

Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

Annual Report

Summer 2010



Nell Bank Outdoor Centre, Ilkley

Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

Statistics		
No of children attending		
	2010	2009
Week one	9 girls 25 boys = 34	15 girls 22 boys = 37
Week two	13 girls 23 boys = 36	14 girls 26 boys = 40
Week three	8 girls 26 boys = 34	14 girls 25 boys = 39
Total children attending	59	59
No. of Leaders		
Week one	22 female, 3 male = 25	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	32	33
Escorts	4 female	3 female, 1 male = 4
Drivers	1 female, 4 male = 5	1 female, 3 male = 4
Total Staff employed	36	37
No. of volunteers		
All 3 Weeks	3 female 2 male = 5	7 female
2 out of 3	14 female	5 female, 1 male = 6
1 out of 3	5 female, 3 male = 8	13 female, 3 male = 16
Total volunteers	27	30
Ratio of Children's Personal Care Needs		
	2010	2009
With nursing needs (inc.Medication tube feeding)	9 out of 59	10 out of 61
Needing Feeding	15 out of 59	15 out of 61
Needing Changing/toileting	25 out of 59	24 out of 61
Needing One to One Supervision	42 out of 59	43 out of 61
Ratio of Disabilities		
Epilepsy	15 out of 59	18 out of 61
Autism or on Autistic Spectrum	24 out of 59	23 out of 61
Wheelchair/ Buggy Users	18 out of 59	17 out of 61
Needing transport	30 out of 59	24 out of 61
Communication Difficulties	57 out of 59	58 out of 61

Other people involved:-

Jo Galasso – Play scheme coordinator, Chris Parapia – Scheme secretary/volunteer, Brian Watkins – Scheme treasurer, ASAS Management Committee, Variety of Scheme nurses, Diane Brayshaw – music, dance and relaxation, Bradford MDC Sports and Arts teams, Pete White – Suitcase Circus, Patsy Bell – aromatherapy, Morley Exotic Creatures, Dance for Life, the Rapide Bros – circus skills, Sainsbury's Otley – donkey adoption, bag packing and cooking with chefs, Fiona Johnstone – drama, 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 has physical disabilities, 1 volunteer has communication difficulties and 2 have physical disabilities, 3 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 residentials and provides support as line manager to Jo.

Jo Galasso, project coordinator, now works one and a half days a week all year round, organising and managing all aspects of the activities; and face to face throughout the three weeks of the summer scheme, the Christmas and Easter activity days and the residential breaks.

Residential Breaks



With the rest of the 2009-10 funding we provided our first break for children with disabilities at Herd Farm, (as getting enough dates at Lineham was becoming increasingly difficult). Herd Farm is more suited to slightly older children 10 – 16 years, as the activities are more challenging – high ropes, zip wire, giant swing, assault course; the young people are expected to assist with cores – clearing away after meals, washing up and cleaning the building prior to leaving; the bedrooms are bigger, some sleep up to 10 people so the children need to be able to cope with that sort of environment.

15 young people attended and have a brilliant time, they loved being away from home, spending time with their friends, some of which they'd just made, and taking part in all the activities even though it poured with rain for much of the time, the children weren't disheartened and behaved really well. Most of them were happy to help with the cores and learnt new skills doing this, some were a bit reluctant and needed keeping on task but the jobs were completed, and no one said they didn't want to come again because of this.

In order to continue providing the breaks Chris and Jo put together a tender bid to the Aiming High commissioners to run 5 more residential breaks in 2010-11 and were successful in gaining the contract for £36,400.

Dates for these have been set for June, September and October 2010, then May and June 2011, 3 at Lineham Farm and 2 at Herd Farm.

These residential breaks are for children with disabilities throughout Leeds who don't get any other over night short breaks.

The first in June at Lineham farm was attended by 14 children, they had a great time and took part in climbing, animal care, orienteering and environmental activities, as well as having time away from home providing respite for parents they were able to learn independence skills and gain confidence, some had never stayed away from home before so this was a major achievement for those children, as well as their parents who had to come to terms with entrusting their precious child to the care of others. Going through the process and realising how much fun their child had had



and that their every need was catered for gave them confidence in our abilities and meant they would have no qualms about sending them again, and all the children were very proud of their achievements and definitely up for coming again.

We aren't allowed to charge for the breaks but many parents give donations to assist with the running of the scheme and for this we are very grateful and appreciative, every little helps.

Funding



As last year was financially a very good one we started off in a healthy position, our main sources of funding this year have been the Aiming High tender, the Leeds City Council play schemes grant, donation from the Rene Horton Charitable Trust and Parental contributions and donations.

Again 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, with this in mind we increased our

fees this year to £9 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 £15,551 and they also paid for scheme nurses, Rene Horton Charitable Trust £7,000, Friends of Kirk Lane Park £504.97, EFC Consultancy £500, Collection at Jessica Gilfillan's funeral £334, Kim Knaggs, Great North Run sponsorship £220, Christmas Activity Day raffle £106, Church of the Venerable Bede £75, North West Carers £40 and Parental contributions & donations £5,155.

Sainsbury's Otley



All Sainsbury's stores chose a local charity for a year to work with and raise money for, so Jo put us forward and we were selected to do a presentation to the Otley branch staff council. Well, actually in error Green Meadows were contacted and asked to do the presentation and it wasn't until David Jakes arrived that they realized they'd got it wrong, so at the last minute they rang Jo and asked if she could go there and then. So

unprepared but with scheme photo albums in hand she went and made the presentation, and we were chosen over the 3 other charities who presented. Jo did put us forward last year and was asked to do a presentation but we weren't successful then so 2nd time luck in this case.

Since then Jo has liaised with Linda Guy who is determined the branch will make as much money as they can for the scheme – a sponsored bike ride has already been done and a sky dive is planned.

During the summer they did a car wash and tombola, and we would like to thank everyone who provided some lovely gifts for that, another is planned jointly with the Greengates store on the 16th October, their chosen charity is SNOOP who also do activities for children and adults with disabilities, so there's a battle going on between the fundraisers to see who can raise the most money.

During play scheme two groups from the scheme went to the store and did a bag pack and Linda made them all lunch while they were there.



They also adopted 2 Donkeys for the scheme and children from the under eights went to the EST Donkey sanctuary, met representatives from the Otley store and were introduced to our donkeys - Simon and Kelly.

We were also very fortunate to have chefs who work with Jamie Oliver on his Sainsbury's road shows come to



the scheme to do cooking with some of the young people, they made healthy breakfast muffins, chicken stir fry, and fruit kebabs, then ate it all! The young people involved really enjoyed the experience and the food, they each also received an apron to take home with them and the T&A came and took photos and put a piece in the paper about it.

Linda is making a scrapbook of all the clippings and photos taken during activities which we will be presented with at the end of the years fundraising.

In September a collection is planned, another bag pack on 12th December, and an Easter egg tombola and other events next year.

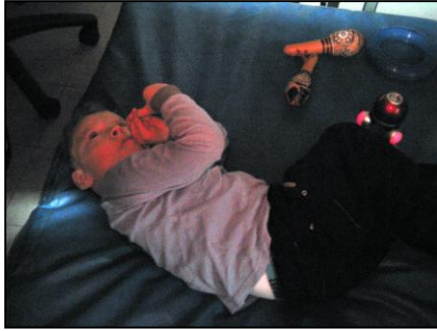
Linda has arranged for us to receive some Active Kids equipment – sports holdalls and a sensory tent, these are due to arrive in November, she has also arranged for Santa Clause to come to our Christmas Activity Day on Saturday 4th December bearing gifts.



So we would like to thank everyone at Sainsbury's for their support of the scheme and look forward to working with them further and raising lots of money to benefit all the children at the scheme, any assistance from our children and parents would be very gratefully received.

Planning and Training

Due to refurbishment of the toilets and swimming pool changing rooms Bradford Road site was unavailable so we had to operate from the Back Lane site, we had our planning and training sessions there so people could get used to the building prior to the scheme. Having temporary accommodation meant that we could only operate for a maximum of 14 days under our Ofsted registration, we therefore had a preparation and training day on Monday 26th July. The drivers assisted moving all our equipment from the container on Bradford Road to the Back lane site on the minibuses and the rooms had to be prepared for the arrival of the children the next day.



Back Lane provided us with more rooms so each group had their own base, we also had an art room, cookery room, common room with pool table, table football, TV's etc and we were able to create our own sensory room which was very valuable to many of the children for them to chill out and get away from the noise and bustle of the rest of the scheme. There were more outdoor play areas too and a new purpose built sports court had just been installed prior to the scheme starting.

So this site had a lot to offer but many people didn't think it was as welcoming or as nice as the other site; the security was a bit of a nightmare - people had to be fobbed in and out of the building and with only 3 fobs between the whole scheme it was quite difficult and time consuming at times, although a lot safer all round.

As Back Lane site no longer has pupils with profound disabilities so they no longer have hoisting facilities, however Stuart, the site superintendent, arranged for the tracking hoist to be re-installed and gave us use of a mobile hoist which we had overhauled and it worked. The tacking hoist was a bit sensitive and didn't always work with heavier children so wasn't ideal but we managed.

Every day prior to the children arriving each group had a briefing about what was happening that day and who was looking after who, the team leaders worked together to sort out and share use of the minibuses which as usual was a bit of a night mare but they managed it.

Nursing Cover

The nursing arrangements were not entirely well planned, we didn't know which nurse we were going to have and the nurses didn't know until last minute where they were going, which children where coming when and what resources or training was required. However several of the leaders received Epipen, Gastrostomy and tracheotomy training/awareness so they could cater for the needs of specific children.

We had discussions with the nurses and all agreed a different/better system needed to be in place for the future. When we had Green Meadows school nurse, Jenny, she would liaise with us, parents and other school nurses prior to the scheme to establish the needs of the children, this worked well and needs to happen in future.

Staff and Volunteers

We needed to recruit a few new leaders this year as some of our long standing ones were unable to work due to Uni placements and didn't get the summer holidays off or have now finished Uni and have full time jobs.

We had more applicants than places to fill so unfortunately some people were disappointed but we did take on several of our regular volunteers as junior leaders and also appointed 2 new leaders who had a lot of experience working with children with disabilities in other settings.



Pete White Suitcase Circus



Helen, long suffering* team leader for the under eights (*every year she says it'll be her last and then she's afraid of missing something so she'll be back), now has a valid reason for not coming back, she's a mum to Phoebe, 4 months.

So team leaders for the under 8's were Emma Harrison with assistance from Lauren Dempsey and bump (soon to be a mum for the second time); Nicole Dempsey for the 9 – 12's and Louise Naylor for the 13+ group.

Again we had lots of volunteers return and recruited some new ones all who took on their roles brilliantly, easily fitted into the teams and worked well with the children.

Transport



This was pretty 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 to plan apart from a couple of faults with 2 of the buses so they had to be swapped.

We again use of 4 buses and 4 drivers' weeks one but only 3 drivers' week two and three, we had a few comments about not having enough buses but we made good use of them and the 13+ and 9-12 groups used public transport where possible, which they thoroughly enjoyed and Back Lane was

nearer the bus stop so that was useful. Parents were encouraged to send in their child's bus pass which saved us some money.

The Scheme/Programme

We had many of the favourite and well loved activities 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 and Dance for Life but also some new and enjoyable ones this year.

'My favourite additions this year have been Nell Bank and Morley Exotic Animals – both things that were accessible to all the children, fun and interesting, and gave the children (and staff) opportunities to try something new and exciting'. Nicole, 9-12's team leader.

Nell Bank Centre, Ilkley was a firm favourite, in fact when Jo's other scheme had insufficient numbers to make their trip feasible members of ASAS joined them, their second trip during the scheme. The children did the obstacle course, orienteering, water



play, and went on the play ground, some of the children rode on the 'Nellmobile' and experienced the site on this, loving the motion and wind in their faces, ***'Eve had such a huge smile all the time she was on it'***. Two very memorable and enjoyable days, ***'we'd definitely like to go there again'*** 9-12's group, ***'can we go next time?'*** 13+'s.



Roberts Park, Baildon, this was a really good find, it's recently been completed it's on sand and has a zip wire, a small sunken trampoline, tyre swing and a climbing frame as well as logs that make music when you pass over them, a disabled friendly swing and roundabout, good for our wheelchair users; and it was next to a new skate park and some of the children loved running up and down the skate ramps, children from all the groups went to this park and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Chris and some of the children did a **litter pick** at Parkinson's field, Guiseley, Chris received a grant for £50 to run the event which provided equipment and refreshments afterwards. The group were joined by some local residents who are concerned about keeping their local environment a nice place to visit.

I think Liam, on his knees, was pleased with their hard work and ready for some refreshments.



Morley Exotic Animal Rescue came with a wonderful array of creatures – a huge lizard, tarantula, owl, snakes and even a raccoon and a skunk, it was a very hands on experience, for those brave enough. The organisers were very patient and really good with our children; the animals were friendly and used to being handled, and everyone was able to join in at their own level, it was a brilliant session, however the skunk was a bit smelly and the lizard did a big pooh on the floor, which the kids thought was hilarious.



And then there were Meerkats, at **Tropical World**– simples! They must be hiding, because there were there.

Lots of trips to local parks, thanks to the good weather, as well as trips **Bowling, Cinema, Mc Donalds, Swimming, and trampolining**, the list goes on.....





Circus skills, with the Rapide Brothers was also an enjoyable session, here's Dani (left) toothbrush twirling, a very difficult skill, not everyone can do it.

The trip to **Eureka** was lots of fun with lots to do and places to explore, the swings were a particular favourite, as you can see here (right).



We did have a bit of excitement too when one young man dislocated his knee whilst playing football so we had to call the paramedics, he was very brave but by the time they arrived it had popped back in so he didn't have to go to hospital but we didn't want to miss the opportunity to explore the ambulance and set the siren going, thanks to the lovely ambulance crew, something good came out of something not so good.



The theme for the end of scheme party and disco was 'Graffiti' so everyone decorated their own t-shirt to wear on the day, as usual we had Wayne's World disco and karaoke, Robert Cherry did face/body painting and we had lots of lovely food, donated by parents, for which we are very grateful, it made for a wonderful end of scheme party.

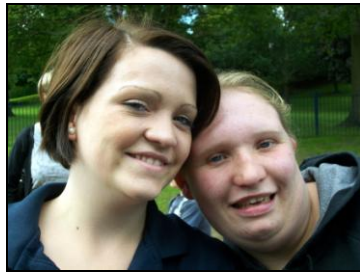
The week after the scheme finished we also did a trip to Light Water Valley in conjunction with AWARE and Bradford Play Development, who organised transport and tickets, there was a coach full and it was a brilliant day out, everyone had a great time going on rides and having lots of fun.



Light Water Valley, Thursday 19th August 2010

Again the end of the scheme meant the end of an era for many young people now 19 years old and their last summer scheme, we say good bye to David Y, Jorden P, Connor VDW, Rebecca H, , Stephen J, Isobel C and Leanne G.

2010 Leavers



Other information

Coffee Morning

Chris again organised a coffee mornings for parents/carers during the scheme, this was quite well attended, all by mums, they had chance to chat with others, raise issues they had and gained information about other activities/services available for their children, most found it very useful and one even cancelled another appointment in order to attend.

Final Comments

Another year over, each year there seems to be more and more preparation and then it goes by so quickly, however it is truly rewarding knowing that the scheme is a big part of these children's lives and that is so valuable to the parents and carers.

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 yard to make sure we do everything we can as every child does matter. Jo Galasso. Playscheme Co-ordinator

