

Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme Annual Report Summer 2012



Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

Summer Scheme Statistics		
No of children attending		
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Week one	10 girls 29 boys = 39	11 girls 26 boys = 37
Week two	10 girls 35 boys = 45	10 girls 30 boys = 40
Week three	8 girls 31 boys = 39	10 girls 31 boys = 41
Total children attending	71	61
No. of Leaders		
Week one	25 female, 4 male = 29	24 female, 3 male = 27
Week two	22 female, 4 male = 26	23 female, 3 male = 26
Week three	20 female, 3 male = 23	23 female, 3 male = 26
Total no of leaders	29	28
Escorts (also leaders)	3 female, 2 male = 5	4 female, 2 male = 6
Drivers	1 female, 3 male = 4	1 female, 3 male = 4
Total Staff employed	33	32
No. of volunteers		
All 3 Weeks	3 female, 1 male = 4	4 female, 1 male = 5
2 out of 3	10 females, 6 male = 16	10 females, 1 male = 11
1 out of 3	18 females, 5 males = 23	11 females, 3 males = 14
Total volunteers	43	32
Ratio of Children's Personal Care Needs		
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
With nursing needs (Inc. Medication, tube feeding)	7 out of 71	3 out of 61
Needing Feeding	12 out of 71	10 out of 61
Needing Changing/toileting	21 out of 71	18 out of 61
Needing One to One Supervision	50 out of 71	43 out of 61
Ratio of Disabilities		
Epilepsy	13 out of 71	12 out of 61
Autism or on Autistic Spectrum	32 out of 71	27 out of 61
Wheelchair/ Buggy Users	8 out of 71	10 out of 61
Needing transport	34 out of 71	25 out of 61
Communication Difficulties	67 out of 71	59 out of 61

Other people / organisations involved:-

Jo Galasso – Play scheme coordinator, Chris Parapia – Scheme secretary/volunteer, Brian Watkins – Scheme treasurer, ASAS Management Committee, Kate Eveleigh – admin support, Bradford MDC Sports and Arts teams, the Rapide Bros and Zoot – Circus Skills, Morley Exotic Creatures, Dance for Life, Nick Toczec – Performance and Poetry, Lauren Whyte – arts and crafts, Junior Jam - drumming, Wayne's World – disco & karaoke **and** the parents/carers/siblings/and extended family.

Lineham Farm and Low Mill Outdoor Pursuits centres where we've held our residential breaks and West Oaks School for sub-contracting us to provide these.

Equal Opportunities

ASAS is committed to providing equal opportunities to everyone involved.

The play schemes are 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, we also have several leaders and volunteers with disabilities and 6 children were from dual heritage/ethnic minority groups.

This year 2 young people left the scheme 1 due relocating out of the area and the other became a volunteer. We had 9 new children of which 7 have an Autistic Spectrum Condition, 1 has complex disabilities and 1 has learning disabilities.

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. She also line manages Jo Galasso, Project Coordinator providing regular support and supervision.

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 and works on all the residential breaks.

Residential Breaks



Low Mill, Askrigg, North Yorkshire



Lineham Farm, Leeds 16

Initially we weren't successful in our bid to Leeds CC for a Short Breaks tender contract, however the West SILC who gained the contract are sub-contracting service providers so we have been successful in gaining funds to run 4 residentials from June 2012 – March 2013.

The SILC received a 3 year funding so we're hoping that they'll want to sub-contract us for the duration of their contract.

Our residential breaks are for children 7 – 18 years who don't receive overnight short breaks, and we can take up to 18 children per residential.

In June we jointly organised a residential to Low Mill with AWARE (Airedale & Wharfedale Autism Resource) – a support group for families who have children with autism and for which Jo also works as Project Manager. The residential was specifically for children and young people with autism, 9 Leeds children and 9 Bradford children attended and the break was provided by funding from both authorities.

The next residential will be to the Calvert Trust in Keswick from 2-4 November 2012, we've previously only once done a residential there in 2008 as it is more expensive than the other venues however going in November makes it cheaper and we received a bursary from Sovereign Health Care. Facilities at the Calvert Trust are specifically designed for people with disabilities, so we're looking forward to having a good time.



The children benefit from the short breaks in so many ways, first by being able to spend time away from home, being able to do things for themselves and gaining independence and confidence. Sometimes parents are the main barrier to overcome, understandably they are very protective of their children, they are the most precious things in their lives, but there comes a time when they need to allow the child to do things on their own with other people who can meet their needs and provide new experiences

and sometimes once in a lifetime opportunities.

They are also able to take part in challenging and exciting activities they don't usually get the opportunity to do such as abseiling, canoeing, gorge walking, climbing, biking, high/low ropes, and animal care as well as socialising, making new friends and doing the washing-up.

Campfire and Gorge walking at Low Mill



Finances

Most of our funding is raised by Jo and Chris'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 £11,550, this was a slight decrease on last year. However we were successful in our bid the Inner and Outer Area Well-being committee's securing £25k to run the play schemes this financial year; we also received £3k from the Rene Horton Charitable Trust, £500 from Otley Town Council for volunteer expenses and £1150 from the Frank Parkinson Charitable Trust to run an activity day in October 2012.

Fees remained the same £9 per child per day, negotiable; and our overall income for the last financial year (Nov 10 – Oct 11) was £71.2K up on the previous year by £6k and expenditure was £90.5k an increase of £30.5 on 2009-10.

Thanks go to all those who have provided financial support this year especially for all the parental contributions; we realise everyone is feeling the pinch but do appreciate your contributions and fundraising efforts.

Staff and Volunteers

We recruited eight new leaders and junior leaders, 6 who had previously been volunteers, one new to the scheme. Fifteen volunteers also returned and we only took on 17 new ones.

Team leaders again this year were Emma Harrison with the under 8's; Nicole Dempsey, (Yasmin Darnbrough for 1 day) with the 9 – 12's and Louise Naylor with the 13+ group.

Planning and Training

As there were new staff and many new volunteers the planning and training sessions were really important to get to know each other and to find out about the scheme, understand our policies and procedures and undergo Induction and Safeguarding training, this was carried out in house by Chris Parapia, and she was assisted by Kate Eveleigh.

We held several meetings and a preparation day prior to the scheme in order for everyone to familiarise themselves with the building, fire procedures etc.

Team leaders did some moving and handling with their teams and during the scheme the new junior leaders worked with experienced ones to practice this and increase their confidence, it wasn't until this point that we realized that 2 of the 4 possible hoists hadn't passed their safety checks which meant the ones for the trampoline and swimming pool were out of action.

It was felt that a more formal training package was required for the future as it's difficult fitting everything in and if some people aren't able to attend a meeting then they may miss something important, Chris Parapia is going to look into this for the future.

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 with one driver coming in just to assist with trips out, which again worked well.

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

The Scheme/Programme



We held our summer scheme from Tuesday 26 July to Friday 10 August at Green Meadows School, Guiseley, 71 children and young people attended and were supported by 29 Leaders and 43 volunteers. This was a significant increase in the number of children requiring places, 61 last year, approx. 17% increase.

We try to offer up to 2 weeks provision per child over the 3 week period but with this increase in numbers we had to share out the places so most children got approx. 7-8 days.

Prior to the scheme we recruited some new leaders and volunteers, all new leaders had previously been volunteers on the scheme. We

held several planning sessions to get to know the new leaders and volunteers and in order for them to find out more about the children who'd be attending and how the scheme operated.

The teams put together a program of activities appropriate for the children in their groups, there were several new additions to this including – sailing at Otley Sailing Club, go-kart building and a trip to Pudsey park, as well as the well-loved favorites – cinema, bowling, swimming, trampolining.

We'd been informed that we would be inspected by Ofsted on Wednesday 24th July, the second day of the scheme so we had to make sure everyone was aware of our policies and procedures and followed them, as well as making sure all our paperwork was in order and the care we provided was appropriate to the numbers and needs of the children and young people attending. The inspection went well and we received an outcome of 'Good' with outstanding in several areas - , so we were very pleased with this, the inspector wrote:

Extremely strong partnerships with parents are in place. Comprehensive information is gathered from parents before children start to ensure their needs are met. Staff carry out home visits and this has a significant impact on the outcomes for children. Parents receive high quality information about the provision, including a 'videoette' of the setting so that they can talk to their child about what to expect. They comment on the outstanding support their children receive and the positive impact the scheme has on their lives. Staff work extremely closely with other professionals that support the children. They receive training in specific medical needs so that they are competent in delivering the care each child requires.

All new starters received training on Safeguarding, disability awareness; epilepsy, and health and safety; others were trained for specific children's medical needs.

As usually we had 3 buses, escorts and drivers to bring children to and from the scheme as well as an additional bus and driver specifically for day trips, leaders on the scheme also escorted children to and from the scheme on a daily basis meaning those without their own transport we still able to attend.

We didn't have a nurse for the scheme but we only had 2 children who required gastrostomy feeding, one's PA was able to administer this to him, and several leaders received training from Sue Wilton, nurse, in order to administer the feed to the other child. There were several children with emergency Epilepsy medication and one with an Epipen and specific leaders were trained to administer these.



Emma Harrison, Under 8's Team Leader wrote:-

Under 8's had a 'fun-tastic' summer this year with lots of activities on offer in centre and trips out to enjoy.

One of the children's favorite destinations was Hesketh farm where there were lots of hands on experiences with animals as well as a hay maze and outdoor park to keep us active. We all enjoyed the ride on the tractor trailer through the fields where we watched out for the sheep and cows.

Another exciting outing this year was a trip to Harewood House bird garden and adventure playground. Some children had great fun finding out which countries the different birds came from, and others enjoyed whirling around on the see-saw-round-a-bout - very fast! We always

love returning to the EST Donkey sanctuary each year to visit our favorite donkeys. Some children are very skilled at riding the donkeys and selected their own hard hat to keep themselves safe when riding and there is a cart provided for our wheelchair users so everyone can come along for the ride.

On rainy days we like to keep busy in centre with lots of craft and sensory experiences. Several children enjoyed getting messy with shaving foam, spreading it all over their hands and the furniture! We also try to respond to individual requests for activities whenever possible, so when one child gave us his dough PEC's symbol we got out the play dough ingredients and got mixing.

Other memorable activities included a bouncy castle, Rapide Brother's circus skills, EUREKA, a sponsored 'ONE challenge' walk and swimming in the hydro pool. We had such a great time this summer and looking forward to the next scheme already.



Bouncy Castle, in centre

Donkey Riding at EST

Sensory Session

Nicole Dempsey, 9-12's Team Leader wrote:-

The children in 9-12's enjoyed a mixture of old favorites and new adventures that reflected the diverse range of abilities, need and personality that we have in the group. As always, the children loved trips to the park, the entertainers that visited us on site, swimming, trampolining, trips to Nell Bank, the cinema and so much more. For our youngest group member, the trampoline and public swimming baths were a daunting prospect at first. But with lots of support and encouragement from staff, volunteers and of course, his new friends, he soon got stuck in - in fact, we couldn't get him away from those activities in the end.

For some of the children in 9-12's the Big Swing trip is a highlight and a chance for them to test the limits of their ability (and bravery!!!) in a safe environment, and now we are more familiar with the type of facilities and activities that are offered there, my team and I are better equipped to select the children who are going to enjoy and achieve in this environment.

An excellent addition to the programme this year has been sailing at Otley Sailing Club. As well as adding to the breadth of experiences the programme offers the children we also found that the facilities and activities there - and the expertise and willingness to be flexible of the volunteers who supported us there - enabled all of the children we took to take part in a way that was enjoyable and fulfilling for them. Two person 'non tip' sailing boats gave some children the chance to take control and take their 1:1 support worker for what was undoubtedly a fun and relaxing ride. Bigger sail boats and an accessible motorised boat, and of course the sailing club volunteers, meant that all children, regardless of physical and/or learning ability, were able to enjoy the sailing experience. We hope that more of the children will be able to access this trip next year. Greater collaboration and flexibility between the groups when planning the day to day implementation of the programme has meant that more children have been able to access activities appropriate for their abilities, needs and preferences and this has ensured that each child's personal experience of the scheme was enjoyable, rewarding and pertinent.



The Big Swing, Eccelshill



Adventure Playground at Nell Bank, Ilkley



Trampolining



Pond dipping at Nell Bank, Ilkley



Parachute Games



Some of the wonderful volunteers





Sailing at Otley Sailing Club

Louise Naylor, 13+ Team Leader wrote:-

The young people thoroughly enjoyed their time at the play scheme, socialising with friends and making new ones, participating in centre based activities such as trampolining, dance for life, drumming and circus skills; plus going out on trips where they had great fun, they enjoyed Nell Bank Activity Centre especially the water play gave great pleasure for all our young people, also our wheel chair users were included in all activities.

The sailing was a great experience and again everyone included and great for everyone to experience the great outdoors. Our young people were able to voice their opinions and voted for which trip they'd like to attend – swimming at Richard Dunn sport centre being a favorite, going on the slides.



Parents/carers were able to have a break, spend quality time with siblings, or just go to work knowing their child was well cared for and having a fun time, new parents were impressed with the quality of care and lengths we go to in order to meet the needs of individual children – one parent commented she wishes the school support staff were as good as our leaders at caring for her child; another was ecstatic when her child was offered an extra day because another child was off ill, her sigh of relief when she knew she's have some care for her child that day was huge.

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 as well as have the opportunity to voice their views on the scheme to the Ofsted inspector.

Fundraising

Chris Parapia, ASAS secretary, celebrated her 60th birthday during the summer scheme so inspired by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Olympic celebrations she decided to hold a fundraising even which she called the ONE (Olympics Now Event) where everyONE could participate by doing ONE minute/mile/lap/bounce/length and help raise funds for the scheme. Everyone attending on Wednesday 8th or Thursday 9th August participated and did there bit, everyONE received a medal, and funds are still coming in so to be confirmed.



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).

Final Comments

We're hoping that funding will be available through the SILC short breaks funding for play schemes next year, this and other funding streams will be sought as usual. Again if anyone would like to raise money for the scheme please contact Jo and she will offer any assistance required. As ever there's more and more preparation and then it all goes by so quickly, however it is truly rewarding knowing that the scheme makes such a difference to the lives of the children and their families.

With more children being integrated into main stream provision we thought that the demand for places on our scheme may go down, this is not the case, it still seems that main stream provision doesn't suit or cater for all children appropriately and that parents are more at ease sending their child to our scheme knowing we are experienced and confident in providing appropriate care, and willing to go that extra mile to make sure we do everything we can for each individual child because they are all different and unique.

Jo Galasso, Project Co-ordinator



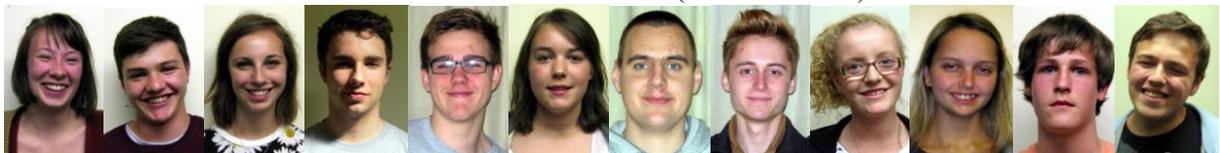
Under 8's Team



9-12's Team (minus Nicole)



13+ Team



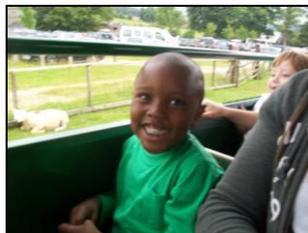
More Volunteers

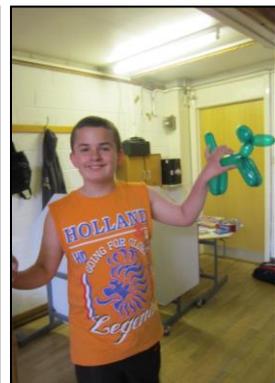


Hi can you hear me?



Yes but it's a bit fuzzy!





And even more volunteers



Young People's Feedback

Results from the 'tree' evaluation system and verbal feedback

The Under 8s enjoyed the donkey sanctuary, Wacky Warehouse, Billy Biscuit and Ponderosa. However, the baking activity received a mixed response. Some children enjoyed this, and chose to place their leaves at the top of the tree, but others placed the leaves lower down the tree.

The majority of the activities on the 9-12s programme have been enjoyable. The most popular activities included swimming, Nell Bank, go-karting building and The Big Swing. This was corroborated by verbal comments.

One young person in the group placed their leaf at the bottom of the tree on several occasions; however, he also verbally expressed his enjoyment of the activities, so some conflict in his opinions.

Some of the 9-12s group said they had not enjoyed the day of Billy Biscuit and the sports session. This could be because they did not participate, and they may have enjoyed alternative activities.

One young person in this group said that they had enjoyed the outing to the cinema and requested more opportunities to do this next year. They also asked if it would be possible to include horse riding on the programme in future.

The 13+ group have enjoyed Billy Biscuit, bowling, Nell Bank and sailing. There was one young person who put their leaf towards the bottom of the tree on some days, but this was because they had not taken part in the activities on the programme. One child asked why he'd had to go to Nell Bank twice but he hadn't objected at the time.

Coffee Morning Feedback - Wednesday 25th July 2012.

This event was hosted by Chris Parapia and Kate Eveleigh and attended by four parents/carers of children who attend the scheme. Two of the parents have children in the Under 8s group, whilst two parents had a child in the 9-12s group.

Overall, the parents/carers were very positive about the scheme, which was very encouraging, especially as one of the children represented by the parents at the coffee morning was attending his very first session that morning. The parents/carers agreed that they felt their child was safe and happy when attending the scheme. They compared ASAS to mainstream schemes, complimenting the range of activities, and commenting that the different activities meant that the daily charge for ASAS represented value for money.

Kate has designed and implemented a "tree" evaluation system which she explained to the parents and showed them the Boardmaker symbols that accompany it. They agreed that it might be useful for the symbols to be included as part of the programme, so that when the programme is circulated, children

who are able to understand the symbols may be able to read some of the programme themselves.

Some of the parents, particularly those whose children are relatively new to ASAS, commented that when the programme is circulated, they are unsure exactly what some of the activities involved. The example they gave was Billy Biscuit. This makes it difficult for them to explain to their children what they will be doing, and sometimes causes anxiety. They suggested that a short explanation of what the activities on the programme are would be helpful and if this could be sent to parents prior to the scheme, so they can relay this information to children as appropriate.

Some parents said that their children liked to know in advance which member of staff would be designated to work with them, as this helped to ease their anxiety prior to attending the scheme. They appreciated that as staffing may change throughout the scheme, it may not be possible for parents to be notified of a specific person who would be working with their child before the beginning of the scheme. However, they suggested that photographs of leaders and volunteers working in their child's group would enable the children to familiarise themselves with faces of people who could potentially be allocated to them, and help parents to reassure their children.

Leader and Volunteer Feedback - Week 1.

All the leaders and volunteers who were interviewed enjoyed the first week on the scheme. The trips to Aireborough Leisure Centre, The Big Swing, Nell Bank and various parks were all singled out as particularly enjoyable trips. Many of the leaders and volunteers said that they had enjoyed getting to know the children and seeing them enjoying themselves. One volunteer (13+) appreciated being asked to work with different children each day, as this presented the opportunity to get to know more individual children. Some leaders who have worked at ASAS previously expressed their pleasure at noticing how children have developed, and perhaps tried activities that they would not have enjoyed in previous years. All those who were asked said that they would like to be involved in ASAS again, and one volunteer (13+) said that they would recommend volunteering at ASAS to their friends.

When asked about aspects of the scheme they had not enjoyed, one volunteer commented on their long journey to Green Meadows, but none of the leaders or volunteers specifically mentioned any activities they had disliked. There were, however, some constructive suggestions for things that could be improved in the future. Some volunteers mentioned aspects of the training. One volunteer suggested that the training sessions could be more structured to allow for more clarity on which tasks needed to be completed. They also said that people who were not required to undertake training should be asked to attend at a different

time to those who were, to avoid too much standing around. It was also suggested that training could include more information on specific disabilities and medical conditions, such as epilepsy and Down's syndrome, and that there could be some more practical activities designed to give leaders and volunteers an understanding of what it is like to live with a disability; for example, being pushed in a wheelchair or wearing ear muffs. A volunteer also mentioned that there were not enough handouts at the training session, and it would have been more helpful to receive these when the session took place. An important part of the training is looking through the registration forms of individual children and learning about their needs. One volunteer suggested that a recent photograph of the child included with the forms would help this process.

One volunteer mentioned that certain members of their group had not been able to go on a trip as a result of limited transport. They said that it would be beneficial to have more seats available so that people were not left behind.

Several of the volunteers mentioned that the child with whom they had been working had not wanted to participate in the timetabled activity. One volunteer suggested that there could be more toys and games made available to these children, but acknowledged that there were already some of these items on site, and their suitability may be dependent upon the mood or preferences of individual children.

One of the leaders commented on the absence of a specific timetable for PMLD children. She said that some aspects of the programme had required alterations to ensure it was fully inclusive, and if the PMLD timetable was reintroduced, this would be prevented. She said it was not necessary for PMLD children to be excluded from their age group, but perhaps a note to the team leader with possible alternatives would be helpful.

Leader and Volunteer Feedback - Week 2.

The trips to Harewood House, Hesketh Farm and Horsforth Park were singled out as particularly enjoyable by several volunteers. The leaders and volunteers also stated that they had enjoyed working with the children and getting to know them.

None of the leaders and volunteers singled out specific activities for negative comments. A few volunteers who had not worked on the scheme previously mentioned that they had not liked dealing with challenging behaviour or asking children to do things that they did not want to do, such as washing their hands. They felt apprehensive working with children with more complex needs, but this became easier as they got to know the children.

Some volunteers mentioned that the weather had prevented them from doing outside activities and that having more activities available on base would be beneficial in these circumstances.

One volunteer in the 13+ group stated that there was nothing they had not enjoyed, and praised the team leader for ensuring that they were never placed in a position which was uncomfortable for them.

The early mornings were also unpopular with a few volunteers!

One volunteer suggested the inclusion of more specific activities for children with PMLD. They stated that they enjoyed the sailing trip for this reason; it was an activity in which the PMLD children were able to participate.

One volunteer mentioned the training day, and suggested that it could be more productive. They appreciated the need for the safeguarding training, but said that the day could be more structured so that they were more aware of other tasks with which they could be involved.

A leader said that they had no dislikes and no suggestions for changes, but stated that they would like to see Nell Bank, sailing and swimming included in the programme next year.

Leader and Volunteer Evaluation - Week 3.

Several volunteers said they had appreciated the opportunity to meet new people and make friends with other volunteers. They also stated that they had enjoyed getting to know the children and learning more about different disabilities. One volunteer said they had particularly enjoyed working with PMLD children, as they had not done this before. One volunteer commented that working on the scheme had provided them with useful experience, as they wished to apply to study medicine.

The trips which were particularly enjoyable were Nell Bank, Harewood House, Eureka, Richard Dunn and The Big Swing. A volunteer in the 9-12s group said they would like the Eureka trip to be offered to the 9-12s next year.

Several volunteers commented on their time on base. They said they preferred being outside, as after too much time on base, the children became restless or frustrated.

Some of the volunteers commented on the programme and suggested that some new ideas for trips were incorporated next year. One volunteer thought that this was particularly important for children using wheelchairs. One volunteer said that although the activities were enjoyable, it would be beneficial to ensure that activities which are similar (e.g. Zoot Circus and Rapide Brothers) are spread out more across the different weeks.

One volunteer said that the training had caused them to be more apprehensive about working on the scheme, as it had not been made clear that leaders, rather than volunteers, would be expected to work with children with more complex needs. The volunteer had envisaged being required to perform tasks such as administering medication, and would have appreciated reassurance that a leader would always be available if help was needed. They commented that the more

experienced leaders and volunteers had always been helpful and friendly when they had approached them. Other volunteers also praised the way they had been welcomed by other members of staff.

All the volunteers who were asked said that, depending on personal circumstances, they would like to volunteer again. Some volunteers who had only worked for the third week said they would like to do more weeks next year, and one volunteer suggested that the scheme should run longer during other holidays, such as Christmas and half terms. One volunteer mentioned that they would like to apply for a leader position next year, as they felt they had performed similar tasks to existing leaders. It was not clear whether they felt that this was appropriate.

Parent/Carer Comments:-

My child thoroughly enjoyed everything; it was the first time my child had ever gone on a train or gone sailing plus he enjoyed lots of walks and swimming;

The whole family benefit from my son attending the scheme, it allows us to do activities that my son doesn't like or isn't able to do, it also gives us a rest.

We are able to go on a week's holiday abroad while granny looked after our son as he attends the scheme during the day so making it easier on her and possible; all the leaders are brilliant, each day the driver and escort helped granny get my son into his wheelchair at home which was really helpful.

Brilliant scheme, lovely caring people looking after the children.

I wish my daughter's support at school were as good as your leaders, if they were she'd have no problems - this was the first time her daughter had attended the scheme, the parent is now on our committee so thanks for the vote of confidence! How do I go about putting their name down for next year?