

Aireborough Supported Activities Scheme

Annual Report

September 2020 – August 2021



Registered Charity No. 1167044

ASAS Management Committee

Chris Parapia - Chairperson; Sarah Lee - Vice-Chair; Emma Midgley - Treasurer & parent.
Trustees - Andy Mosby, Jenny Jeffels - scheme volunteer, Kathie Hunter - parent.

The Trustees work hard behind the scenes in order to manage the charity affairs, during the pandemic they have met more frequently than usual and as the meetings have been via Microsoft Teams it has been much easier for trustees to attend; another benefit of having them virtually is they save time, agenda items are managed quickly and efficiently, and it has made making sure we are compliant with our Charity Commission and Ofsted registration requirements that bit easier.

Chair's Report 2021



Please read this amazing report and try to imagine that all this took place during the Coronavirus Pandemic. What stands out the most is how much was achieved often at very short notice and having to cope with constant changes to all the rules and regulations. Change of venues, staffing, PPE requirements to name but a few.

The report speaks for itself especially the wonderful pictures of the children and young people, staff and volunteers, all enjoying themselves.

We have a brilliant group of Trustees who have been working hard in the background supporting the decision making we've had to do and coming up with ideas as to how we could function safely. Thank you to Jo our Project Manager who has had to work so hard and often under intense pressure. She is truly a dedicated and committed member of staff.

Thanks also to Zoe and Sian who have had to adapt to new ways of working and have stepped up to the challenge.

As I write this, I hope that we are coming through the other side of what has been a very challenging time, but we have learnt new ways of working and some of these will continue to be of great value and be taken on board to continue into the future.

Restarting our residentials is now a priority and we will have to see how these work out.

Thank you to absolutely everyone who has been involved with ASAS over the last 12 months, I am so proud to be the chair of this fantastic organisation.

We are currently in need of some new trustees - parents are particularly welcome, anyone who is interested please get in touch with me at chris.parapia@aireborough-scheme.co.uk

What's been happening in the last 12 months?

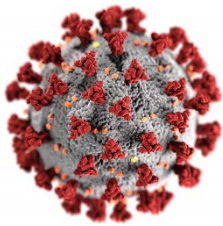
Staffing

Shahid Choudry, our IT engineer left us in January due to other work and family pressures, so we have now taken on a company, Eitex, to manage our IT systems and we are very pleased with everything they've done to date.

Liam Sanders, Assistant Project Manager and Scheme Nurse also left ASAS in March this year for pastures new, we are very grateful for his hard work and dedication to ASAS for the past 10 years and wish him well in his new career.

His departure left us without a nurse and trainer, but we are able to request training to meet children's medical needs through Leeds Community Health Trust - LCHT and this is working well.

Impact of Coronavirus



With the pandemic still with us we did what we could to carry on providing short breaks to the children and young people; we did have to keep some changes in place - lower numbers, social distancing, wearing masks and rigorous cleaning and hand washing, but thankfully we didn't have anyone becoming ill whilst attending ASAS, we were affected very minimally by people having to self-isolate due to being in contact with those who had tested positive for the virus and we didn't have any burst bubbles that meant cancelling any of our provision.

One knock on effect of the virus has been the temporary closure of Lineham Farm, while they have been closed, they have been undertaking building and improvement work; when they were able to start providing some services, they were just offering support to a small amount of looked after children; then since the easing of lockdown restrictions when residential could recommence they've just been offering weekday provision to schools. Weekend bookings haven't been possible due to lack of instructors, but we have now made some provisional bookings from April 2022. We've been using Lineham since 2003 and it did really feel like home, we've organised many residentials and activity days there and it has really been a void in our offering. Due to this we have used Herd Farm a lot but going forward availability has been limited, probably due to 2019-20 bookings being rescheduled, so we've started to use Nell Bank in Ilkley, it's a lovely venue however for some families it's just too far to travel, but we've been grateful for having another place to run our activities.

Furlough - for a short period of time during the pandemic we put Sian and Zoe onto flexible furlough which meant they could work a couple of hours a week to keep themselves in the loop and do valuable duties but most of their salaries were covered by the government's grant scheme, we received £769.70 in total.

Sian Dempsey - Administrator



Working during COVID has certainly been an experience! A lot of the more general admin work, such as making sure staff and children's important information is up to date before each provision, has remained the same, but other tasks have had to be adapted. For example, every year we make a photo calendar for each child at the Christmas activity day, but the activity day was not able to go ahead in 2020 due to restrictions. Instead, Jo and I made the calendars and posted them out to the families with a Christmas card to be coloured in by the children. I really loved doing this, because it was a way to keep up an ASAS tradition and to maintain communication with the families we weren't able to see as we usually would.

We also arranged a couple of Billy Biscuit Zoom performances, Billy is a regular at our Christmas Activity Day and playschemes. This meant that the children could still attend the much-loved show and see their friends, but from the safety of their own homes and alongside their families. Thank goodness for modern technology!

I'm relieved that things are starting to get back to normal (as I'm sure we all are!), but I've learnt some invaluable lessons through having to adapt my work because of COVID and from watching the way the staff have strived to keep up their usual standard of excellence despite the difficulties. I do think that some of the changes put in place could be kept even once the

pandemic is over. For example, the electronic home-scheme diaries, which have allowed staff and parents to communicate before and after provision without being face to face, have been very well received, beneficial and successful.

Following the summer scheme I collected feedback from parents and leaders and this can be seen at the end of this report.

Zoe Cartwright - Volunteer Coordinator & Fundraiser



At the start of the year, I was furloughed until after the Easter holidays. During furlough I worked 2 hours per week and focussed on parental well-being phone calls. The response was very positive with many parents appreciating the call. Many parents were facing some real challenges - mainly around home schooling and lack of support / resources. Any specific issues which were raised were passed onto the project manager to follow up. All calls and discussions were recorded.

As initially we weren't engaging volunteers for provision as numbers were very limited and our face-to-face fundraising wasn't able to go ahead my priority was promoting our online fundraising platforms - Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising given that many people were at home and shopping online.

In May - I represented ASAS at SCOPE's Airmeet event. This involved telling professionals about the amazing work undertaken at ASAS and informing them of how children can access our services. I also attended their forum on Early Help and short Breaks.

I kept in regular contact with volunteers by email and set up a WhatsApp group as the younger volunteers don't seem to check their emails very often. Once plans were finalised for the summer and the number of volunteers required were established, I contacted all the 2020 'new' volunteers who never actually got to start with us due to COVID. Very few of them volunteers were now in a position to proceed so as a contingency a selection of our previous trusted partners (St Marys Menston, Bradford Grammar) were contacted with regards to student recruitment. Information, posters, and fliers were provided. This resulted in 13 new volunteers recruited.

All volunteers were processed, DBS and references were carried out. New for this year all volunteers were interviewed via a Teams meeting which really was beneficial for both the volunteers and ASAS.

This year I took responsibility for organising and delivering our induction training to new staff and volunteers. This was done in partnership with Jo - PM, Chris - Chairperson and Jenny Pemberton, one of our experienced leaders, who offered communication and behaviour management training.

Following the summer scheme, I gathered and collated Volunteer feedback regarding their volunteering experience, see feedback at the end of this report.



First Aid course January 2021

Training

Due to Covid, lockdowns and many things being put on hold last year we were out of date with most of our training so as things have started to ease the majority of our staff have undertaken the following training, some virtually and some face to face: -

Epilepsy awareness; Colostomy Care; Asthma Care; Anaphylaxis and Epipen; Medication Administration, Child Specific for administering medication and Team Teach.

(Photo -Team Teach participants)



10 staff attended Moving and Handling training, 7 staff attended a Paediatric First Aid course and 3 staff undertook VNS (Vagus Nerve Stimulator for Epilepsy) training.

All staff re-did their Prevent training (The Prevent duty requires organisation to pay due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism).

In order to minimise the amount of times our staff and volunteers came into contact with one another during restricted times we condensed the induction training into 2 weeks and provided people with a variety of links to videos they could watch regarding types of disability and to undertake the LSCP - Introduction to Safeguarding course; this was paired down for our younger volunteers in order to give them an understanding of their duty regarding Safeguarding whilst volunteering with ASAS.



Teamwork - relaxing together!

Funding & Fundraising

In April 2021 we entered year 2 of our 3-year Contract (plus the possibility of 2 years extension) with LCC to provide 6 residentials per year; but as residentials haven't been able to go ahead due to Covid restrictions we've been running activity days in lieu of them, most have been at Herd Farm but due to lack of availability our latter one's have been at Nell Bank in Ilkley, which is a lovely venue but a bit far for some families to travel.

Our grant with LCC to provide our holiday play scheme and activity days also entered year 2 of 2; and we have been able to run all our planned events.

We are very grateful to the commissioners who have understood the difficulties coronavirus has had on the delivery of our services but no funding has been reduced and we are currently awaiting confirmation that the grants are being extended for another year from April 2022; they were hoping to change the grants to contracts but this hasn't happened yet but is looking likely; hopefully having successfully won the residential contract we maybe have the skills and understanding to put in another successful bid when necessary.

Localgiving - [Aireborough Supported Activities Scheme | Localgiving](#)



Originally when we signed up to Localgiving they ran a match funding campaign each year which made it very beneficial for us to pay our £96 a year membership however this hasn't happened for the last few years but we do still have a couple of parents who continue with their £10 per month direct debit to ASAS and occasionally people make one off donations via our

Localgiving page, so it is still beneficial subscribing, in the last year we've received £389.70.

Pudsey Gateway Club

We were contacted in March and informed that the long running club would be closing due to lack of funding, and they wanted to donate £1000 of the remaining funds to ASAS for which we were very grateful; the club provided valuable social opportunities for adults with learning disabilities for many years so it will be sadly missed.

Leeds University Study - Learning by experience - Chronic Illness & Disability Project

Several parents volunteered to take part in this project and as a thank you for recruiting them ASAS received £10 per volunteer, £150 in total. They need volunteers every year and the same people can volunteer again as it's a different cohort of students involved in the project, and it is very worthwhile to help with the education of our future medical professionals.

Arnold Clarke



In June we put in an application to the Arnold Clark Community Fund for £1000 to help towards transport for the summer play scheme; applications are granted on a weekly basis with 500 applications granted per month. In August we received confirmation that we'd been successful and received the funding.

Ilkley Real Food Market

Zoe planned to run a tombola stall at the Market in Ilkley on Sunday 2 August; everything was prepared and ready to go when Zoe fell ill, so at very short-notice Chris and Sarah stepped in and ran the stall and made £278.

DontSendMeACard.com

Zoe signed us up to this website last year and to date we've received a donation of £4.50.

[Aireborough Supported Activities Scheme eCards](#)
[DontSendMeACard.com](#)



Please help ASAS raise funds...

Do your own fundraising event - such as asking your family to donate in lieu of Christmas cards or birthday presents - Facebook usually suggest you do a fundraiser for your birthday. Kathie Hunter -Trustee, set up a fundraiser for her birthday and raised a fantastic **£540.95**.

Raise free funds just by shopping on the internet...



Our Easy fundraising supporters have raised **£124.81**.

Please sign up and raise funds for ASAS by using the following link: - <http://www.aireboroughsas.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk - everything is the same price as on Amazon. ASAS supporters have raised **£212** so far, keep it going with your Christmas shopping, you can select to use SmileAmazon in your app settings once you've signed up, you do need to renew this every 6 months to keep the donations being applied.



We have just set up our own [Facebook For Sale / Donate / Swap](#) group and hope everyone will join; you can sell goods and give all or a percentage of the proceeds to ASAS; donate goods to other members and ask them to make a donation as a thank you or swap goods with other members, friends and family are also welcome to join so please do promote this to others.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to any/all of these schemes, please continue to use them and promote them to your family and friends.



Provision

After last year's lockdowns we recommenced our services in July holding our summer play scheme as activity days held at Herd Farm, as these worked well, we continued to run this in the place of all our activity days and residential breaks until restrictions were lifted, and from October 2021 we will be able to recommence our residential short breaks.

Herd Farm Activity Days

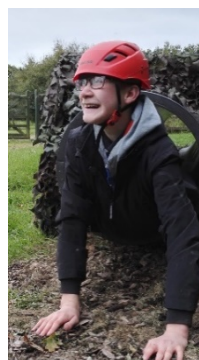
Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September



Orienteering



Archery



Assault Course



Bushcraft



Giant Seesaw

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 October



Making friends



Adapted Bikes



Don't tell anyone!

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 October in lieu of a residential



Archery



Adapted Bikes



Pond Dipping



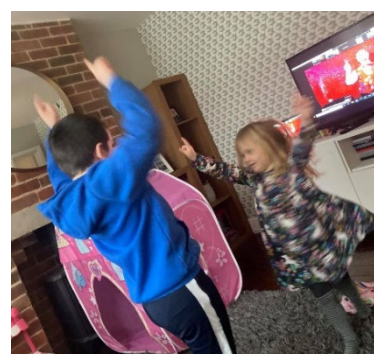
Assault Course



We had planned to do some Activity Days at Green Meadows in October half term, but we decided not to run them due the government's talk of another lockdown

Billy Biscuit Zoom Show in lieu of our Christmas Activity Day

Saturday 5 December 2020



Pictures provided by parents of their children enjoying the show

Activity Days and Easter Scheme at Herd Farm 2021



Monday 15 & Tuesday 16 February



Archery



Assault Course



Bushcraft

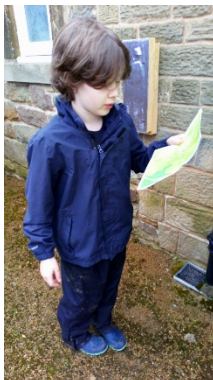


Nightline

Wednesday 17 & Thursday 18 February



Bushcraft



Orienteering



Adapted Bikes



Low Ropes



Assault Course

Another beautiful day at Herd Farm



Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 March in lieu of a residential



Biking



Giant Seesaw



Climbing Wall



Assault Course



Archery



Bushcraft



Crate Stack

**Easter Scheme at Herd Farm
Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 April**



Assault Course



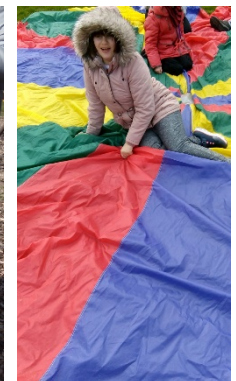
Archery



Zip Wire



Giant Swing



Just having fun!

Saturday 10 - Sunday 11 April



Assault course

Climbing Wall



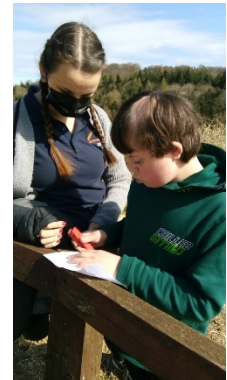
Adapted bikes

Orienteering

Bushcraft

Crate Stack

Monday 12-Tuesday 13 April



Assault course

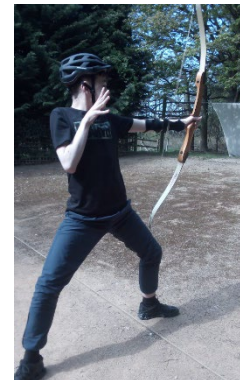
Low Ropes

Climbing Wall

Adapted bikes

Orienteering

24-25 April - in lieu of a residential





1-2 June at Nell Bank



Nellbanian Mountain

Bushcraft



Adventure Playground

Water Play

Summer Play Scheme at Vine Education Centre

Green Meadow wasn't available this summer due to it having a new roof so we had to find a new venue that was suitable and could meet the needs of our children. Vine Education Centre is regularly used by Leeds Weekend Care Association - Weekenders so we consulted with them about its facilities and decide to put a letting application in; the response we received was that it wasn't available for use during school holidays due to Leeds City College having an annual contract for its use. This was obviously disappointing and left us at a loss as to where else we could operate from, however shortly afterwards lettings contacted us again and informed us that the college had just revised their contract to term-time only so we could apply to use it, which was excellent news. Many of the children we offer provision to also attend Weekenders, so it was a familiar setting to them.

Vine Education Centre





We then had to gain permission from Ofsted to run from a temporary venue so we could legally offer places to children under 8 years, which was granted, then we went full steam ahead with getting it all organised, staff and volunteers were just about all in place, but we had to arrange appropriate training prior to the scheme, which again we were very lucky to be able to arrange at very short notice.

Overall Vine was a good venue and Weekenders allowed us to use their equipment such as bikes, scooters, toys, and bouncy castle which as we were running a more centre based scheme this year were very valuable in helping to keep the children busy and entertained. The downside of the building was it wasn't 100% secure, there were gates and fences that if determined children could climb over or go under, there was also a fire exit in the dining hall which led straight out into the carpark so we had to be super vigilant to make sure no one could escape and if they did then someone was on their tail to bring them back and keep them safe.

The building didn't lend itself to providing 3 separate bases for the different age groups, so we decided to run each week for a specific age group as follows: -
29-30 July for 5-18 years this was so anyone who wasn't able to attend the week for their age group was still able to attend some days; 2-6 August for 12-18 years and 9-13 August for 5-11 years; we did offer a bit of flexibility so if families had more than one child their children could attend the same days to make it easier.

It was rather stressful in the first few days while everyone got used to the new setting but our system of parents dropping off and picking up from the main entrance worked well, and having a minibus meant we were able to offer children whose parents couldn't bring them transport to get there. We also did a few trips to local parks and play areas including a Breeze event at Kirkstall Abbey specifically for children with additional needs.



Breeze Event



We organised a couple of trips to Left Bank in Headingly, it's a community space in an old church hall, where they have an inflatable called Heaven, it was designed by a local artist from children's ideas and pictures, the sessions were free and our children really loved it and the welcome they received there was brilliant, they gave the children free ice-creams and even offered to provide free packed lunches.



I think the brown thing was supposed to be a chocolate fountain!



We also had some of our usual entertainment - performances by Billy Biscuit, Pete White - Suitcase Circus and Rapide Entertainments - Circus Skills.



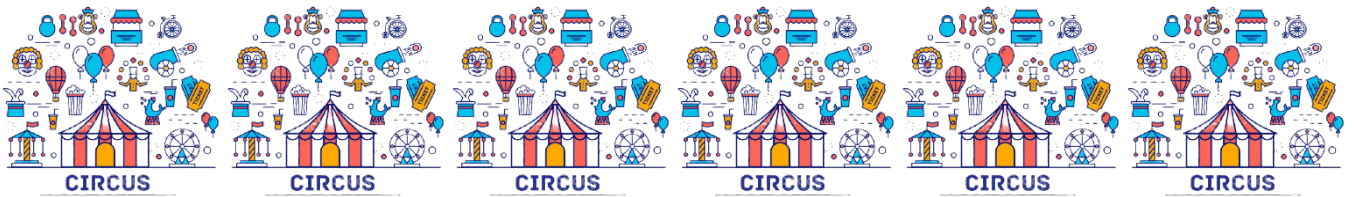
Billy Biscuit



Pete White - Suitcase Circus



Rapide Entertainment - formerly Rapide Brothers, but unfortunately one of the brothers had to get a proper job due to Covid



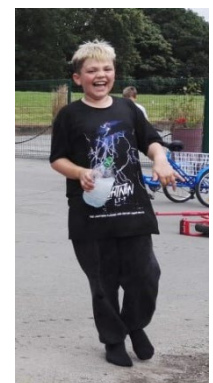
We had a visit from a couple of PCSO's with their police van and some mini uniforms, being happily modelled here by some of the children.



One of the trips was by train into Leeds to do the Dinosaur Trail, there was quite a lot of walking and not a lot of dinosaurs but I think the children still enjoyed themselves.

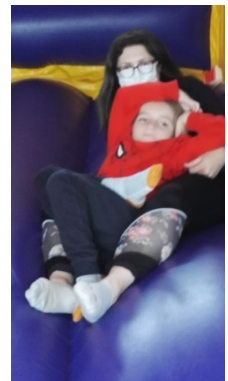
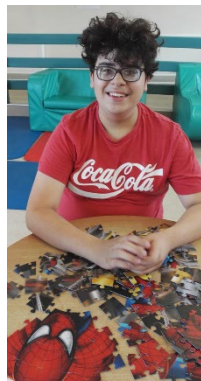
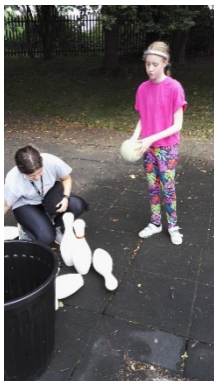


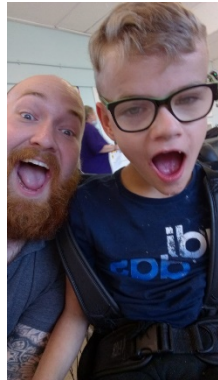
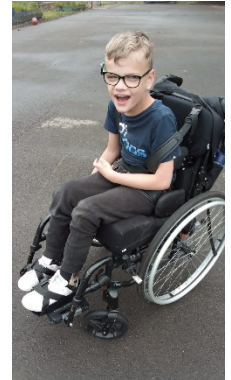
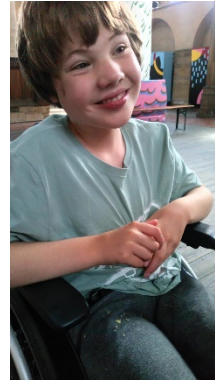
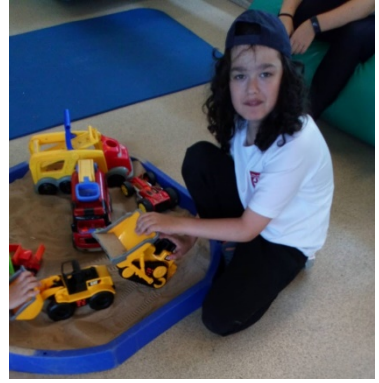
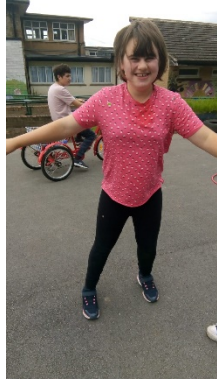
As the weather was particularly hot at times we couldn't miss the opportunity to have a few water play (fight) sessions; one parent was especially surprised and thrilled that her boys joined in, she hadn't sent a change of clothes so they even had to go home in their wet stuff, but did so happily.





Here's more photos of the children just having fun!





Mon 16 August - Herd Farm



And more biking, assault course, bushcraft and having fun!



Team Work

ASAS only have 3 permanent workers, Jo works 30 hours per week and Sian and Zoe only work 6 hours each per week; we have about 20 paid leaders most who have full-time jobs elsewhere, when we were preparing for our Ofsted inspection in November we had to have everyone's qualification certificates available, just in case they needed to look at any and at that point we realise that on our payroll we had 1 doctor, 2 nurses, 2 SENCO's, 11 qualified teachers, 5 Higher Level Teaching Assistants/Learning Mentors, 1 Senior Speech and Language Therapist; 1 Psychologist; 4 Playworkers; 1 Childcare worker and 4 University Students - one studying Health and Social Care, one studying to be a Norland Nanny, one studying medicine and one studying Psychology. Most of our volunteers are either studying at school or University or working in care settings.

Everyone has done a fantastic job this last year; having to put up with wearing masks for most of the time; cleaning, cleaning, and more cleaning - one of the team leaders said she'd never done as much cleaning in her life - she has a cleaner at home. We've all had to be understanding that the children might be anxious because of the virus and worried about visiting other places and being with so many other people when they've been so limited for such a long time, but the staff have been reassuring, calm and patient as always.

We've been especially grateful to the parents for their confidence in our service and allowing their child to attend and be cared for by us, with many very positive outcomes as you can read about in the feedback in this report.

I am so proud of what we have achieved this year and look forward to providing more opportunities in the coming years for children and young people with disabilities.

Jo Galasso, Project Manager.

Feedback 2021 - Parents

Gail Wright (Kaycee Morris)

Thank you. She has really enjoyed herself this week and it's been lovely for us to have a break too. I always know that she is safe and happy at your schemes. Best wishes 😊

So pleased to hear that she's had fun and been sociable - not always an easy task for Kaycee!

Thank you so much for supporting her Lucy. She's come home very happy 😁

Kathie Hunter (Seth Creighton)

Just a quick email to say how much Seth is enjoying scheme, as ever all the staff are fantastic and we wanted to pass on our thanks to Lauren for supporting him this week, we have been really impressed with all the things she has done with him, and he clearly really likes her - he didn't want to leave today!

Nicola McLean

Thank you so much to you all, especially Jo, Navi, Beth, and Beth! The children have had a fab week (and so have I)! ❤️

Zoe Cartwright

Thank you ASAS for a fab week for Ol on play scheme. special thanks to Alice and Rachel for looking after him, he has clearly had a blast and we have had some much-needed time out with our younger two. very much appreciate everything you have done THANK YOU 🌸🌸🌸xx

Ol is going to miss you all this week!! (and so are we!) We got to spend some much-needed time with our other children accessing days out which would be difficult for Ol. He seemed really happy each day! I thought the daily feedback was excellent.

Penny Jane Standley

Mc's happiest Playscheme yet, he was sad it ended! Extremely well run - particularly in covid times. No improvement needed, it's wonderful. Mc is proud of his 'independence' at Playscheme. I absolutely loved seeing the photos 😊, Thank you. X Mc's had his happiest week ever! You're all awesome ❤️. X

Jill Williamson

We were really pleased that Ad was happy to go each day following his reluctance last year and each day he came out beaming. Seemed more confident by the end of the week. Amazing staff, Ad's had a great week, we have appreciated the end of day updates and photos. Thanks for all you do 🍷

Daniella Gillespie

Thank you to each and every one of the team. L's had an amazing week and the time I managed to spend with my eldest has been amazing.

What you give not only to the child attending but for the rest of the family is truly priceless. For the first time since September, I feel I've had some time to myself as she's not been in school often and I'll be honest the holidays can be challenging so THANK YOU xxxxx

Janet Unsworth-Angel

A massive thankyou to Jo and all the volunteers who's names I can't remember (sorry). oh Freddie! As Is has mentioned you so many times. Both Is and Ro have had a great time and honestly, I Never thought they'd do water play! 😊😊 It was unsure about the playscheme after the 1st day, but He has said that he was really getting into it and enjoyed going and today he said that it was really great and that he's had "The Best Time"!! 😊😍 So thank you all! You do a great job with our children, and it's been a life saver for me ❤️

Gail Hanlon

T always loves going to playscheme. He is always happy to go each day and waits patiently for the bus to come each morning. He enjoys all the activities. He simply loves it!!

The activities are brilliant, and the feedback email each day was lovely. Lots of photos were posted online so we could see what T had been up to. T is always happy and chilled out when he's been to scheme.

Thank you so much to everybody, especially Maxine and Lorraine, for making T's week so enjoyable once again. He has loved every minute of it from getting up with a huge smile to looking at the photos at night!! You are all truly amazing and we are so grateful 😊xxx

Russell Nimmins

J said he really enjoyed the activities and made some new friends and would definitely go again. The staff were amazing, and the activities were really well planned. The feedback was also really useful. Thank you much, J has had a fantastic week and all the staff have been amazing 😊😊

Anna Harkis

With B's emerging language he could say he was 'very, very excited' to go to playscheme every day, and told us he had had the 'best day ever'. It's great because it treats each child as an individual - even though there is a set timetable for things, if what is on offer does not suit, B is never left just to try and fit in - the activities are shaped around him. Loved seeing the photo updates on Facebook - it's great to see him enjoying different things. And also, the daily email update - again great to read about how well he was doing. This gave him a full week of activity, where he felt 100% confident - with all the support he could possibly need. It makes his own experience of summer holidays a really positive one, rather than one where he gets easily bored and frustrated with each day. Thank you so much Jo and team- and especially Jenny- for looking after and entertaining B this week- he's obviously had a brilliant time, and his siblings and I have made the most of not having to go 'accessible' all week with our outings! It makes our summer holidays 😊😊😊.

Michelle Moran

Thank you, Jo and all the team, especially Elly for looking after B this week, he's had a great time. It's always a good sign when he sleeps well, which he has this week. Enjoy the rest of the holidays 😊

Ruth Tohill

William had a lovely day. It was so lovely to see him run in happily. Thanks to you all and especially Navi. 🙌 for tomorrow. X

Wow. What an achievement for W to attend nearly a full week of play scheme. I can hardly believe it after the 2 years we have had. Well, done to you all. You are an amazing team and work so hard. Have a lovely relaxing weekend all of you. You deserve it. A big thank you from us all and especially W. 🙌❤️. Xx

Daniella Long

H enjoyed it all, he said he liked the park, the bikes and bounty castle the most.

Nothing could have been changed H really enjoy it and I had time to sleep and recharge. He didn't have as many melt down when we got home. I would like to thank the staff for letting H come and have lots of fun. And let me have some time out, he had an amazing time and met some lovely new kids and adults. I am truly grateful I really am ❤️

Adrienne Morritt

My daughter felt very confident and not as anxious after spending the day at the play scheme. She had a lovely week thanks so much! 😊 xxx

Suzanne Akeroyd

N struggles with certain environments so the break enables us to do other things that we would not normally be able to. It also gives us the opportunity to re charge our own batteries. N particularly enjoyed his trips to the various parks and the bouncy castle. He especially loved the visit from the police officers. I think that there is a really good balance of activities. I feel that my son had the opportunity of independence. Being away from home/familiar adults is good for N to help develop his social skills and learn to be more independent.

Because he was very active during the day, we had less incidents of frustration and aggressive behaviour on an evening. N has a fantastic week. Thank you. A special thankyou to Maxine for looking after him all week. He asked if he was going back this morning! 😊

Charlotte Field

Both myself and my husband work full time and summer holidays complicated childcare, so it was a huge relief for J to go somewhere 100% safe and perfect for his needs. J was so excited to go and looked forward to going each day. He loved dancing and music, the dinosaur trail, and bikes. Level of support and activities were perfect for him. I feel like J gained a bit of independence and improved social skills. Thank you so much, J had a brilliant time and a big thank you to Sarah especially for making it so much fun for him x

Carole Stephenson

Thank you, S has had a brilliant day, I'm just so glad everything went well, and he has enjoyed it. He really loves coming so thanks very much for the invitation

Becky Lamb

It was so nice to see K with barely any anxiety that week which made me less stressed and worried and the communication on how he did every day at Asas was extremely good. K said he really enjoyed playscheme and can't wait to go again he loved all the activities he did and meeting people that understood him.

That transport could be provided for him as I would have really struggled to get him to the venue as I don't drive so really appreciated it. I just wanted K to have a good week and be happy and that was more than achieved. His anxiety was drastically reduced. Thank you so much for last week K absolutely loved every minute of it xxx

Sarah Murphy

G had a lovely time last week, thank you so much 😊 xxx

Ali Evans

Thank you so much Jo! Everything was perfectly organised, even down to the photos you sent & this email. I'm sure he's had a lovely day.

Jeni Wilkinson

R had a great time. He especially enjoyed the water play. It was all excellent. R was very happy and more confident each day.

Helen Miliopoulos

I had chance to do something for myself. He likes the variety of activities on offer. I think you did well to secure a venue that offered so much.

Samantha Gill

I was able to spend some quality time with my older daughter. She absolutely loved it and asked when she could go back. She loves outdoor activities and the bushcraft in particular!

Clare Davies

It allowed us to access activities that are usually difficult to do. Al had a fantastic time. He loved being looked after by Matt and Chris. The trips out were great! Al was entertained and really enjoyed the playscheme. The staff were great with him and attended to his every need!

Gail Wright

My child was really excited about going as she has enjoyed the activities so much in the past. It's great that she can just be herself and the staff who know her so well accommodate her needs brilliantly. I can't think of any improvements. Everyone seems to work well together as a team with great results for children and parents/carers alike. The feedback I received was positive - she was helpful with other children which means so much to us as her carers. She came home really happy each day which meant to me that she'd had an enjoyable time.

Nicola Davison

Ow loved it, he especially like playing with the other children on the bouncy castle. Wish it would run more often.

Claire Hawley

A loves every day she spends at playscheme. It is always excellent. It's great for A to socialize with the other children which helps with her confidence and independence. Being able to drop off and pick up at the door meant arrival and departure times were easier and A likes to go round saying goodbye to everyone which can take a long time.

Pam Lambert

The email feedback was great as I was able to talk to C about the activities she had completed. It was clear from the feedback that she was trying new things, even if she decided she didn't like them. C was happy to get ready for the holiday club each day and was happy to get in the car to go there. This is a clear indicator that she enjoyed her time there. C does not attend any clubs and does most things with the family; it is great for her to do something independently.

Jade Horsfall

It gave J more opportunity for other activities, also a change of scenery and to burn his energy off.

Nour Ghomain

Great activities and sensory experiences, many outdoor activities and trips which is great. Nothing comes to mind as suggestions for improvement. Definitely helping A become more social and wanting to explore new things.

Emma Midgley

What an amazing week. Thank you, Jo, and team. Special thanks to Beth who made A's week the best week at ASAS ever. A was happy and excited to come each day. What a superstar. ★ We have some lovely artwork memories. The end of day reports were excellent as A's is unable to tell us about her day. The flexibility of scheme leaders to accommodate the child's wants and needs. Assigning the correct key worker for each child is incredibly important and our child loved her key worker, they were attentive and caring. The daily feedback forms are a brilliant idea as they have an honest and positive account of the child's time at scheme. Thank you to all who are involved with ASAS, who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to provide this incredible service to so many families and CYP.



Thank You!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE
AMAZING STAFF AND ANA FOR
LOOKING AFTER HARRISON.
HE HAD AN AMAZING WEEK .

Feedback 2021 - Leaders

- It was good to have lots of space, easy outside access, sports hall gave plenty to do on-site, and actually nice to have 1 big group in a way because staff teams worked together more and was more flexibility for which children would go on trips.
- Some really good volunteers and all new leaders were good.
- It was additionally nice to do this year as a change to the challenges of the year in my main job.
- Making friends with the other staff as I have felt very welcomed.
- I found all the other staff, leaders, and volunteers easy to work with and felt I could get help where needed.
- I felt comfortable going to Team Leaders when I needed help or had concerns.
- Feel I am now friends with some of the staff!
- Working on the scheme has given me more confidence in my skills and helped me gain experience working with a wider variety of additional needs. I feel the Team Leaders gave me lots of support and praise in my work and as a result I would love to do scheme again as well as some activity days and residentials as Louise has encouraged me to put my name forward for these.
- I really felt like everyone worked together to help each other out from helping set up and tidy away to check in on how you were as they passed you.
- I really liked having the walkie talkies and think it would be great if we could continue to use them throughout other scheme in the future.
- The trips and entertainers were great for some of the children, it was lovely to see them enjoying themselves doing 'normal' activities after all the time they have spent in lockdown. On base, the activities were appropriate for the children I supported.
- I believe that the leaders care about each other's wellbeing and are very supportive. I felt very supported by the staff around me as on a number of occasions they checked on me after incidents.
- The volunteers worked very hard this year and connected with the children very well.
- Working on scheme helps me build on leadership skills that are essential in my teaching career by giving me the responsibility of supporting a child.
- As always, scheme gives me valuable experience working with children with additional needs. Working on scheme influenced my decision to study SEN teaching at university.
- Receiving comments from impressed parents who can't believe their child has done something for the first time makes me feel proud and as if I have made a difference.
- I was initially concerned about the centre and how we would work with the building. However, by the end of scheme I found that with the way we set up scheme as one large group it worked well with the setting up of activities. Thanks to the support provided by the weekenders group providing their equipment our children and young people were able to be entertained and kept safe.
- I enjoyed the challenge of leading the third week and despite a few minor issues to overcome felt the week was in general successful.
- The project manager gave me lots of support and made me feel that I could actually do the role which gave me a much-needed boost in confidence and was much appreciated. The other team leader and deputies gave me support especially Lorraine.

- This year has been a strange year and I took on a new role which I was nervous about, but Jo said she believed I could do it, so I strive to do my best and although not everything I had planned was done or was successful it did give me confidence that I didn't do a bad job and the children and young people enjoyed their time on scheme and were safe.
- I think that when go back to some form of normal we keep some of the ideas of using the base more and planning more on site activities and smaller group trips that can be accessed by all three groups so that those that benefit most from that trip goes by working together more and the activities offered on base are purposeful and not just a filler till a trip is available.
- I thought the bouncy castle was great.
- I am aware of the sheer hard work the staff and volunteers put in. I am so proud of the respectful and hardworking team we have.
- Volunteers were fab. Prompts and briefings every day.
- Thanks to Jenny who brings laughter to our daily mornings. Maxine for the MaccieDs. Lorraine, Matthew, and Yasmin who played a massive supportive responsible attitude. Jo who keeps her cool smile everyday it really works. Cheers Sian and the crew and the trustees for your hard work and dedication. We blasted it this year. 2022 Bring it on.
- I was happy working with all the new staff and it's great how we all help each other out.
- If I had any concerns or issues they were addressed or dealt with.
- We were able to make the most of space we were using, with a range of different activities to usual years.
- On the whole I'd say the staff team adapted well to change in location, how the scheme was running differently to other years, and having different responsibilities including cleaning.
- Some staff would be great for example setting up obstacle course, as instructed and with their own ideas, and also ensuring they didn't leave before all cleaning was done.
- The majority of the team were fab in supporting others.
- Jo has been a brilliant support. As I work at ASAS and Weekenders I have felt a bit like piggy in the middle of the two schemes, but Jo and Yasmin have been very clear on how I shouldn't feel like that and if I have any worries or problems about that to talk to them.
- I am really pleased the scheme went ahead as it has.



Some of our wonderful staff

Feedback 2021 - Volunteers (Compiled by Zoe Cartwright)

Training - all who submitted their feedback forms felt the training had prepared them for the play scheme, it was nice and useful to meet other volunteers prior to the scheme. Most volunteers also highlighted the communication training as particularly beneficial especially the section on Makaton.

Positives - all volunteers spoke very positively of their volunteering experience. They said it was good to make new friends and work with new people. All staff and leaders were welcoming and friendly and volunteers stated that they felt comfortable approaching them if there was anything they were unsure of.

Some quotes from volunteers:

"...everyone was friendly, and I always felt I could ask for assistance when needed"

"...very supportive and offered help when needed"

Volunteers said they enjoyed working with the children and seeing them achieve new things. They said they felt more confident each day in their volunteering role. Particular activities which they enjoyed were outdoor activities, bikes, water play and trips.

The end of day debrief was a positive - one volunteer highlighted how it was useful to know how they could improve and do things differently next time.

Negatives - 2 volunteers stated the biggest difficulty was dealing with a child having a meltdown and being unsure how to deal with a child when they became anxious. They did however state that this became easier as time went on and they gained confidence and experience. Another volunteer stated how making a mistake was the biggest negative, but they did go on to say how they learnt from it and improved next time.

One volunteer pointed out the location was difficult to get to without a car.

Areas for improvements - one volunteer suggested they read the child's summary info card on the first day, but it would have been useful to have been able to revisit this each day if necessary and when working with a new child - *it was available they could just have asked but for future reference we'll make sure this is offered.*

One volunteer highlighted the method of communication pre-scheme, as an area of improvement - *This was an existing volunteer and Zoe double checked communication between herself and the volunteer and was happy that all information was sent out to them in a timely manner. This volunteer did not accept the invitation to join the WhatsApp group, and this did seem to be the easiest method of providing information that was easily accessible to most (many young people don't regularly check their emails but do check social media). 3 volunteers who were not part of the WhatsApp group were directly text messaged any important updates. Zoe is going to ensure early setting up of the WhatsApp group in future to prevent any lost or missed information.*

Volunteer personal development and skills

All stated that play scheme had helped them to develop their understanding and acceptance of disabilities and differences. They also stated their personal skills had improved, such as communication, patience, and creativity. One volunteer talked specifically about how they had to use their creativity to encourage children to participate in activities given the resources they had.

Several volunteers stated how their volunteering experience had helped them to decide on a course of study.

".. I was planning to do medicine and now I think I would particularly enjoy paediatric medicine and working with children in a hospital - I believe this was an extremely valuable experience"

".. I had already decided I wanted to work with children, but this has given me a desire to work with children with disabilities"

Other stated that volunteering with ASAS had helped them decide on careers such as nursing and Occupational Therapy

".. It has opened my mind to so many things regarding disability..."

".. it made me proud to see how happy the children were to come to scheme"

"...I have learnt life skills I know I will take with me for the rest of my life, and I would love to work with ASAS again"

Some of our wonderful volunteers, sorry if we've missed anyone!



Ana, Angelica, Annie, Caitlin and Claudia



Dawn, Emily, Florence, Hannah and Kelly



Lucy, Nawami, Saara, Sarah and Sophie



Freddie - our only male volunteer, Maryah and Megan

