

**Aireborough
Summer Activities
Scheme**

Annual Report

Summer 2005

Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

Statistics

No of children attending	Week one	17 girls 21 boys	38
	Week two	18 girls 22 boys	40
	Week three	18 girls 19 boys	37
	Total		61

Age Range 4 to 19 Years

Ratio of Children's Personal Care Needs

No. with Nursing needs (inc. tube feeding)	18 out of 61
No. needing Medication	13 out of 61
No. needing Feeding	19 out of 61
No. needing Changing	17 out of 61
No. needing Toileting	24 out of 61
No. needing One to One Supervision	33 out of 61

Ratio of Disabilities

No. with Epilepsy	20 out of 61
No. with Asthma	4 out of 61
No. with Autism/Autistic Spectrum	16 out of 61
No. of Wheelchair/ Buggy Users	20 out of 61
No. needing transport	25 out of 61
No with Communication Difficulties (Deaf/ hearing impaired 3, Visually impaired 1)	46 out of 61

No. of Leaders	Week one	18 female 5 male	23
	Week two	18 female 5 male	23
	Week three	18 female 5 male	23
	Total		25

Escorts	Weeks 1 & 2	2 female	2
	Week 3	3 female	3
	Total		3

Drivers	Weeks 1 & 2	2 males & 1 female	3
	Week 3	2 male & 1 female	3
	Total		4

Total Staff employed **30**

No. of volunteers	All 3 weeks	4 females & 1 male	5
	2 out of 3	8 females & 1 male	9
	1 out of 3	14 females & 1 male	15
	Odd days	2 female & 1 male	4
	Total		34

Other people involved:-

Jo Galasso – Play scheme coordinator, Arthur Hoyle – Scheme chairman/swimming volunteer, Chris Parapia – Scheme secretary/volunteer support worker/transport services, Lenni Busfield – Scheme treasurer, ASAS Management Committee, Jenny Mason – scheme nurse, Stewart Holt – caretaker, Physiotherapists - hydrotherapy, Diane Brayshaw – music & resonance boards, Nick Tozcec – performance poetry, Disability Sports team, Richard Sabey – African Drumming, Patsy Bell – aromatherapy, Martha Sinclair – drama, Elaine – Salsa & music, Dance for Life, Arty Smarty – pottery painting, Stingwray & the Rapide Bros – circus skills, 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.

Disabling conditions include: - A.D.H.D, Aicardi syndrome, autism, asthma, visual impairment, cerebral palsy, chromosome disorders, Cri du Chat, Downs syndrome, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, dyspraxia, epilepsy, hearing impaired/profoundly deaf, hydrocephalus, hemiplegia, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Muccopoly Sacharide disease (Sanphilippo), Retts syndrome, Sotos syndrome, 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.

All the children/young people attending have learning and/or physical disabilities and 3 volunteers have learning disabilities and 1 has physical disabilities. The scheme is open to children/young people, within the Aireborough area, whose needs aren't met by mainstream provision because of their disability, learning or social/behavioural difficulties and also their age. 25 of the children attend mainstream schools and 36 attend special schools.

1 child and 2 volunteers were from ethnic minority groups.

Nursing Cover

Jenny Mason, school nurse, was on site through out the scheme, she provided valuable training for the leaders and volunteers, gave individual leaders training on the administration of an Epipen for a child with a nut allergy, she gave us cautionary advice about certain children's health needs and liaised with nurses from other schools and parents regarding the care needs of children attending the scheme. During the scheme she was always on hand to deal with any concerns or queries we had. She also stored and administered medication, undertook gastrostomy feeding and monitored epileptic seizures.

Role of the Trustees/Management Committee

The voluntary management committee is made up of 9 local people with an interest in improving the quality of life by way of providing leisure facilities for children with learning and physical disabilities. Two of the trustees work for Social Services, two are parents of children who attend the scheme, one is a volunteer on the scheme and others either work or have worked with children or are in caring professions.

The scheme is a Registered Charity and 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.

Staff and Volunteers

This year none of the people we had had previously as Deputies (now known as Team Leaders) were available to work, we advertised for Team leaders and leaders, but the advert had to be re-advertised due to lack of response in the first instance. Response for leader positions was quite good but poor for that of Team leader, we considered the people we already had knowledge of and recruited these from within, one of the workers could only do 2 of the 3 weeks so one of the new leaders was trained up as Team leader for the final week of the scheme. We eventually appointed 14 leaders and 12 volunteers who'd previously worked on the scheme plus 11 new leaders and 11 new volunteers. Team leaders were Helen Foyston for the under 8's for week 1 & 2, and Jacqueline Wells for week 3, Louise Naylor for the 9 – 12's and David Singleton for the 13+ group, they all did a wonderful job, but special praises to David who had at least 20 teenagers in his group throughout, plus lots of leaders and volunteers to manage. Helen was brilliant at team building, she invited her team for a sleep over, unconventional but with an amazing effect, her staff even had a lunch rota, they took it in turns to bring sandwiches, desserts and made buns or cakes to share. Jacqueline was welcomed into Helen's team and ready to take on the task as team leader by the third week, her working style was less flamboyant than that of Helen but she did a good job, and was also lucky to have fewer children on role for her week, so good to be broken in gently. Louise was really good with the new leaders and volunteers, she boosted their confidence and always considered their strengths and wishes, and she was also really good with children who had challenging behaviours. We were blessed this year with more male leaders and volunteers, some of the feedback we received mentions the benefits to the older lads of having more young men and positive role models, from a practical point of view it is beneficial when in public venues for toileting. Again we were astounded at the maturity, commitment and abilities of our very young volunteers, the parent of one said the whole experience had changed their lives; her son has become a more mature, considerate, understanding, and knowledgeable young man. When asked if they would like to do the scheme again the consensus was, it had been a very positive and enjoyable experience, which people would like to be part of again.

Planning and Training

In the Easter holidays we arranged a two day First Aid course – Appointed Person certificate, 10 leaders and volunteers attended and everyone qualified.

As the schools finished the Friday prior to the scheme starting we weren't able to hold a training day, so we had to hold the planning and training sessions on several evenings leading up to the scheme, this was beneficial as it meant there were more occasions for the leaders and volunteers to meet up and team build, also if people weren't available for one or two of the sessions there were still additional opportunities to get acquainted and gain knowledge. Jenny Mason produced and delivered a training pack specifically for Playscheme leaders/volunteers around working with children with disabilities, including Epilepsy, methods of communication, feeding and also instilled the importance of health, hygiene and safety at work. Chris Parapia did orientation exercises, team building skills and discussed roles and responsibilities with the volunteers, whilst myself and Nora did Moving and Handling training with the leaders, this included using the hoists available in school and also being hoisted, so they were aware of how it might make the child feel – vulnerable, scared or insecure. We also showed a couple of videos which people found quite useful, one was about Epilepsy, it explained about the different types of seizures, how they might look, how you could give support and how the person might feel afterwards. The other was about Autism, it showed some autistic children who were aware of their condition, they told how it sometimes made them feel and how normal life can be confusing and difficult for them to interpret.

OFSTED

In compliance with the standards set down by OFSTED we again had to inform them of everyone over 16 years who would be involved with the scheme and carry out CRB checks on everyone who hadn't previously been checked and all new people had to complete a DC2 form which is a requirement of our OFSTED registration. We weren't visited this year as we had our full inspection last year and they are usually only scheduled for every three years, however we implemented the recommendations set by OFSTED which included noting the entry and exit time of the children rather than just ticking them in and out, developing a policy on 'the exclusion of children who are sick' and making sure OFSTED's name and contact details are added to our Complaints/Compliments policy document.

Leeds Early Years and Childcare Service

We were visited by Anita Wood on behalf of Leeds Early Years and Childcare services as we are grant aided by them, she checked over all the paperwork, checked everything was in order and had a little look at what was going on, also checking whether we needed any support with anything and asked about any successes or difficulties we might have had in the organising or running of the scheme. She was pleased with her findings and would report back to the appropriate people.

Finances

We have been particularly fortunate in receiving a large number of grants and donations again this year, which has enable us to take on more staff, volunteers and drivers thus making more places available for the children as well as extending the program to include more specific activities and sessions for those with more profound disabilities.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported us including:- Mr. Parapia, MENCAP, SCOPE, Councilor Latty, Leeds & Bradford Airport, BBC Children in Need, Leeds City Council Grant, Frank Parkinson Trust, Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust, Sydney Black Charitable Trust, Patricia & Donald Shepherd, Morgan Crucible Co., Leeds & Holbeck BS Charitable Trust, Sovereign Health Care, Metcalfe Smith Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, David Solomon's Charitable Trust, Constance Green Foundation, Scurrah Wainwright Charity, Addleshaw Goddard Charitable Trust, Elizabeth Smurthwaite, Jenny Jeffels, Local Network Fund, and the parents/carers for their contributions; all to whom we are extremely grateful.

Place Availability

As previously mentioned we were able to offer more places this year, this was in response to the increase in demand for places. Letters were sent to parents/carers in May and within two weeks the usual places had been filled up and further requests were still arriving, the committee considered how to deal with this and understanding the dire need of the parents for respite and the health and wellbeing of the children decided to offer additional children one weeks provision, rather than the usual two weeks. The knock on effect of this was needing to recruit more leaders and volunteers, some of this occurred very late in the day but in the end we had offers from too many willing volunteers and had to limit the number of weeks we could take them on for. Two good things came out of this, the children got a lot of individual attention and the volunteers having been given a taster are eagerly looking forward to helping out again. We again were contacted from many people who live

out side our area trying to find play scheme places for their disabled children, many offered to transport their children if that was an issue but unfortunately we just didn't have any places to offer.

Of the 61 children and young people who attended 54 were regulars and 7 were new to the scheme. I went to do home visits for most of the new children which was beneficial both for the parents, the child and their care at the scheme, seeing or talking about the child's needs is easier than putting it down on paper.

One to One Support Workers

33 children/young people needed one to one support for all or some of the time they attended and a couple of children needed two to one some or all of the time, luckily having high numbers of staff and volunteers we could cater for their needs and provide the support they required, which the parents were most pleased about and confident their child was safe and well cared for. Again we received a grant from BBC Children in Need to pay for one to one support workers, others were funded by Social Services and one child came with their own worker, she attended our training and soon became part of a smooth running team. Most workers who'd had experience of working with certain children previously chose to work with those children again thus increased familiarity for both worker and child.

Transport

We were looking to have more transport this year in response to feedback last year regarding difficulties which occurred, getting the buses isn't a problem but as usual getting drivers was, Paul Hargrave and Dee Reeder who worked for us previously were more than happy to be reappointed, filling the other position was harder, but thankfully for the knowledge and persistence of Paul we ended up with Bruce for the first two weeks and just in the nick of time the recruitment of Rodney for the third week. Knowing our difficulties providing transport more parents were willing to transport their child to and from the scheme if they could and likewise we were able to help them out where necessary. During the scheme the buses ran smoothly, the team leaders liaise beautifully on who was having which bus when and the drivers happily carted seats on and off buses to accommodate our changing needs, they even offered a spare pair of hands whilst out on trips and really had an enjoyable time, they said it was lovely to see everyone relaxed and having fun. Two of the escorts, Bernadette and Vicky, also work as leaders throughout the day, the other, Susan, just does the morning and afternoon shifts, so sometime getting her home and back in between can be a bit difficult, thanks to a kind parent, who lived near, offered lifts which was really useful and saved money for the scheme.

Last year some of the leaders/volunteers felt that due to the lack of access to buses/size of wheelchair accessible buses, those in wheelchairs didn't go out as often as those who were able bodied, we tried to allocate certain times specifically for wheelchair users but did organise more activities for them to access in centre as they don't always seem to get a lot out of going out on the bus, I think that this did work a little better, perhaps sometimes it was the leaders/volunteers desire to go out rather than that of the children.

The Scheme/Programme

Highlights, the usuals like - trampolining, trips to the Donkey Sanctuary, bowling, swimming, hydro-therapy, Skelton Grange, bowling, Stingray & Rapide Bros- Circus Skills, Nick Toczec - performer, dancing, art, being with friends, going out on trips, being away from parents and siblings.

Diane Brayshaw did general music sessions with karaoke and some resonance board sessions again, the children got so much out of this, most being relaxed and contented for the whole session. Nick Toczec was his usual witty self with some new poems, tricks and puppets, always a good show and appreciated by the children and workers. The under eights enjoyed two trips to Ponderosa therapeutic centre, basically a farm with a few additional activities available like pony rides and holding reptiles-yuk, but the children liked it and that's what matters. The 9 - 12s had a good day at Harewood House, playing on the adventure play ground, having a picnic and seeing all the birds in the Bird Gardens, especially the Penguins and Flamingos. And also a very enjoyable trip to Skelton Grange environment centre, as explained here by Nicole Dempsey - one of the Play Leaders who attended...

'I thought Skelton Grange was really good, I went with Richard, James, Emily, Ben and Jordan and they all really enjoyed it. It's like a nature walk and you play games along the way, they showed us how to hold little mirrors at different angles so we could see things from the point of view of animals with eyes on the side or top of their heads. There is a sensory garden of fragranced flowers and plants which could be picked and stuck on a card to take home. We had to find toy animals in the woods which they had made tunnels and dens for in the long grass. At lunch time there was a competition to try and produce as little rubbish as possible that can't be recycled, and we were given a certificate for our efforts. The high light was definitely the pond dipping Richard had been a bit reluctant to join in (they kept asking the children to do different things 'lie down' 'pick that' 'take your shoes off' 'find this, I think he was a bit bewildered by all the instructions) but he got really into the pond dipping, he caught a newt and all sorts of other things. Some of the activities would be very difficult to get a wheelchair user involved in, and there were lots of questions to be answered and it was necessary to quickly

learn the rules of games, which I feel might exclude some of the children too. The only negative comments I have are it's quite hard to find as it is not very well signposted, and their staff take it very, very seriously... but don't take that out of context, we definitely had a good time.'

Thank fully everyone who was booked turned up as arranged, so emergency back up didn't have to be called upon, once or twice the session wasn't always suited to the audience and the facilitator didn't have the skills to adapt. We had a dance instructor from Yorkshire Dance who did a great session, she really made it suitable for all abilities, with lots of arm movement for those in wheelchairs and used up to date music that the young people know and like. We also had Elaine who did Salsa dancing and incorporated some music teaching in a really simple and fun way, it was surprising how many of the boys joined in with the dance sessions as often they can see it as just for girls, the Salsa had them strutting their stuff and shacking their tush.

The 13+ group thoroughly enjoyed their bus ride into Leeds City Centre and their visit to The Light Cinema to watch Madagarscar, in fact the leaders wanted to go again the following week to watch Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, but unfortunately it wasn't on at a convenient time, but Madagascar was good and all the adults got in free as carers, which was a good saving. They walked into Guiseley to get the bus to Leeds and it was pouring down so they did get wet but when the bus arrived one of the girls wouldn't get on, she said she didn't like buses so her support worker started to walk back getting even wetter, luckily I was available to go out and collect them, once back they soon dried out, in hind sight it might have been useful to tell the children about what the whole trip to the cinema entailed before setting off, so they had the chance to say they didn't like buses. I guess this just highlights how some children who seem to have good understanding don't always see the whole picture and need more in-depth explanation.

The Rapide Brothers came for the day to do circus skills, they spent the morning with the older groups but the under eights sometimes find it quite daunting taking part with everyone else so they spent the afternoon in their base and were able to tailor the session to their needs and abilities plus give them more individual attention. One of the little ones, George got on particularly well with one of the brothers and had a brilliant time 'clowning around'!

Arty Smarty came to do ceramic painting with the older group, they brought blank plates for them to decorate, they then take them away, fire them, then bring them back the following week for the children to take home, and of course some wonderful masterpieces were produced.

Last year the trips to South Leeds Stadium to do adapted bike sessions were very beneficial, so several were planned for this summer, however, they failed to inform us that some of the bikes needed attention and when the group turned up some of the children weren't able to ride, those who did ride had a really good time and the staff were very helpful and accommodating. We arranged a couple of extra sessions for an Autistic boy who we found hard to engage with and difficult finding something to occupy him for long, he got a lot out of the sessions and was kept busy for several hours. This is just one example of how we were able to cater for individuals needs, due to having a lot of leaders and volunteers, it was very beneficial to the child and his parents were very appreciative of the efforts we had gone to, to accommodate their child.

The program of events specifically for the more profoundly disabled children included rebound therapy, hydro therapy, sensory integration, trips to the donkey sanctuary, adapted bike sessions, resonance boards, music and relaxation sessions, bowling, aromatherapy and walks to local amenities. Dealing with children with profound disabilities isn't something every one can do, so those who chose to work with these children really have a very special quality, from them the children receive wonderful care and attention and in return the leaders/volunteers are rewarded by laughter, smiles, sometimes hugs and kisses, gallons of dribble plus happy noises and sometimes inevitably unhappy noises too

As usual we had our party on the last day, the theme this year was Pirates of the Caribbean, so there were lots of pirates, gypsies and even Tinker Bell, wrong film I think. Everyone was invited whether they were attending that day or not, it was really nice that so many extra parents and children turned up to enjoy the party food, disco and karaoke, it was extremely hot and everyone was worn out by home time, and everybody was sad that it was over for another year. Many of the leaders and volunteers have registered their interest in doing some one to one support work with children in their own homes via Social Services, also doing the Christmas Activity day and next years play scheme. All our equipment then had to be gathered together and put back in storage, leaving the school as unscarred as possible, we did get a phone call shortly afterwards asking what we'd done with all the teaspoons, sorry not guilty, we didn't have enough so bought our own, never mind if that's all we're accused of we got off lightly this time.

Feedback (Sheets Attached)

Feedback came verbally from everyone attending and involved with the scheme; the child/parent, volunteers and leaders evaluation forms and via the communication books we send home daily, particularly appreciated by parents of non-communicative children.

Final Comments

What a wonderful experience to be part of once again, it is fourteen years since I did my first play scheme and have done it every year since except one year I had a 'summer' holiday!, it just seems to go from strength to strength, it becomes a big part of people's lives, both children and leaders/volunteers and even influences people's life and career choices as it has done mine. Apart from many of the Committee members who've been involved since the first scheme in 1988, I've been involved the longest, although some of the leaders aren't far behind, Lorraine Dempsey has worked on the scheme for 10 years and this year saw the departure of a long serving leader, Natalie Proctor, she started as a volunteer when she was about 14, went on to become a leader at 18 and now who has just been accepted as a Paramedic in the Ambulance service, we were very sorry to lose her but if you ever need an ambulance I hope she's on board.

All this wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the support of all involved in the running and organisation of the scheme – the Management Committee, the leaders and volunteers, Jenny the school nurse, Green Meadows for letting us use the building, everyone who gave financial support, the parents/carers for their high regard for and confidence in the scheme and last but by no means least the children for attending, and enjoying the scheme so much.

Jo Galasso
Playscheme Co-ordinator

Child Evaluation Form (Completed by the children if able, if not by parents or play leaders on the child's behalf)

Has your child enjoyed play scheme this year?

Yes; very much; very much as normal; a 'definite' YES!; very much so; S has loved it; yes as far as I can tell; I thought play scheme was excellent, I've had lots of fun; P has loved it.

What have they enjoyed/benefited from the most?

Having young male helpers has been good for my son; playing; using public transport & getting out and about in the community; being away from parents/family; swimming, park & being kept busy; enjoying the attention; being with other children & young people; swimming & seeing friends; M has enjoyed the trips out, has been looked after & cared for 100%, he has been really settled & happy to go every day; trampolining & visits to farms; the external trips; I think N will have enjoyed the bowling; outings & trips; trips to the Donkey Sanctuary; pet shop & walk to park; unsure V is unable to say (leaders said trampolining); A really enjoys trampolining, she will have benefited from being walked around, being outside & being with other children; going to the farm & stoking the animals & the playground; swimming, bowling, donkeys & farm; I enjoyed getting wet in the pool, I loved bowling & playing games outdoors; trip to St Leonard's farm, meeting new children, being in a familiar environment at school; trampolining - very good for his central nervous system, it was good for R to be in a safe environment but away from the family as this develops his independence & takes away his reliance on us; adapted bikes session.

What have they enjoyed/benefited from the least?

J said nothing; T said he liked everything; R can't tell us but I'm sure she enjoyed lots; no complaints; dancing; trips to Eureka & South Leeds Stadium - not really suitable for his abilities; difficult to say with N's problems but she has appeared very content all week; difficult to say, nothing probably; trampoline; sports.

What did you think about how the scheme was run?

Very good as usual; good; I cannot give enough praise; very efficiently; very well run; excellent; the scheme as always has been run brilliantly and efficiently; organised & professional; I know a lot of work goes into it; very well organised - lots of children, lots of leaders & volunteers but somehow you managed to achieve a calm & welcoming environment; lovely.

What did you think about the range of trips and activities?

Excellent; my son found it disappointment & hard to deal with if trips had to be cancelled; varied & interesting; for the majority a very good range of activities, R being as she is does miss out on some activities; no time to be bored; appropriate to my child; A hasn't been on any trips but I think the activities she has been involved in have been suitable for her - I find it hard to know how to occupy her; varied & very appropriate; R said excellent.

What did you think about the leaders and volunteers looking after your child?

Excellent; brilliant; caring & responsible young people, bright & friendly; helpful & friendly; plenty of happy, smiling faces & a great atmosphere; Claire who looked after R was brilliant; what I saw of them was all very good; they are as silly as children so they got on very well - a big thanks to them all; very organised & caring, had good interaction with the children; very happy, caring & kind; all the staff were great; fab; the one's looking after A are very good, she has had different problems this time & they have coped very well with her & her needs; I think Craig is brill, he has been a true friend to me, playing football & enjoying the activities outdoors with me; warm, welcoming & genuinely interested in the children, I felt confident leaving her; R said everyone was 'good'.

How well do you think we communicated with you?

Excellent; brilliant; very good; very well; very well - either in the book or verbally; good; extremely well; I was met daily by E's carer, the communication has been excellent; book returned & written in every day; communication was excellent - book a very good idea.

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?

Absolutely everything; removal of parent/family conflicts; made it easier for childcare as I work; a few hours to focus on our other children & do the things that are difficult with R means a lot to us, at what can be a difficult time; we have been able to relax more - from now on we will be kept busy finding places to go & things to do for the rest of the holidays; shopping in peace !; I have enjoyed my hours of freedom, it is a big help during this long summer holiday; It has made me more relaxed/less stressed, trying to think what can I do today with H - our time together has been more special; I have had the grand children this week, I was able to take the other two to the Hobby Craft shop which N would have found tedious; friends have been able to visit our other children at home, hill walking & swimming which are not normally possible; I always appreciate play scheme, this year I especially was glad of it, after a stress full time over an accident with her teeth, it took away the pressure on me, I have taken my grandchildren out and got some visits done, as I don't drive all these things are more difficult & time consuming with the wheelchair; taken the boys on trips that wouldn't be suitable/enjoyable for P & have also been able to work without usual holiday childcare difficulties; we have been able to go shopping in town R doesn't like the noise or the lights in some shops, so we are limited to where we can go, it was nice to have some 'me' time, R can be demanding of attention & finds it difficult to entertain himself, so I could pamper myself without worrying what he was doing.

Is there anything that could improve the scheme? Other comments..

J & I think you're great; none known; Perhaps arrange trips so that other activities can be included e.g. start and finish later on some days, possible evening activities for older children - bowling or eating out; a 12 hour day ! - we are more than happy & very grateful; not in our opinion, just keep it going, many thanks to all the leaders & volunteers for your care and very hard work; keep up the excellent work it is greatly appreciated; just keep doing what you do !; you all do an excellent job and you all seem to enjoy it also- that is a big thing; everyone has worked very hard to achieve the schemes usual excellent standard, you can see from the children's faces at collection time that they have enjoyed themselves - thank you; don't know; more swimming; just to say thank you to all the staff, S has really enjoyed herself; I think coordinating a play scheme on this scale must be tremendously hard but it really is superbly organised, all the children & leaders are clearly happy to be there, it is such a bonus for families like us, thank you.

Volunteer Evaluation Form

Have you enjoyed working on play scheme this year?

Yes; it was ace; it's been interesting & fun; extremely worthwhile & rewarding; it has been a wonderful experience because I learnt a lot during the course of the week about dealing with children who have disabilities; great experience & lots of fun; I've really enjoyed it, it's been fun; I've learnt a lot, gained experience & still had lots of fun; I was nervous at first but I've really enjoyed it; great fun & very rewarding, my husband says I come alive when working on the scheme.

What have you enjoyed the most?

Taking the children on trips - bowling; I liked Skelton Grange, bowling & having picnics; meeting all the children; seeing children who would normally be quite introverted become involved & enjoying the activities; simply observing the children interact with each other, the most able helping the less able & seeing them all enjoying themselves in their own way; going to Harewood House; trips were great for both the children & me, bowling & Harewood House were thoroughly enjoyable; I enjoyed everything; the variety of activities, many different trips to suit all interests; the trip to Ponderosa; meeting new people, communicating in different ways other than speech & learning trampolining; music sessions, circus skills; Swimming, bowling, art & craft & Arty Smarty was great; interacting with the children & working with the leaders; getting to know the children; seeing the children's personalities come out.

What have you enjoyed the least?

Sometimes there wasn't much to do as there were a lot of volunteers in the group; nothing really; not being able to attend throughout due to illness; when no activities planned free play time on site went a bit slow; when not everyone was able to go out due to lack of space on buses; music & movement; getting up early, nothing annoyed me; none of it was very bad; I don't really like just staying in, I prefer to go out; not going on a trip.

What did you think about how the scheme was run?

All precautions were taken; well organised; efficiently yet had an informal & friendly atmosphere; well structured & organised; wouldn't change it; the children seem to really enjoy it; everyone made sure the children received the best care possible; first week took a while to adapt into a routine, second week ran very smoothly; leaders & volunteers worked well together; not so well organised with the activities but that didn't really matter; children were entertained throughout the day & really enjoy it; every aspect closely thought about.

What did you think about the range of trips and activities?

Good - still took place when raining; ok but more could be added as some children don't always join in; they were interesting & the children enjoyed them which was good; I worked with two groups and both had activities/trips to suit all the service users; splendid choice, something for everyone; good because all the children got to go out; really enjoyed all the planned trips; the best trip was Harewood House as everyone enjoyed it; I found the children enjoyed it more when they were able to do their own thing, they much preferred the bus to walking; appealed to a wide range of the children's interests - included everyone; the children always enjoy swimming, there were lots of trips; it was good to see the children in wheelchairs being involved more; a few were dependant on the weather, however alternative arrangements were quickly planned.

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?

Very friendly, answered any questions asked; made me feel welcome & they were very responsible; both Team leaders were easy to work alongside; David & the leaders were helpful at all times & worked with great professionalism, I learnt a great deal from each & every one of them; helpful if I had difficulties; I've made some nice friends; they reassured me if I had any doubts; no problems at all; the leaders this year have been great, all pulled together, David was really good with both staff & children (well done David); worked well together; I found it useful to see how other leaders & volunteers interacted with the children & found everyone really

friendly; they made sure everyone was ok; it was my first time & I didn't know anyone but got on well with everyone; I felt really comfortable.

If you attended the training, what did you gain from it?

The importance of hand washing; it covered a lot of important safety issues; it was useful, not only for the information we were given but as a chance to get to know each other; useful & necessary, especially for new volunteers; I learnt how to deal with various situations whilst helping the children; the videos were extremely informative regarding Autism & Epilepsy, additional handouts were also appreciated; what we needed to do on the scheme; useful & the handouts were easy to understand; new knowledge about Epilepsy, learning what other people know about children they have worked with; very interesting & useful; generally how to deal with children; ways to communicate differently with children who find communication difficult; made familiar with the building & conditions the children may have.

Is there anything that could improve the scheme?

More activities & more transport available; perhaps smaller groups would be better for training sessions eg split into working groups - this would help in getting to know the leaders & volunteers you'd be working with before the scheme started; have bigger buses so the whole group can go on some trips & no one has to be left behind; it's great as it is; when we did sport with Seth he asked if we had any ramps for the wheelchair users to roll balls down, an idea for the future; may be more outings for wheelchair users; t-shirts for volunteers, so they are identifiable from the children; separate groups for ability not age; more outdoor equipment for the 9 - 12 group.

Would you do it again?

Yes; yes but not all 3 weeks it's really tiring; yes if you'll have me; yes please; yes I would love to do it again; yes I shall be back next year; yes definitely.

Any other comments, ideas, suggestions would be appreciated.

I found the huge group in the hall somewhat overwhelming; I have really enjoyed having the chance to work with the children & have learnt a lot from being part of the scheme; take some children to the Deep in Hull, they would enjoy the fish & the lighting; I thought it was much better than another play scheme I have been to!; thanks to all the leaders for being so friendly.

Leader Evaluation Form

Have you enjoyed working on play scheme this year?

Yes; it's been great; very enjoyable; as always a wonderful time; yeah man !; I have really enjoyed working on the play scheme again.

What have you enjoyed the most?

Adapted bikes, swimming, trampolining; getting the kids out & about & involved in loads of activities; taking the children to places they wouldn't usually be able to go; building up the trust of the young people & meeting new people; everything really; seeing the children really enjoying themselves; the responses from the children; circus skills; moments when communication problems were overcome were pleasing; the laughter & delight the children showed.

What have you enjoyed the least?

Wacky Warehouse when they wouldn't let us go in with children who need help; when everyone stays in there isn't always a lot to do, as the children are entertained/play together and don't always need your interaction or attention; I did feel too much time was spent in centre & the art materials weren't as good this year; some of the discipline of the children was quite poor; a child being upset; one of the music & movement people who didn't pitch her activities at the right level; some changing difficulties & when a child became frustrated.

What did you think about how the scheme was run?

Smooth running, plenty to do; everyone knows what to expect; all the groups had equal chances with outings/activities & access to bus/transport; well organised - everyone was aware of their role and what they were supposed to do; very professional and efficient; the trips were good, the children were safe and had fun.

What did you think about the range of trips and activities?

Good range which took into account children's specific needs; definitely something for everyone so saw very few behavioural problems; brilliant for most children, a few seem to be left behind more often than others; varied but not all beneficial to more profoundly disabled children (PMLD); a good range and the extra plans for the more profoundly disabled children was very good; it worked well having a separate program for the PMLDs; too much emphasis on circus skills, more cinema trips would be good; wonderful; it was really good that the team leader could change & organise trips for their own group like walks to the park on the spur of the moment; the 13+ group was a bit limited by its size, it was great to see more activities tailored to meet the needs of children with PMLD; some of the children would have benefited from something like a sensory centre.

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?

Everyone was very welcoming & very good with the children; team leaders were very supportive & took my views into account, I enjoyed working with them; good team spirit, everyone gets involved & I look forward to coming in a morning; easy to ask if you are unsure about something; approachable; a good mix of old & new staff which was beneficial; friendly & easy to talk to; good mix of leaders & volunteers, ages & genders; I really felt part of the team this year; very supportive team; great fun & a good laugh; everybody I worked with were friendly, helpful & good at their job; perhaps it would be more beneficial if volunteers who have a learning disability themselves were a bit older than those attending the scheme before they came as volunteers, they wanted to be at the scheme themselves, it's a good idea but maybe when there is a bit of an age gap between them and those attending; it was good there were so many enthusiastic volunteers.

If you attended the training, what did you gain from it?

Very useful - knew what to expect; information on moving & handling; re-cap of previous training plus Jo's moving & handling training was good; useful for meeting up with those I'd be working with but had done the training in my current job; Moving & handling skills; confidence in colleagues; refreshing information already gained; good for team building prior to the scheme;

lifting skills & learning everyone's names; useful but difficult for new leaders to absorb info about the children prior to meeting them.

Do you think the co-ordinator and your team leader supported you and treated you fairly?

Yes no problems; if I had any concerns or problems I felt I could go talk to them and they would address these issues; yes very much so; wonderful pair who really brought the team together; easy to approach & did an excellent job; always helpful.

Any other comments, ideas, suggestions would be appreciated.

Occasionally I noticed volunteers being mistaken for children - a badge might be a good idea; Abbey Light Railway would make a good trips for the future, could be combined with a trip to Abbey House Museum or Kirkstall bowling; even out the groups - change age boundaries, arrange by ability, only move more able children up a group; t-shirt or badge for volunteers; having volunteers who have previously participated is a good idea however careful selection & info should be provided to ensure that roles are understood by the individual; I appreciate it must be difficult because of financial constraints but more transport would enable much more choice of activity; more time to get the fancy dress costume together; thanks for letting me have this opportunity, can I come back next year?

More light/sensory materials; would be nice to meet parent/carers for the day too; would like to do some home visits (Team Leader comment).