

Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme



Annual Report 2009

Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

| Statistics | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| No of children attending | | |
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| Week one | 15 girls 22 boys = 37 | 15 girls 22 boys = 37 |
| Week two | 14 girls 26 boys = 40 | 14 girls 26 boys = 40 |
| Week three | 14 girls 25 boys = 39 | 14 girls 25 boys = 39 |
| Total children attending | 61 | 60 |
| No. of Leaders | | |
| Week one | 26 female, 5 male = 31 | 26 female, 5 male = 31 |
| Week two | 27 female, 5 male = 32 | 27 female, 5 male = 32 |
| Week three | 22 female, 5 male = 27 | 22 female, 5 male = 27 |
| Total no of leaders | 33 | 33 |
| Escorts | 3 female, 1 male = 4 | 3 female, 1 male = 4 |
| Drivers | 1 female, 3 male = 4 | 1 female, 3 male = 4 |
| Total Staff employed | 37 | 37 |
| No. of volunteers | | |
| All 3 Weeks | 7 female | 7 female |
| 2 out of 3 | 5 female, 1 male = 6 | 5 female, 1 male = 6 |
| 1 out of 3 | 13 female, 3 male = 16 | 13 female, 3 male = 16 |
| Total volunteers | 30 | 30 |
| Ratio of Children's Personal Care Needs | | |
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| With nursing needs (inc.Medication tube feeding) | 10 out of 61 | 15 out of 60 |
| Needing Feeding | 15 out of 61 | 21 out of 60 |
| Needing Changing/toileting | 24 out of 61 | 25 out of 60 |
| Needing One to One Supervision | 43 out of 61 | 41 out of 60 |
| Ratio of Disabilities | | |
| Epilepsy | 18 out of 61 | 21 out of 60 |
| Autism or on Autistic Spectrum | 23 out of 61 | 17 out of 60 |
| Wheelchair/ Buggy Users | 17 out of 61 | 18 out of 60 |
| Needing transport | 24 out of 61 | 31 out of 60 |
| Communication Difficulties | 58 out of 61 | 55 out of 60 |

Other people involved:-

Jo Galasso – Play scheme coordinator, Chris Parapia – Scheme secretary/volunteer, Brian Watkins – Scheme treasurer, ASAS Management Committee, Carrie – scheme nurses, Diane Brayshaw – music, dance and relaxation, Bradford MDC Sports and Arts teams, Pete White – Suitcase Circus, Ross Moor – drumming workshop, Patsy Bell – aromatherapy, Junior Jam – Boxercise, Dance for Life, the Rapide Bros circus skills, Georgina Hayward & Lauren Whyte – art workshops, Ken Gaskill – performer, puppets & magic, Wayne's World – disco & karaoke **and** the parents/carers/siblings/and extended family.



Range of Abilities/Disabilities

Disabilities the children/young people have range from mild learning difficulties to very severe learning and physical disabilities.

Diagnoses include: - Attachment disorder, Angelman's syndrome, A.D.H.D, Autistic Spectrum Condition, visual impairment/cortically blind, Cerebral palsy, chromosome disorders, Communication Disorder, Congenital Cytomegalovirus, Downs syndrome, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Duane's Syndrome, dyspraxia, epilepsy, Focal Polymicrogia, Fragile X, Global developmental delay, hemiplegia, Hypertrophy, hydrocephalus, Pallister Killian Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Retts syndrome, Rubinstein Taybi Syndrome, Trisomy 20q Mosaicism, Tuberous Sclerosis, quadriplegia, William's syndrome and other rare or unknown conditions.

Equal Opportunities

The scheme is committed to providing equal opportunities to everyone involved.

The scheme is open to children/young people, 4 - 19 years, in the Aireborough area, whose needs aren't met by mainstream provision because of their disability, learning or social/behavioural difficulties and also their age. All the children/young people attending have learning and/or physical disabilities, one leader is hearing impaired, one is visually impaired, 1 volunteer has communication difficulties and 2 have physical disabilities, 2 children and 2 volunteers were from mixed race/ethnic minority groups.

Role of the Trustees/Organisational structure

The scheme is a Registered Charity, the voluntary management committee is made up of 9 local people with an interest in improving the quality of life for children with disabilities and their families by providing leisure activities for children with learning and physical disabilities, activities for siblings and much needed breaks from caring for parents.

The committee meet about 6 times a year, concluding with the Annual General Meeting in November following the end of our financial year on the 31st of October.

Our finances are managed by our treasurer, Brian Watkins.

Chris Parapia, secretary, is very active in finding funding to do more for families of children with disabilities, (i.e. the residential breaks) she is a regularly volunteer at the scheme and on the residential and provides support as line manager to Jo.

Jo Galasso, project coordinator, now works one and a half days a week all year round; throughout the three weeks of the summer scheme, the Christmas and Easter activity days and organises and manages the residential breaks.

Residential Breaks

Chris and Jo have been organising residential breaks for children with disabilities since 2003, and this financial year under the banner of ASAS – Branching out for children with disabilities. The funding has come from the government initiative – Aiming High for disabled children and we have received approx £33,000 to initially run 4 residential breaks, but we have been able to stretch this to 5 this financial year. These residential breaks are for children with disabilities throughout Leeds who don't get other over night short breaks.

This funding has meant an increase in Jo's hours and we have take on Dave Grosvenor (one of our current leaders) as an assistant coordinator to help Jo with the residentials and set up and edit our new website www.aireborough-scheme.co.uk

Most of the leaders for the residentials also work on the play scheme, only a couple who've been working on the breaks for a long time work in other settings with children or adults with disabilities so all have lots of experience and together make a fantastic team.

Previous breaks have already taken place in June and August at Lineham Farm Children's Activity Centre, Eccup; the children are able to take part in climbing, biking, animal care and environmental art, as well as making new friends and developing independence; the breaks were very successful, thoroughly enjoyed by the children and staff, and a welcome break for the parent carers and siblings.

In September 09 we decided to try out Herd Farm, LS17, we took a group of 14 siblings, aged 10 – 15 years, during the weekend they had the opportunity to do the high ropes course, zip wire, assault course, bush-craft



– which involved learning how to make camp fires using a flint, and other team challenges. Our next residential are planned for October half term at Lineham Farm and in March 10 at Herd Farm.

Finances

Most of our funding is raised by Jo's efforts through funding applications and requests for donations to charitable trusts and Foundations. The scheme is registered with Leeds City Council as a special needs play scheme and this year received a grant of approx £14,000, this was a huge increase from previous years (approx £8,500), as the money is now being administered by the Pre School Learning Alliance and they are using a different method of calculating the grants, which we are very pleased about. We were also lucky in again securing funding from the Leeds Area Well-Being committee for £17,777, and have received some other donations and parental contributions so we think we may be in profit this year.

The Aiming High funding is specifically for the residential breaks

Fees remained the same at £8 per child per day, negotiable; but the Pre School Learning Alliance want all special needs schemes to be charging similar amounts, most other schemes are charging between £11 and £13 per day, with some also charging £10 per week for transport, we may have to increase our prices but we don't want children to miss out due to the financial hardship of the parents so will still offer reductions where necessary.

Thanks go to all those who have provided financial support this year, including:-

Leeds City Council – Play scheme grant £14,265, Leeds Inclusion Support Service paid for our scheme nurse, Prader Willi Committee £150, Rene Horton Charitable Trust £6,000, BBC Children in Need £6,925, Mr. L Parapia £100, Jenny Pemberton – Boggle Stroll, sponsored walk £595, and the Emmandjay Trust £250.

Donations from Parents (in addition to play scheme fees) £200 from Mr. & Mrs. Jackson as a thank you for 15 years worth of schemes as their son is now 19 and has to leave, Mrs. Leary £100 leaving gift from Annabel, Mr. & Mrs. Yarrington £150, Mr. & Mrs. Johnson £100, and Mr. & Mrs. Kenwood-Herriot £50 and £155 from a concert they organised on behalf of the scheme.

Kim Knaggs, one of our parents, ran the Great North run in aid of the scheme and Weekenders in September, which we really appreciate and looking forward to hearing how much she raised.

Staff and Volunteers

Most of our previous team leaders and leaders came back again this year and we only recruited one new leader and 3 new junior leaders who'd previously been volunteers on the scheme for several years. Many of the volunteers also returned and we only took on 8 new ones.

Team leaders again this year were Helen Foyston and Emma Harrison with the under 8's; Nicole Dempsey with the 9 – 12's and Louise Naylor with the 13+ group.

As the staff teams are now well developed the scheme runs every smoothly and professionally, leaders and volunteers know the children and young people well, and the team leaders know which leaders or volunteers to assign to the children and there is a great family atmosphere within the scheme.

We also now have a waiting list of volunteers who'd really love to become junior leaders but unless other leaders leave we won't have any vacancies for next year.



Planning and Training

Planning and training meetings were carried out prior to the scheme; this gave everyone the chance to get reacquainted and meet the new leader and volunteers, to share information about the children and young people attending; and put together suitable programs for each of the age groups and to cater for different abilities.

We knew that we were only be able to have a limited nursing cover so all children requiring this came together, which worked ok, but we didn't have their input for training this year.

Some of the leaders did some awareness training for the other leaders around epilepsy and communication, and the new junior leaders worked with experienced ones during the scheme to learn moving and handling techniques.

Transport

This was problem free again as Paul Hargreaves, one of our drivers, sorted out the transport arrangements, planned the routes, recruited drivers as necessary and everything ran smoothly. This year we had use of 4 buses and 4 drivers' weeks one and two but only 3 drivers' week three, we did have comments that the trips were much better this year due to having the additional bus and driver for those 2 weeks, something we will definitely consider for the future.

Again many of the 13+ and 9-12's group used public transport where possible, which they thoroughly enjoyed and the leaders did their best to get a good deal in respect of cost. Parents were encouraged to send in their child's bus pass which also saved us some money.



The Scheme/Programme



We had many of our usual and well loved activities, sessions and trips, like trampolining, swimming, aromatherapy, art and crafts, sport, visits to the donkey sanctuary, Diane Brayshaw music and resonance board sessions, the Rapide Brothers - circus skills, Dance for Life and Junior Jam - Boxercise.

Again we tried harder to integrate children from all the groups in some of the trips and activities, like trips to the cinema, bowling sessions at Kirkstall, and a trip to the Richard Dunn sports centre – pool and slides.

One major high light was the trip to Light Water Valley, children and young people who chose to go from 13+ and 9-12's group had a fantastic time, many braving the big rides, something they hadn't done before, some where just happy to watch or go on the smaller less adventurous rides. The staff and volunteers were falling over themselves to attend and all those who did go had a wonderful time, and felt it should definitely be an annual event, along perhaps with a trip to the seaside.



Lauren Whyte did an art session with a difference, hand casting, some of the children found it quite difficult to sit still for a couple of minutes while the plaster set but those patient enough ended up with a good end product. She also did a range of art and crafts lead by the children's requests, so some made musical instruments out of cardboard boxes and elastic bands, as well as ceramic painting and model making.



Junior Jam came to do Boxercise, learning a range of boxing skills, sparring with each other hitting the pads, learning to dodge and weave, which the young people and the staff thoroughly enjoyed, it was something they don't often get to try out and surprisingly some of them were pretty good at it too.

The 9 – 12's enjoyed a day out at Harewood House, Nicole, team leader, negotiated a good price and she took everyone from her group which was a first but due to having extra bus and driver weeks 1 & 2, and everyone had a very good and enjoyable day out.

We were fortunate to be able to go to Lineham Farm for activities for 3 days during the scheme, each group went on one of the days and everyone got the chance to go on the adapted bikes, and climbing wall and if they weren't able to climb they could still be attached to the ropes and hoisted up the wall, definitely a first for many of the children. They were also able to grooming the Shetland ponies – Rolo & Polo, pet the guinea pigs and rabbits, and feed the chickens and pigs, they were also supplied with a lovely lunch all courtesy of Lineham Farm, three most enjoyable days.





The Bradford Play Development sports team came and did lots of fun races, games and activities with the young people, they even brought a load of fruit costumes for them to dress up in, which they all loved and looked really funny, David even sat through his lunch dressed as a banana, and didn't really want to take it off when they had to go.

Ken Gaskill, who we had at our Christmas Activity day returned with his songs, dancing, puppetry, magic tricks and many other talents to entertain the kids, which were fun, interactive and kept them engrossed for the whole time, requesting assistance from some of the young people during his performance which raised their confidence and made them feel that they were making a positive contribution to the session.

During the scheme Karen & Emma from the Pre School Learning Alliance, who administered our grant this year came out to check all the paperwork was in order and see the scheme in action; they were very impressed with what they found and saw, they said 'other schemes should come along to ours to see how it's done', which I took as a great compliment.

Also Elaine James from BBC Children in Need asked if she could take part in one of our trips to get a feel for the scheme and help her report back on how our funding had been spent, she decided to join in with Nicole's group visit to Tropical World. She was very impressed with the scheme and how the trip was run, she thought we had some brilliant young volunteers who were excellent role models to our children and participated together. We were contacted after the scheme with a request to make a short film about the scheme to be shown on BBC Children in Need Appeal night, Friday 20th November, so look out for us.



It was again a very successful scheme but for some young people it was rather upsetting as it was their last year on the scheme, as they are now all grown up, moving on to college and aren't eligible to come anymore – leavers included – Matthew Gallagher, Andrew Jackson, Jordan Watt, Catherine Ditchfield and Nicola Hall.



The theme for the end of scheme party and disco was 'Bright & Shiny' so everyone turned up in brightly coloured clothing with shiny accessories and looked fab, as usual we had Wayne's World disco and karaoke, and his company have had some extra work this year, as parents have had them for their child's 18th birthday parties. Lots of food and fun was had, some people came back especially for the party.

At the end of the scheme commenced the mass clean up, all our equipment had to be moved from the old caretakers house to the new container, this took a lot of time and team work, and even then it looked like everything had just been dumped in there.

A couple of weeks after the scheme Jo, Chris, Nicole & Jenny P had a car boot sale of all the stuff we didn't need or use any more, so had to venture back into the container, which wasn't an easy feat, but as we've now less stuff it's slightly more well organised.

By the way the car boot raised £65, and there were 2 things that weren't good about it - having to be there for 7am and ending up right at the bottom of the field because we were late, others had been arriving since 5am, and then nearly being attacked by professional car booters checking our stuff out even before we'd even parked the cars augh!!

Other information

Fundraising

Jenny Pemberton, one of our leaders, did a 56 mile over night walk called the Boggle Stroll and raised £595.

Richard and Liz Kenwood-Herriott organised a concert on behalf of the scheme and raised £155.

Car boot sale run by Jo, Chris, Nicole, Jenny P - her mum and nephew raised £65.

Several parents gave us generous donations as their children finished the scheme for their last time, as they are now 19 and no longer eligible to attend.

Coffee Mornings

Chris ran two coffee mornings for parents/carers during the scheme, these were quite well attended, all by mums, they had chance to chat with others, raise issues they had and gain information about other activities/services available for their children.

Feedback (Sheets Attached)

Verbally feedback was gained during the scheme; other was received from the child/parent, volunteers and leaders evaluation forms and via the communication books we send home daily, (these were particularly appreciated by parents of non-verbal children).

Jo Galasso
Playscheme Co-ordinator



Child Evaluation Form

(Completed by the parents/carers where necessary on the child's behalf)

What has your child enjoyed at play scheme?

L has come home every day very settled, so I believe he has enjoyed himself; All the trips out, parks, swimming, cinema, tropical world, he also really enjoyed playing on the Wii and trampolining, he really has enjoyed the wide variety of activities this year, I think that the extra bus made a real difference; everything, we think as she has been happy to go on the bus and tired but happy when she returned home; Spending time in a familiar environment with supportive fun, friendly & patient staff, trips out - donkey sanctuary, parks; Everything; Football, trips out on the bus - farms, parks, bowling, swimming; N doesn't talk about what he's done but I'd say bowling and making his instruments in the art room; Socialising with friends & volunteering; Light Water Valley; Swimming, trips & meeting old friends; Disco, trips, dance, sport, swimming - everything; Bowling & cinema; meeting her friends and going out every day; St Leonard's farm & play barn, playing with Charlotte; Everything particularly anything to do with music and dancing, however really enjoyed swimming this year; Royal Armouries; Everything, has bounced home happily every day; meeting new people, doing crafts, chatting & trips; The company of others, the attention, the exercise, trips out, music etc. etc.; Playing in the play ground; hard to say the scheme has been so fun packed; Donkey riding and circus skills;

What hasn't your child enjoyed?

N/A; nothing springs to mind; Nothing; Not keen on travelling on the bus - but has mastered it; music with Diane; Waiting for Nicole to get the tickets at LWV; No complaints at all; not going swimming when she was told she was; My child doesn't enjoy the cinema but other activities where put in place that suited her better; Farms; Swimming & aromatherapy; Having to come home at the end of the day; leaving the plastic strip doors at Tropical World, C has a fascination for them;

If you had contact (in person or over the phone) with the leaders, escorts or volunteers looking after your child, we would appreciate your opinion.

Sarah has been wonderful, amazing, and reassuring, as well. Everyone we've met have been super, my eldest son commented 'how lovely everyone was', and 'they're all really nice'; all were excellent, had contact twice daily, all remembered Harry, were caring and good fun, you have a really good team, they really do enjoy doing the play scheme; The escorts on the bus have been excellent, friendly, polite, punctual and efficient, I felt reassured that she was in safe hands; E & C have been superb, really kind, welcoming and very confident with P; T absolutely loves the volunteer Ashleigh, everyone is kind and supportive; always smiling and happy to play with the children & make them feel welcome, I'm happy to leave my son and how he is well looked after; found everyone brilliant, doing above and beyond what I expected ie Jo always making sure someone helped me back to the car with all 3 boys, Lauren coming to my house to bring N's bottle that I forgot; Jenny Jeffels - brill; welcoming, approached M and told him they were looking after him as he worries about this before arriving; Jenny P who works 1 to 1 with E is amazingly tolerant, considerate and genuinely interested in him; A spent quite a lot of time with Candice, she was lovely with him; contact through the diary was very informative; Nicole picked C up from his grandma's so he could go on the Light Water Valley trip, staff always seem nothing is too much trouble, obviously love their job & will do anything they can to ensure the children enjoy themselves; spending time together without constant demands; Play scheme means my younger child can explore her surroundings without

feeling she's neglecting her sister; everyone is excellent volunteering information as D can't/will not say anything he has done, the care given is outstanding - 1 to 1; I was very pleased with the little notes about what A had been doing during the day; Vicky worked with my son and kick started me and him into toilet training & so far so good, Lauren worked with him during week 2 and was lovely and very patient when he was being rather stroppy;

How have you/your other children benefited, what sort of things have you been able to do that you aren't usually able to do?

We have taken advantage of everyday - cycling, supermarket (boring), cinema, swimming; continue to work and I have an 84 year old mother in law who is having Chemo so I've been able to take her to appointments, do shopping, visiting etc. Invaluable; As I'm 5 months pregnant I've benefited greatly & have been able to rest, our other children have done activities that 'I' doesn't like i.e. going to the beach & in the sea; trips out with siblings to places P doesn't really enjoy or aren't appropriate - long walks, cinema, restaurants, shops; Have had workmen in doing a new bathroom; time with my other 2 boys, give them attention and do what they want to do, we've been to the cinema to see films they like, not just what F might sit through, shopping with their birthday vouchers; It's been great - been up to normal summer activities with my other son's 6 & 4, that I can't normally do on my own when I have N too e.g. swimming, going to farms, eating out in cafes, venturing further a field like Ilkley for picnics and just being able to go to Morrison's; shopping; spend quality time with siblings; I've mainly worked but it's given my mum a break from looking after M and I have been able to have some 'me' time; Go to work which means we've enough leave left to be able to take a family holiday next week; Nice to do our own thing for a couple of weeks; spend quality time with sister doing girly things and visiting places where J would struggle with distance and access; been out every day to cinema, buying uniforms, playing tennis; Shopped in peace, had a ceiling papered, went to the dentist; Great to spend time with other children ie going fishing for the day; Can't begin to explain what pressure this takes off me as a 1 parent working mum, if C is happy & his day is full of brilliant activities then I'm happy, I can go to work each morning with no worries - transport is excellent; Assists with childcare whilst at work; Quality time with sibling and a week holiday in Spain, J was at the scheme so this allowed his granny free time from caring for him; Unfortunately I've been ill, however D being at the scheme has meant I could spend time in bed - something I couldn't do if he was at home; has been fantastic for me, as I have 2 siblings 2 & 6 and I was able to go out with the two of them, something I can't do with all 3 of them; Clothes shopping with my other son and it's just nice having a whole conversation, something we certainly can't do with C, and I went to a friend's wedding; Cleaning & tidying the house, paperwork, shopping, being ill, all things are very difficult for me to do when I have the boys to entertain.

Is there anything that could improve the scheme?

The extra bus this year has made a big difference, the scheme improves each year; On for more time over the summer holidays; No; More of it!; Start earlier, 10am - 3pm only allows me to work equivalent of a half day; Consider doing 4 days instead of 5 per week and extend the time available so trips out can be extended, happy for cost per day to be raised accordingly; A bit more info in the diary as my son doesn't tell me; More money should be available to support such an amazing scheme; 3 weeks availability instead of 2!; Quality time with younger brother 2 and a half, at Ilkley park and had a lovely time;

Other comments..

I was very nervous about leaving L, but found everyone very accommodating, understanding, reassuring and keen to know my son and learn what he likes, a truly wonderful scheme; H really enjoyed the scheme + I needed the space; Well run, extremely helpful to families, has let us all enjoy part of the school holidays; The atmosphere when you arrive in the morning is lovely, very welcoming & friendly, everyone knows your child's name which is reassuring & makes you feel that your child is important to them, staff have been without exception interested in the children & are genuinely caring, importantly they seem happy to be there which I think must say something for your organisational skills & management skills - Jo; F has been so excited every morning - even getting his clothes out and getting dressed himself (which he never does), he talks & signs excitedly about what he will be doing and later what he has done, he always says 'where Robin' as we arrive & 'more scheme' when I pick him up; A huge thank you, service you provide is excellent, staff & volunteers show great care & cater for each individual child's needs e.g helping N overcome his fear of the bus, knowing what might upset him and preparing him - fire alarm, the scheme makes the summer holidays more enjoyable and bearable; The scheme has been wonderful for C and he has made some new friends; I'm always impressed by the activities on offer and real emphasis on the children and young people having a good time, the continuity of the 1 to 1 support is excellent; Unfortunately this is A's last scheme - he will miss it so much next year; I wasn't happy that J fell off a swing, I would have provided more support; The playscheme makes a great difference to our family & many others, I know J will be looked after well and happily enjoy the fun planned activities which gives me peace of mind - time to spend with my other children; This scheme has got to be one of the best in Leeds (it's certainly the best I've come across) I feel very lucky to have found this little gem & very lucky to have come into contact with Jo, as this has opened new doors for C - Lineham Farm weekend and perhaps other opportunities for the future. The activities are brilliant - lots of outings, getting C out and about every day just thrills me to bits & stops me from feeling constantly guilty that I go to work, staff are concerned about the children's welfare & having fun, transport is such a bonus to me as without it C would be unable to attend; A has thoroughly enjoyed the scheme being up and dressed by 6.30am ready to go!; This is the only scheme I feel confident letting D go to as he is cared for on a 1 to 1 basis, he can be difficult but the leaders handle him with tact and inspiration, activities are varied, interesting and at the correct level, the scheme extends his horizons, it is priceless in what it gives him, it gives me a good feeling, knowing he is away from the house, enjoying himself and it takes the pressure off me for a few of hours; Great for B to have things to do with others, he's generally bored with the rest of the school holidays, the scheme gives us all a well needed break; The difference in B's demeanour during play scheme is noticeable, he just loves it, I hope to help with some fundraising next year; A enjoyed the scheme and was very happy and relaxed at home; The scheme gives the boys 2 weeks of fun, they really look forward to this, they have the opportunity to mix with other children in shared activities and enjoy the company of the leaders, escorts and volunteers, being mother of 2 autistic children the summer holidays have in the past been very difficult, however now we find that the scheme gives them the structure they need during the day and they both love coming, the scheme enables the boys to mix socially in a caring, understanding & safe environment & it means a great deal to us all.

Volunteer Evaluation Form

What have you enjoyed about play scheme? Highs

Going to Tropical World, the cinema, Richard Dunn & the park; Getting my child to go down the slide at Richard Dunn's; helping the children; meeting the children, trying out new things and the wide range of trips; circus skills & boxing - allowed me to try different things, got satisfaction out of the scheme which was good; letting the children watch or participate in boxing, dance for life etc; everything especially the children smiling all the time; going to the play grounds; Lineham Farm trip, boxercise & going to Golden Acre park; visit to Harewood House.

What haven't you enjoyed? Lows

Children were sometimes tiring and demanding, it was hard for me on occasions being new to working with children with disabilities; trying to control the child if they begin to play up; clearing up after the child drops food; Royal Armouries wasn't particularly suitable for some of the children who attended - too many people & too much information to read; swimming in the GM pool as it's too hot; trips to Morrison's & Pets at Home were a bit repetitive and didn't seem to benefit the wheelchair users.

Did you receive enough information prior to the scheme? If not what else did you need / what might have been useful?

The training day was good preparation, gave me an idea of what to expect; I feel a lesson on handling the children would be useful.

What did you think about the range of trips and activities? Were there any highlights or problems with them?

Didn't go swimming, feel that this may not be that easy as unsure whether the children will be good in the pool; range of activities was great both on and off site; swimming was a bit awkward - need more male leaders & volunteers as we have more boys than girls attend; Tropical World and Farmer James' play barn were very good; some were a bit unsuitable for some of the children; sitting on the side at swimming while the children were on the slides; some new trips could be introduced to avoid repetitiveness especially for wheelchair users.

What did you think about the other leaders and volunteers you were working with, were they helpful, welcoming, did they make you feel at ease?

I felt at ease; very supportive and helpful and helped me to understand the children's needs; got on well with everyone; helped me settle in for my first week; it was easy to get talking to them and the more experienced staff were really helpful; if I was ever having difficulties with a child then the leaders were very helpful in explaining how to deal with them; on occasions some members of staff left their child unattended; really friendly even though I hadn't worked with any of them before.

If you attended the training, what did you gain from it, was there anything else that should be included?

It was useful getting to know the other volunteers and leaders; very useful; understanding some of the difficulties and needs the children have; enabled me to get to know people I'd be working with & get familiar with Green Meadows; I gained knowledge about the different disabilities the children have, tips on how to handle the children would be useful; bit long winded for those who've done it before; this year was more instructive; not much training received, it was a bit boring, mainly sitting and listening to people talking, not very helpful; I appreciated the tour of the building and was told what I might be doing; repetitive for experienced volunteers, may be a separate session for new volunteers.

Is there anything that could improve the scheme?

More buses available to go out more; check everything is working before the scheme starts (?); a working microwave in the 9 - 12's base; training to improve confidence in wheelchair use, how to cope in difficult circumstances; wider range of trips for PMLD children.

Would you do it again?

Several Yes's; probably.

Any other comments, ideas, suggestions would be appreciated.

Higher fences to stop the ball being kicked over every 5 minutes when playing football; When we went to the cinema in a smaller group I felt that everyone got more out of it; I would like to become a Junior leader next year; it's been fab!; need more footballs; some trips we went on were particularly successful but weren't on the original program e.g. Golden Acre park & Kirkstall Abbey, these could be included next year to add more variety.

Leader Evaluation Form

What have you enjoyed about play scheme? Highs

Ken Gaskill's entertainment and the hand casting activity was very good; most of the trips especially the adapted bikes at South Leeds and the activities at Lineham Farm; swimming at Richard Dunn's; taking the children out on trips; working with new children; I've been away from the scheme for several years and it was lovely to come back to the same friendly atmosphere and see happy children engaged in lots of different activities; getting the young people out and experiencing new things; days out - Tropical World, Ilkley park; good group of young people with a variety of interactive and enjoyable activities; having more responsibility (as a Junior leader), being in charge of trips; the team, the friendly faces, the children and young people who attend the scheme.

What haven't you enjoyed? Lows

Trip to the Royal Armouries; bit strange joining such a well established team after being away so long; some confusion around the program which made it difficult informing the young people what they'd be doing; when establishments we visit show ignorance and discrimination to our children.

Did you receive enough information prior to the scheme? If not what else did you need / what might have been useful?

A bit more info on new children as some info from parents was a bit patchy; yes; training sessions well organised; received lots of relevant info; a program before the scheme would have been useful; received enough information and things I didn't know I found out quickly when it started.

What did you think about the range of trips and activities? Were there any highlights or problems with them?

Good range and very few of the activities were repeated; good however a few bus clashes but very rare that this caused real problems; brilliant are always, nice & flexible timetable; there wasn't enough time for some of the trips to get the real benefit from them; Light Water Valley was very well organised and successful; bowling wasn't particularly suitable for the PMLD children, trying to get several chairs and frames into one lane; when not suitable for a particular child something else was organised.

What did you think about the other leaders and volunteers you were working with, were they helpful, welcoming, did they make you feel at ease?

Always welcoming and friendly; a male leader would be useful in the 9 - 12's group, especially for changing at swimming; they are all wonderful to work with; yes although when we were out some children may have benefited from 2 to 1 supervision; very professional, engaged with the children brilliantly, very enthusiastic & clearly enjoy the work.

If you attended the training, what did you gain from it, was there anything else that should be included?

Little benefit as have covered everything before, however more moving and handling training would be useful; hoist training would have been good; quite 'dry' this is always tricky to get right though.

Is there anything that could improve the scheme?

Change some of the indoor activities; pass on info from leaders to volunteers, week to week; bouncy castle on the last day, perhaps; other the weather; more varied activities, seemed to be an over reliance on Stingray this year; a sensory area for PMLD children; more trips

geared around children's needs - sensory trips; a mentoring system for some of the less experienced volunteers; more sensory toys.

Do you think the coordinator and your team leader supported you, was there anything else they could have done to help you?

Very helpful & I have been very grateful for their support; yes the coordinator and team leaders were supportive and it was good to have them as 'overseers', they had a very clear idea of what was going on and organised everything which meant everyone else could spend time with the children without any stress.

Any other comments, ideas, suggestions, case studies, would be very much appreciated.

We need to make sure children of same abilities are together, more diverse trips, farms and parks good for some but a lot of children got nothing from this; I was very impressed with the volunteers in the under 8's group, they were professional, mature, completely 'there' for the children; having photos printed each week was great - good for parents to see them on the wall.

Your magic moment.

Jess walking along the path on her own.

Seeing Jake's mood change just by tickling his legs.

Gregory saying to Jenny P 'you're mine'.

Abi saying 'I love play scheme!' - says it all really!!

N's initially demanding nature was challenged by staff through a range of techniques - none of which were ever negative or upset him, by the end of his 1st week he was more than happy to engage & seemed to be far more relaxed, confident and communicative.

Abi, Finn & Jake played brilliantly together and their friendships were encouraged and time was made for them to play together.

Having lots of laughs with Jess, a special moment was when she couldn't wait to thank Paul, the driver, at the end of the trip, she was so excited to show her appreciation. Also being laughed at by her when we did some off-roading in the wheelchair on the grass.

Just working with Rebecca H was most rewarding.

Oliver building his confidence in the water at swimming so he could put more of his body in and go a little deeper instead of staying right at the beginning.

I really enjoyed working with the young people when the Bradford Sports team came in; Seeing how Nicola's swimming has improved, and discovering that she might be able to swim under water, we're still not sure if she can, but she was laughing her head off when she came out of the water.

It was fab when Rebecca, Steven, Jake and Mary got to relax on the mats and had the hall to themselves.

Swimming with Luke on the last day, I could see how much he loved the lights and music in the pool and moving about quite freely;

On the last day a child who does not like music had the confidence with his worker to go up to the disco room door and listen for a short time.

Comments from Team Leaders

Emma Under 8's

Coordination between the team leaders worked well but an opportunity for team leaders to meet up at the beginning of the day would be useful, instead of trying to catch up with each other as we are busy.

All my leaders and volunteers were really caring towards the children but also made a real effort to welcome the families as well.

It's nice to add new trip destinations to the program each year.

Nicole 9 – 12's

Going out as a whole group (including the PMLD's) to Harewood House.

Pippa moved into the 9 - 12's group this summer and I saw a different side to her, she was much more communicative and generally very happy.

Isobel came into my group as a volunteer with Jenny J's support, I was able to be hands off and subtle and Issy made a valuable and positive contribution, her manner with the children was lovely and she couldn't have had 2 more different children, I think the idea of Jenny supporting worked very well.

My memorable moments - Danielle going on the Ultimate at Light Water Valley, Jevan getting stuck on the Rapids. I have heard lots of people comment that this year has been particularly enjoyable and felt very relaxed & I agree.

Louise 13+'s

I feel proud to be asked back year after year, giving up time for our young people is great fun. However I missed a lot of my team this year - Isla, Jonathan, Ella (only did 2 weeks), Cathy (only did 1 week) & Jenny due to supporting the volunteers. Although the staff I did have were all Superstars - Graham, Jane, Lorraine & Bernadette, but more male leaders and volunteers would really be advantageous.

There were a few problems with volunteers arriving late on several occasions so they missed the briefing sessions at the beginning of the day.

It would be good to do a trip to the Seaside next year. I really loved seeing Ben and Rebecca on the adapted bikes, both of them getting involved more was great and they got lots out of it.