contains a hand drawn map of nursery location (c1986)
OPEN

DIO/1/8/2 Coaster celebrating 4th anniversary of Hoe St Branch of Co-operative Women's Guild c1983

Top showing event held to commemorate 4th anniversary of Hoe St Branch of co-operative women's guild, rear side showing Jackie Fulton's name and explaining that she was an after dinner top table speaker. Jackie spoke at this event about the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery (c1983)
OPEN

DIO/1/8/3 FN CN St. Saviours Hall: Option 2 1984

Plan produced by CLAW'S architects of the St. Saviours church hall at Verulam Avenue - option 2. It has two pages. First showing aerial view of the whole building with suggestions of building changes, the second showing and naming the floor plan of each room (20 August 1984)
OPEN

DIO/1/8/4 Walthamstow Carnival c1980s

The First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery float at Walthamstow Carnival (n.d.)
OPEN

DIO/1/8/5	Christmas	c1980s
	<p>Photograph of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery at Harmony Hall, Truro Road. Father Christmas in the background (n.d.)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/8/6	Children	c1980s
	<p>Children on play equipment in First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery at Harmony Hall, Truro Road (n.d.)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/8/7	Outing	1985
	<p>The First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery on an outing to Hayes Hill Farm (April 1985)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
DIO/1/8/8	Seaside	1980s
	<p>First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery outing to Walton-on-the-Naze (n.d.)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	

DIO/1/9	Paul Davy	1988
	Sweatshirt and information booklet from the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, Walthamstow (c1988) OPEN	
DIO/1/9/1	Sweatshirt with co-operative logo	c1988
	White sweatshirt with the First Neighbourhood Co-op Nursery logo. Produced for a fund-raising event (n.d.) OPEN	
DIO/1/9/2	First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery information booklet	c1988
	Cost 30p. 18 pages. Contains history of the nursery and a detailed daily activity timetable (n.d.) OPEN	

DIO/1/10

Geoff Wykurz

1988

Geoff and Hilary Wykurz used the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery drop-in play sessions when their children were young, and were involved in the organisation in various other ways. Hilary Wykurz was interviewed for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. Archive contains three photographs showing "Misha's Birth Thanksgiving" held at the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. Mischa was the child of Hilary and Geoff Wykurz, who used the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery drop in play sessions when their child was young, and Hilary Wykurz gave an oral history interview about the nursery to the project Doing it Ourselves (10 December 1988)

OPEN

DIO/1/11 Françoise Beregovoi

1986

One VHS labelled First Neighbourhood Co-
operative Nursery (1986)
OPEN

DIO/1/12 Terri Martin

2019

Account by Terri Martin of her time as a parent and staff member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, along with nine b/w and colour photographs which are explained in the text. (2019)

OPEN

DIO/2

Oral Histories

2018-2019

Oral histories collected from former members of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery in 2018-19 by oral history organisation On the Record as part of the Doing It Ourselves Project (2018-2019)

OPEN

DIO/2/1

Andrew Seddon and Adrienne Leonard

2019

Interviewee Name: Andrew Seddon and Adrienne Leonard

Date of Birth: 1956 and 1960

Interviewer: Linda Mezaks

Gender: Male and Female

Date of Recording: 12 April 2019

Recording Length: 01:05:22

Brief Descriptive Note: Andrew Seddon and Adrienne Leonard were members of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative (co-op) Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. They used the co-op nursery from 1987 until the summer of 1990.

Summary of Interview: Adrienne and Andy moved to Walthamstow in 1985 and had two sons named Ben and Matthew. Adrienne grew up in Camden, London and Andy lived in a council estate in Wallasey, Merseyside when he was young. They initially used the co-op nursery as a drop-in for their three months old son, Ben before becoming members and using the co-op nursery for full-time childcare. It was Adrienne who found out about the co-op nursery through a friend named Hilary Wykurz. She did her four hours a week every Thursday whereas Andy did his every other Friday. Andy liked that the children was taught about taking responsibility by getting them to put the food out. Adrienne read stories, helped with food preparation, changed nappies and did general supervision. The boys were encouraged to do activities that they wouldn't normally do and engage with. However, the big challenges as full-time working parents were time and workload because Adrienne and Andy were asked to attend committee and sub-groups meetings as part of their parent membership. Adrienne felt that the structure was quite ineffective and didn't

understand why there were a lot of sub-groups because of the lack of coordination between them and decisions were only taken at general meetings. The timing of the meetings wasn't ideal for working parents and made it hard for them to attend. The co-op nursery was initially registered as a Workers' Co-operative which meant that the workers took the decisions not the parents and they couldn't apply for much needed grants to the local authority. Andy hence worked with others to change the constitution and have the co-op nursery register as a Charity. Unfortunately, this resulted in some staff leaving even if the majority of the parents voted for the new constitution. Andy was sad that this had such an impact on some key staff. The co-op nursery registered as an Industrial and Providential Society around 1989 and applied for funding to the London Borough of Waltham Forest. In 1990, Adrienne and Andy left the co-op nursery as they needed more flexible childcare and used a child-minder. Andy was very positive about his experience which gave him an opportunity to meet new parents and workers.

OPEN

DIO/2/2

Barbara De Lissandri

2018

Interviewee Name: Barbara De Lissandri

Date of Birth: 9 October 1944

Interviewer: Eva Turner

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 5 December 2018

Recording Length: 01:12:19

Brief Descriptive Note: Barbara De Lissandri

was a parent member of the First

Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow,

London. She was interviewed by Eva Turner, a

fellow member of the co-operative for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-

operative Nursery. Barbara sent two of her three children to the co-op nursery in Walthamstow.

Her younger daughter, Julieta went to the nursery when it was at St Saviours' Hall,

Verulam Avenue and her son; Daniele went to

Harmony Hall, Truro Road. Barbara felt that the co-op nursery gave her the confidence to go

back to education after having her son.

Summary of Interview: Barbara got involved with the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery at St Saviours' Hall on Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow in around 1977. From Waltham Forest, London, she had worked in the hotel industry and through this met her husband, who was from France. They eventually managed to get a mortgage in East London because her husband got a job at Walthamstow College. Barbara recalled that there weren't many day care facilities for children and that the women who sent their children to the co-op nursery were not only dedicated to providing childcare but wanted to talk about women's emancipation locally. At the time, her first daughter was attending a state nursery and so Barbara was only able to send her second daughter, Julieta, and son, Daniele, to the co-op nursery. Barbara described the nursery at Markhouse School, when she first joined, as quite small and not ideal as opposed to its new location at St Harmony's Hall on Truro Road, which was spacious with an outside space for children to use their tricycles. There were many activities going on with toys and plasticine as well as trips. She recalled that there were roles for parents but no strict rules for them to follow. The co-op nursery was run organically with parents supporting each other and looking after other children like their own. The children's creativity and freedom was at the core of the co-op nursery's work. After her third pregnancy, Barbara was only able to go back to university to study for a sociology degree because of the support, care and help of the co-op nursery. This enabled her to pursue a new career path. In 1984, when Barbara's son Daniele turned three years old she left the co-op nursery to send him to a nursery school.

OPEN

DIO/2/3

Cristina Franchi

2019

Interviewee Name: Cristina Franchi

Date of Birth: 1954

Interviewer: Eva Turner

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 9 April 2019

Recording Length: 00:55:05

Brief Descriptive Note: Cristina Franchi used the First Neighbourhood Co-operative (co-op) Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. The FNCN ran from the 1970s -1990s. In 1986, Cristina worked for the Waltham Forest Council Social Services Department and was responsible for inspecting local and private nurseries which included the co-op nursery. She attended the toddler drop-in for a short while. She was interviewed by Eva Turner, a former member of the co-operative for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery.

Summary of Interview: Cristina was born in London in 1954 and was looked after by her mother and her two Italian grandmothers when she was young. She studied psychology at University and later worked with Brent Council to set up a huge childminding training programme in the borough. Before the birth of her daughter she moved to Waltham Forest and in 1986 began working for the Waltham Forest Social Services Department with under-fives staff in local and private nurseries. Cristina ran training programme for foster carers and social workers and contributed to the Children's Act introduced in 1989. She also trained nursery staff and childminders in child development, empowering them to recognise early signs if there were any issues. Cristina came across the co-op nursery because it was near to her house, but due to her workload she wasn't able to become a parent member. She used the toddler drop-in with her daughter for a short while before moving to another toddler drop-in at Greenleaf School. There were regular network meeting locally for staff working with under-fives, health visitors and child practitioners to which the co-op was invited. Once a nursery was registered with Waltham Forest Council they would be inspected at least once a year and Cristina was pretty sure that the parents working at the co-op nursery would be supervised by qualified staff. She didn't remember any major worries or concerns about the co-op nursery. She saw a lovely group of children playing together and particularly enjoyed the imaginative art projects. However, Cristina would not have sent children with disabilities to the co-op nursery as she

didn't feel there was a solid safety net for them. Afterwards, she went back to work in Brent, helping to set-up a community nursery run by a group of women at Stonebridge Estate with a grant from the Greater London Council.

OPEN

DIO/2/4

Dorothy Shepherd

2019

Interviewee Name: Dorothy Shepherd

Date of Birth: 1952

Interviewer: Eva Turner

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 11 April 2019

Recording Length: 01:16:46

Brief Descriptive Note: Dorothy Shepherd was a staff member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative (co-op) Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. She was interviewed by Eva Turner, a fellow member of the co-operative for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. Dorothy worked at the FNCN from c. 1985 - 1989.

Summary of Interview: Dorothy was born in 1952 in the Isle of Harris, Scotland. She came to live in London in 1983 and had her son. Dorothy became playgroup leader at the FNCN before the day care nursery was opened in 1986. The values and principles of the co-op nursery were openness, equality, honesty and cooperation. Dorothy set up the original playgroup and liaised with other organisations and the council to let them know about its existence. She straight away knew that it was necessary to build on resources and engage with parents outside the co-op nursery. Dorothy was also involved in interviewing and recruiting parents and staff and commented on the high quality of care that the nursery achieved. The main source of income for the co-op nursery came from the Greater London Council and its women committee, along with the fees paid by members. Dorothy discusses how the children were involved in the co-operative values by helping to devise their own rules. The children were discussed individually without their parents in staff meetings to assess their development as they got older. Any child aggression was dealt

through discussions and shared responsibility with the parents. The committee meetings were about planning forward and making decisions enabling the parents to voice their opinions. All the staff went to meetings and supported parents working shifts. Each new parent learned from the staff as they went along. The food was fresh and healthy and tailored to the cultural diversity of Walthamstow. Dorothy recalled events regularly being held to promote diversity and cultural awareness. By the end of her time there she felt exhausted and overworked and not as valued as she would have liked. However, the experience had been absolutely formative in her career development. The value of parental involvement was the strongest element of what she took from working at the co-op nursery.

OPEN

DIO/2/5

Elizabeth Winter

2019

Interviewee Name: Elizabeth Winter

Date of Birth: 1956

Interviewer: Linda Mezaks

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 17 April 2019

Recording Length: 00:47:00

Brief Descriptive Note: Elizabeth Winter was a parent and worker member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative (co-op) Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. She was interviewed by Linda Mezaks with her former colleague, Pauline France, present.

Summary of Interview: Elizabeth (Liz) Winter was born in Burma, Myanmar in 1956. Her father was British and settled in London first before Liz joined him alongside her mother and sister. In London, Liz's life wasn't easy because she had to share a small room with her family for a short while and thereafter moved to two bedrooms without any bathroom. Liz recalled that accommodation for immigrants was hard to get and in appalling condition. Liz didn't speak any English prior to coming to England but with time she became more fluent and confident in speaking the language. At the age of 19, Liz got married and had her first child and by the time

she was 21 she had four children two of which were step-children. She found out about the co-op nursery as she was working for various projects funded by the Greater London Council. Her first child attended the nursery but this was difficult because he didn't want Liz to play with other children and wanted to have all of her attention. Liz enjoyed the activities and sharing her skills with others. However, she thought that the co-op nursery didn't work very well for working class parents because most didn't have the privilege of a good quality education, career progression and stability at home. She was meeting parents who were struggling to pay bills and were living from one pay cheque to the next. One of the biggest challenge in her view was the tension arising between parents because the co-op nursery wasn't solely about integrating and stimulating children but also about parents getting involved in meetings and the running children's activities. When Liz left the co-op nursery she did a degree in arts and education as well as a PGCE in art and design. She was very much inspired by the well-educated women she worked with at the co-op nursery and became a secondary school teacher and worked in special needs.

OPEN

DIO/2/6

Hilary Wykurz

2019

Interviewee Name: Hilary Wykurz

Date of Birth: 13 June 1958

Interviewer: Eva Turner

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 22 February 2019

Recording Length: 01:21:40

Brief Descriptive Note: Hilary Wykurz was a drop-in parent member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. The FN CN ran from the 1970s -1990s. She was interviewed by Eva Turner, a fellow member of the co-operative for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. Hilary sent her two children there from the late 1980s till about 1992. She was trained as a nurse and having worked in a children centre ran by qualified childcare workers before joining the co-op nursery she

found some real difficulties and challenges to reconcile with.

Summary of Interview: Hilary was born in 1958 in a council estate in Dartford, Kent. Her father worked as a docker and her mum gave up work at the end of World War Two to look after her children. Hilary had a nice childhood and spent time with her mum cooking and shopping at the local shops. At the age of 18, Hilary trained as a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital, London. She got married at the age of 21 and got a job in Holborn, central London at Kingsway children's centre, which was an employer-funded nursery used by many trade unions and media organisations. The centre had three rooms for children of different ages and Hilary worked in the toddler and baby rooms. Kingsway was Hilary's first professional experience in childcare and she worked there until 1985. She describes Kingsway as a centre of excellent, well-funded childcare and contrasts this experience with the FNCR, which was not as well-funded or resourced. Hilary's daughter, Karen was born in 1985 and her son, Misha was born in 1988. Their move to Walthamstow, East London in 1987 was sadly met with Hilary's mum passing away a few days before. It was a traumatic time for her. Now staying at home to look after her children, Hilary found out about the co-op nursery either through the Coppermill School or the Coppermill Library. From the start, Hilary used the drop-in play sessions at the co-op nursery. Later she was also paid as a locum for looking after the children during staff meetings. Hilary was involved in preparing snacks and peeling potatoes as well as organising activities with songs and music. She recalled that some parents were more helpful than others. Hilary was less involved with the co-op nursery after her son Misha turned two years old and she started to focus on her new role as a child-minder. She recalled being concerned with the hygiene standards and thought that the environment was chaotic, however the warmth and the few strong relationships she had with some parents and staff kept her going. In the early 1990s, Hilary went back to work in the educational psychology department of Waltham Forest Council, supporting children with special

educational needs. She remained committed to the idea that support should target the whole family, not just the children.

OPEN

DIO/2/7

Indra Southgate

2019

Interviewee Name: Indra Southgate

Date of Birth: 29 May 1954

Interviewer: Linda Mezaks

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 27 March 2019

Recording Length: 00:29:05

Brief Descriptive Note: Indra Southgate was a parent who was involved in the First Neighbourhood Co-operative (co-op) Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. She sent her two daughters to the co-op nursery for about five years in the late 1980s.

Summary of Interview: Indra Southgate was born in Mauritius in 1954 and raised by her father when her mother passed away when she was only 10 years old. She moved to England at the age of 21 to pursue her studies in nursing. Indra was able to stay in the UK after marrying her husband and became a healthcare assistant. She then took on a course entitled State Enrolled nursing (SEN) and worked as a SEN for 10 years from 1978. She finally became a manager working at different hospitals. Indra gave birth to her son soon after getting married at the age of 25 and thereafter had two daughters born in 1984 and 1987 respectively. It was hard to find childcare at the time and Indra could not work part-time. She found it hard to properly assess childminders. There were some issues when a childminder left her son alone whilst going shopping and when her daughter wasn't washed and changed into clean clothes. Indra found an advert in the newspaper about the co-op nursery and it felt like a miracle to her as she was struggling with childcare. From the moment she walked into the co-op nursery it felt like a family environment. Everyone was open, welcoming and the staff were professional. Indra volunteered half a day on her days off work. She took the children to the park, organised outdoor activities and made them bake cakes. Her daughters were happy, safe and well fed at the

co-op nursery. She liked that the parents were involved in the care of their and other children. The co-op nursery had a good mix of people and celebrated different cultures and festivals. Indra attended a couple of the finance committee meetings and helped to publicise fundraisers which occurred once or twice a year. When Indra went through a difficult time in her marriage she received the support and understanding of parents such as Pauline France. The co-op nursery was a source of help and encouragement and it made her more confident in supporting others going through a similar tough time. Indra was sad when the co-op nursery closed due to lack of money and resources but she kept in touch with a number of parents and staff.

OPEN

DIO/2/8

Jackie Fulton

2019

Interviewee Name: Jackie Fulton

Date of Birth: 1950

Interviewer: Eva Turner

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 1 March 2019

Recording Length: 01:44:58

Brief Descriptive Note: Jackie Fulton was involved in setting up the First Neighbourhood Co-operative (co-op) Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. She was interviewed by Eva Turner, a fellow member of the co-operative for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery.

Summary of Interview: In 1950, Jackie was born on the outskirts of Glasgow and moved to Hampshire when she was 16 years old. She went on to work for the civil service but didn't enjoy her time there and therefore went on to do teacher training in Sussex. In 1973, she landed a job as a teacher and moved to Walthamstow. She learnt to teach English as a foreign and second language and did a Pre-School Playgroup Association course. Whilst pregnant with her second child, Jackie struggled to find childcare and was frustrated with the Council's lack of cooperation and understanding. She later got involved with the National Childcare

Campaign and a wide range of childcare forums. A while after seeing a poster, Jackie started attending the toddler drop-in at St Saviours' Hall on Verulam Avenue. She met a lady named Anne Smith who wanted to turn the toddler drop-in into a co-operative (co-op) nursery as many parents were not able to go back to work due to lack of childcare provision. The first meeting to plan and organise the co-op nursery project was at Jackie's house and was attended by a group of thirteen parents. The initiative of combining the toddler drop-in with day-care was discussed thoroughly because keeping the toddler drop-in meant that parents would come in and out of the nursery raising child protection and safeguarding issues. Nonetheless, the toddler drop-in was seen as advantageous as new parents would constantly find out about the co-op nursery project and offer their time, skills and experience, helping to keep the fees low. Jackie felt that the time, energy and focus on the toddler drop-in at Truro Road made the co-op nursery project happen because a lot of parents got involved. It was essential for the group of parents leading the work to be representative of the local community this is why money was spent on advertising in schools and men were encouraged to get involved too. As part of this project, Jackie shared a job as a development worker. She worked with architects for two years from 1983 to 1985 to set-up the co-op nursery building at St Saviours' Hall, Verulam Avenue. She recalled how everyone was happy with the rooms and straight away suggested ideas on where things should go. In 1985, Jackie left the toddler drop-in and did not use the co-op nursery. Jackie had good fun and it was a great learning experience for her. She has put good practice, quality childcare and learning development at the heart of her work and believed that co-operatives can be successful if they have the focus, leadership and structure. Jackie left Walthamstow to settle down in Kintyre just when the co-op nursery was about to open.

OPEN

DIO/2/9

James Dudley Hart

2019

Interviewee Name: James Dudley Hart

Date of Birth: 3 June 1983

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 30 March 2019

Recording Length: 00:09:30

Brief Descriptive Note: James Dudley Hart is the son of Norma Dudley. As a child he attended the First Neighbourhood Co-operative (co-op) Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. James shared his most vivid memory of the nursery: seeing a rat on a ramp and being very scared. James kept in touch with a few of his co-op friends. This was only made possible because their parents kept their relationships going after they left the co-op nursery.

Summary of Interview: James was born in 1983 and attended the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. His memories at the co-op nursery were a combination of what he saw on pictures and was told in his conversations with his mum, Norma Dudley and friends. His most vivid memory was seeing a rat scurrying on a ramp towards him. He instantly froze and was shocked. James developed a phobia of rats meaning that this childhood episode has had a strong impact on him whilst growing up. He described the co-op nursery as a happy place linked to friends, fun and play. James made some long-lasting friends who attended the co-op nursery with him and this had a positive influence on his life. They were able to stay in touch because their parents bridged the gap by keeping their relationships alive and on-going. The co-op nursery was about parents collaborating together which meant that they had to talk to and understand each other. The working environment impacted his mum greatly because she still maintained some relationships thirty years after leaving. James was told that one of the ways his mum, Norma got talking to other parents at the co-op was through him biting other children! As parents, James and his wife experienced difficulties in childcare. It is as challenging to get free childcare paid by the government as it is to pay huge amounts of money to get private childcare. He has heard from other parents that it is in general poor quality childcare given for the amount of money

paid. James would have liked to send his children to a similar set-up as the co-op nursery. This would have enabled his wife to work part-time and she would have liked it. The co-operative set-up would have certainly been helpful when he had his second child and he liked the principle of caring for each other's children. His ideal childcare would have a reasonable ratio of one adult looking after three children. The childcare system would be free because he believed that subsidising childcare is an investment society should make. This would enable parents to work and it would be better for a child's development to meet other children rather than staying at home.

OPEN

DIO/2/10

Elizabeth and Siva Muniandy

2019

Interviewee Name: Elizabeth and Siva Muniandy

Date of Birth: 1954 and 1951

Interviewer: Eva Turner

Gender: Female and Male

Date of Recording: 29 January 2019

Recording Length: 01:22:22

Brief Descriptive Note: Elizabeth - 'Liz' - and Siva Muniandy were parent-members of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. They sent their son and daughter there from 1988 to 1993. They were interviewed by Eva Turner, a fellow member of the co-operative for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery.

Summary of Interview: Liz and Siva Muniandy sent their two children, Ravi and Ellie to the co-op nursery and were involved with running the nursery through working childcare shifts and attending committee meetings. Liz grew up in Nottingham before moving to London in 1982. Siva, Liz's husband grew up in Malaysia and came to work for the NHS as a nurse at the age of twenty-two. They did not live close by family and didn't have close friends with children of the same age. Liz was working for a women's centre and thought that she may have come across an advert for the co-op nursery whilst there. They wanted their children to spend time with people of various cultures and backgrounds which they

felt weren't present among the childminders and the 'Mothers and Toddlers' groups running where they lived. Siva was one of the rare fathers at the co-op nursery looking after his and other children as well as being the treasurer and part of the finance committee. He developed a wide range of professional skills and positive experiences but recalled how the co-op nursery struggled with raising funds constantly. Even if the nursery was well-run and very flexible Liz, who was doing Wednesdays afternoon shifts found it difficult to know who made the decisions and who was in charge. Liz and Siva both wished that more support, explanations, structure and directions were given to their work. They knew about tensions arising between the staff and parents over pay and between the old and new staff members as they had different motives to their work. Nonetheless, Liz and Siva recognised that the co-op nursery was far better than what was on offer generally in Walthamstow. They still have not come across anything like the co-op nursery. Liz said that her experience at the co-op helped in her new job at a health collective called Women's Health. They have made some good friends and Ellie, their daughter cried for seven days after leaving the co-op nursery to attend school because, she said, "these are my people".

OPEN

DIO/2/11

Mary Burnett and Norma Dudley

2018

Interviewee Name: Mary Burnett and Norma Dudley

Date of Birth: 1952 and 1951

Interviewer: Eva Turner and Rosa Schling

Gender: Both Female

Date of Recording: 26 November 2018

Recording Length: 02:10:20

Brief Descriptive Note: Mary Burnett and Norma Dudley were parent members of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. They were interviewed by Eva Turner, a fellow member of the co-operative for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery and Rosa Schling, co-director of On The Record. Both were single mothers at the time, and helped to

run the nursery: Mary was treasurer and Norma was in the Premises Committee. Their interview discusses how the nursery was run and the ideas underpinning it.

Summary of Interview: Both Mary and Norma worked in social work and were single parents. They got involved with the First Neighbourhood Co-operative nursery in the mid-1980s through friends who were already part of the project. As a single parent Norma wanted her son to meet other children. Mary remembered being part of the meetings and contributing to the vision of the co-op nursery. The co-op nursery in their eyes was not only a place for childcare, it was a group of similarly minded women coming together to make things work for their community by giving out their time, skills and energy. Even if the co-op nursery was run by qualified paid staff, Mary and Norma recalled doing the Thursday's shifts as the staff were having their regular meetings. They helped the children with activities such as painting and prepared nutritious hot meals for them. In addition to their shifts, Mary took on the role of treasurer and Norma was part of the premises committee which looked after the safety of the building among other things. Mary and Norma praised the ethnically diverse staff and their transparency in communicating with parents. The council's main criticism of the co-op nursery, strongly challenged by Norma, was that most parents dropping their kids were middle class. Reflecting back Mary felt that an independent facilitator would have helped to ease the power struggle between the paid staff and the parents working there. Overall both feel it was a positive experience and the co-op nursery was considered a sanctuary by many families.

OPEN

DIO/2/12

Pauline France

2018

Interviewee Name: Pauline France

Date of Birth: 1950

Interviewer: Linda Mezaks

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 19 December 2018

Recording Length: 01:40:39

Brief Descriptive Note: Pauline France was a

member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London in the 1980s, joining the project in 1983. She worked as a paid staff member from 1985-89 and was also a parent-member as her children attended the nursery. After leaving the co-op nursery, Pauline continued to work in childcare, undertaking a variety of roles in the sector. In 2019, at the time of recording this interview, she was governor of two nursery schools in Waltham Forest.

Summary of Interview: Pauline grew up in Liverpool before settling down in Waltham Forest, East London. Her son, Kieran was born in 1982. She worked in education before having her own children and came to know about the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery in 1983. The co-op held a drop-in session for children and parents at the beginning, with of play activities run by both qualified and unqualified staff. Pauline recalled meeting one staff member named Dorothy Shepherd with whom she shared a similar vision that children's development and creativity comes through play. The co-op nursery was registered with social services in 1985 and paid staff started to come in thereafter. There was only one paid staff member at the co-op nursery drop-in at Harmony Hall, Truro Road and seven paid staff members when the co-operative opened its day care nursery at St Saviours' Church Hall, Verulam Road in 1986. Their core funding came through the Greater London Council, and co-op tried to publicise its work to ensure its funding was continued. There were adverts and promotional videos in schools and invitations were sent to councillors to come along to visit. Pauline took a risk by leaving a well-paid job to take on a part-time job at the FNCN. The parents played an active part in running the nursery. Full time childcare was not provided to ensure parents had enough time to contribute to the co-operative and children had time at home with them too. Parents worked four hours a week in the nursery, excluding time spent in meetings and committees. There were plenty of indoor activities such as painting, collage, cooking, dance and story-telling as well as outdoor activities and trips. There were some

tensions that arose between staff and parents. Weekend retreats were organised to improve understanding and co-operation between them. Pauline left the FNCN in 1989 and got a job at the Churchill Nursery School, later becoming nursery headteacher, and then an advisor to local authorities. Ever since, Pauline has not found a nursery that involved parents to such an extent. Contemporary funding challenges make the co-operative model of greater interest to the childcare sector at the time of recording.

OPEN

DIO/2/13

Ros and Olive Kane

2019

Interviewee Name: Ros and Olive Kane

Date of Birth: n/a

Interviewer: Linda Mezaks

Gender: Both Female

Date of Recording: 17 February 2019

Recording Length: 01:11:43

Brief Descriptive Note: Ros Kane's daughter Olive attended the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. They were interviewed together about their experiences for the project Doing it Ourselves, the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery.

Summary of Interview: Ros is Olive's mum and she was born in Hertfordshire and moved to London when she was three years old. Since 1974, she lived in Waltham Forest, East London and worked in prisons before getting into social work to eventually become a psychotherapist. When Olive was a toddler, she was looked after by the neighbours, the child-minders and attended the co-op nursery. Ros recalled how friendly and homely the co-op nursery was even if there were not as many equipment and resources available as in a state-run nursery. Ros was mainly helping with the preparation of healthy snacks and meals and was diligent in doing her four hours a week as a parent user. Olive remembered children running around and playing with sticks of charcoal. The children were allowed to play freely, be creative and be stimulated by making new friends. The staff was from a diverse range of backgrounds and established a strong relationship with parents.

The co-op nursery was very flexible, enabling full-time, part-time or drop-in use to suit each family and parents' participation helped to keep the fees low. Any parent was able to use their skills and experience to run activities and Olive felt that no one was truly in charge. Ros saw some dads helping out too. After a while, Olive was moved to a state-run nursery which had a more structured day and a larger outside space. Ros thought that the co-op nursery gave her experience on how to look after and treat children and taught her how you can create something to help yourself and others in your community. Ros has been a parent governor at Olive's primary school and helped to set-up with the head teacher a scheme called 'The National Pyramid'. The scheme gave vulnerable children in class extra support with their mental well-being. She also ran two charities one named 'Carefree Kids' providing therapies to children and the other named 'Becoming a Parent' supporting and helping young mums.

OPEN

DIO/2/14

Roy and Veronica Pickering

2019

Interviewee Name: Roy and Veronica Pickering

Date of Birth: 1954 and 1962

Interviewer: Eva Turner and Rosa Schling

Gender: Male and Female

Date of Recording: 30 March 2019

Recording Length: 01:28:39

Brief Descriptive Note: Veronica and Roy Pickering were members of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative (co-op) Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. They were interviewed by Eva Turner, a fellow member of the co-operative, and Rosa Schling from On the Record for the project Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery.

Summary of Interview: Roy was born in 1954 in Mansfield whereas Veronica was born in 1962 in Kisi, Kenya. Veronica came to England when she was seven years old to settle in Kent. Veronica and Roy lived in Nottinghamshire until they moved to London in 1985. Their son, Joshua was looked after by a childminder allowing Roy to travel and teach at an arts

college in Mansfield whilst Veronica worked as a social worker. Roy and Veronica were living in a one bedroom flat and were struggling financially. It was when Roy had an artist residency at a school that he found out about the co-op nursery. Roy was impressed straight away by the level of freedom and creativity given to the children. Their daughter Rosie was ten months old and Joshua was three years old when they started going to the co-op nursery. Veronica felt that its ethos attracted parents who were open to different ideas about parenthood. Veronica and Roy had to build relationships with other parents because of the collaborative nature of the co-op nursery, unlike other nurseries or schools. There were no parents that they ever felt were not good for their children to be around. Roy helped with the shopping and joined the kids during their painting activities whereas Veronica was involved with different committees and interviews. The co-op nursery was multi-cultural with people from the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and South Asia, however there were more middle class than working class and poorer families. Roy and Veronica found that the co-op was a great source of support for them during stressful times as they didn't have any family where they lived. However, Roy felt sometimes uncomfortable and isolated during his shift. There were only a few men helping out among a group of fairly dominant women who knew what they wanted. The staff found it difficult to deal with an outspoken group of parents but equally some parents felt they weren't good enough because they didn't have the right childcare qualifications. Veronica and Roy left the co-op nursery when Joshua was five years old because he was about to attend primary school, and Rosie moved to a different nursery. Roy and Veronica made some lasting friendships and left the co-op nursery with positive memories.

OPEN

DIO/2/15

Saroj Tailor

2019

Interviewee Name: Saroj Tailor

Date of Birth: 2 February 1957

Interviewer: Linda Mezaks

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 13 February 2019

Recording Length: 01:28:39

Brief Descriptive Note: Saroj Tailor was a parent and staff member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, a parent-led co-operative nursery in Walthamstow, London. She spent five years there, from 1986 to 1991.

Summary of Interview: Saroj was born in Kenya and came to live in Bolton, England when she was nine years old with her parents and siblings. There her father worked in the cotton mills and her mum struggled to find work. In her early twenties, she came to live in London with her husband, studied to become a children's nurse and worked at a children's hospital for nine months. She then went on to obtain a qualification in neo-natal care which enabled her to get a new job at Whipps Cross Hospital, London in the neo-natal care baby unit. When Saroj got pregnant with her son she switched to night shifts and resigned after her second pregnancy for health reasons. There was a family centre which Saroj attended a couple of days a week with her two children before she heard through a friend that a co-operative nursery was opening on Verulam Road. After taking her children there regularly Saroj was asked to join as a staff member and started to work for 25 hours per week. She was opening and closing the co-op nursery and attended a lot of meetings in the evenings. Saroj recalled running activities with play-dough and Lego and that due to scarce resources and funding the parents had to be creative. Saroj remembered draping saris about and making-up stories for the children. The parents were the real teachers, sharing their knowledge, ideas and skills with each other. They had the freedom to lead any activities they wished to do and received support from other parents. The co-op nursery helped Saroj to cope with any personal problems she faced. During her time at the nursery she gained confidence in her own abilities. In 1991, Saroj left the co-op nursery to join Church Hill Nursery with a former colleague, Pauline France.

OPEN

DIO/3

Project Archive

2018-2019

Doing it Ourselves Project Archive, including photographs of oral history participants, photographs and audio recordings of project activities, press reports on the projects and printed and promotional materials produced for the project (2018-2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/1 Portrait Photographs 2019

Portrait photographs of people involved with the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery were taken by A-Level Photography students attending local sixth form colleges in Waltham Forest as part of the project Doing it Ourselves. Some of these photographs were collaged and risograph printed to become part of the exhibition for Doing it Ourselves that was held at The Mill Community Centre in the summer of 2019.

OPEN

DIO/3/1/1 Portraits of Norma Dudley and James Dudley-Hart 2019

Photographs taken at the home of Norma Dudley of Norma Dudley and her son James Dudley-Hart by Fatimah Zahmoul. James Dudley-Hart attended the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery as a child. Norma Dudley was a parent-member of the co-operative in the late 1980s (2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/1/2 Portrait photographs taken with staff and parents at the site of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery. 2019

Portraits taken with Barbara De Lissandri, Eva Turner, Pauline France, Mary Burnett and Saroj Tailor at the nursery on Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow where the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery was once based. Photographs also show detail from the nursery site. Photographer was Szilvia Kiraly, assisted by Sophie Polyviou (30 March 2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/1/3 Portraits of Veronica and Roy Pickering 2019

Portrait photographs taken at the home of Veronica and Roy Pickering, parents who were members of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery in the late 1980s.

Photographs by Szilvia Kiraly (30 March 2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/1/4

Portraits taken of people attending an event discussing the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery 2019

Portrait photographs taken by Szilvia Kiraly of people who attended an event held to discuss the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery at The Mill Community Centre on Coppermill Lane, 14 March 2019, part of the project Doing it Ourselves (14 March 2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/2 Photographs of Project Activities 2019

Photographs of the discussion events and exhibition that took place during the Doing It Ourselves Project (2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/2/1 Photographs of discussion event on 30 March 2019 2019

Photographs of an event held to discuss the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery at The Mill Community Centre on Coppermill Lane, 14 March 2019, part of the project Doing it Ourselves. Photographs by Wiktorja Sniadowska (14 March 2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/2/2 Photographs of Doing it Ourselves exhibition 2019

Photographs of the Doing it Ourselves: Imagining Better Childcare exhibition held at The Mill Community Centre for eight weeks from July - September 2019. Design by Yinka Danmole, curated by Rosa Schling, photographed by Sophie Polyviou (1 September 2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/2/3 Photographs of event held at the Doing it Ourselves exhibition 2019

Photographs of a day of discussion and activities held at the Doing it Ourselves: Imagining Better Childcare exhibition at The Mill Community Centre. Includes discussion with speakers Jackie Fulton (one of the founders of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery) and Lucie Stephens (New Economics Foundation) and children's activities run by Scribble and Smudge and Soundhoppers. Photographed by Sophie Polyviou (14 September 2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/3 Recordings of Project Activities 2019

Audio recordings of two discussion events which took place during the Doing it Ourselves Project (2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/3/1 Audio recording of discussion event 2019

Recording of an event held to discuss the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery at The Mill Community Centre on Coppermill Lane, part of the project Doing it Ourselves. Speakers: Pauline France, staff and parent member of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery, and Lucie Stephens, New Economics Foundation (14 March 2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/3/2 Audio recording of discussion event 2019

Recordings of speakers at a day of discussion and activities held at the Doing it Ourselves: Imagining Better Childcare exhibition at The Mill Community Centre. Speakers were Jackie Fulton (one of the founders of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery) and Lucie Stephens (New Economics Foundation (14 September 2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/4 Press Reports of Project Activities 2018-2019

Press reports announcing the launch and exhibition of the Doing It ourselves Project (2018-2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/4/1 Article Announcing Project 2018

Article on p.6 of Waltham Forest Echo by Eva Turner announcing the project., Doing it Ourselves: the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery (October 2018)

OPEN

DIO/3/4/2 Article Announcing Exhibition 2019

Article on p.13 of Waltham Forest Echo by Ruth Goldsmith, 'Exhibition celebrates visionary parents.' Ruth was a volunteer on the project Doing it Ourselves which recorded the history of the First Neighbourhood Co-operative Nursery (September 2019)

OPEN

DIO/3/5

Project Printed Materials

2019

Leaflets, stickers and posters produced by the
project Doing it Ourselves (2019)
OPEN