

Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme Annual Report 2013



Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

Summer Scheme Statistics		
No of children attending		
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Week one	8 girls 30 boys = 38	10 girls 29 boys = 39
Week two	15 girls 40 boys = 55	10 girls 35 boys = 45
Week three	13 girls 38 boys = 51	8 girls 31 boys = 39
Total children attending	74	71
No. of Leaders		
Week one	20 female, 4 male = 24	25 female, 4 male = 29
Week two	20 female, 6 male = 26	22 female, 4 male = 26
Week three	19 female, 4 male = 23	20 female, 3 male = 23
Total no of leaders	27	29
Escorts (also leaders)	3 female, 2 male = 5	3 female, 2 male = 5
Drivers	4 male	1 female, 3 male = 4
Total Staff employed	31	33
No. of volunteers		
Week one	17 female, 2 male = 19	19 female, 8 male = 27
Week two	16 female, 5 male = 21	19 females, 6 male = 25
Week three	18 female, 4 male = 22	18 females, 4 males = 22
Total volunteers	36	43
Ratio of Children's Personal Care Needs		
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
With nursing needs (Inc. Medication, tube feeding)	9 out of 74	7 out of 71
Needing Feeding	20 out of 74	12 out of 71
Needing Changing/toileting	25 out of 74	21 out of 71
Needing One to One Supervision	52 out of 74	50 out of 71
Ratio of Disabilities		
Epilepsy	17 out of 74	13 out of 71
Autism or on Autistic Spectrum	35 out of 74	32 out of 71
Physical Disabilities	17 out of 74	8 out of 71
Needing transport	37 out of 74	34 out of 71
Communication Difficulties	71 out of 74	67 out of 71

ASAS Management Committee – Chris Parapia – Chair/volunteer, Brian Watkins – treasurer, Meryl Wilford, Andy Mosby, Carmel Gallagher, Simon Brately, Jenny Jeffels - volunteer, Sue Wilton – scheme nurse;

Other people involved:-

Jo Galasso – Project Coordinator, Wendy Bowes – Assistant Coordinator, Kate Eveleigh – admin support; Leaders, Volunteers and children who attend; Bradford MDC Sports and Arts teams, Bradford Play Network – go kart and den building, BCEP – sensory session; the Rapide Bros – Circus Skills, Billy Biscuit – entertainer, Morley Exotic Animal Rescue, Dance for Life, Nick Toczec – Performance and Poetry, Lauren Whyte – arts and crafts, Junior Jam - drumming, Soundhouse Disco & karaoke **and** the parents/carers/siblings/and extended family.

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. 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 5 children didn't attend due to being away during the summer and 1 due to moving out of the area. We had 12 new children of which 8 have an Autistic Spectrum Condition, 1 has complex disabilities and 3 have learning disabilities. We had 13 new volunteers of which 3 have learning disabilities/are on the autistic spectrum themselves; we now have 6 volunteers with 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, Chair, 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, manages and works on all the residential breaks.

Residential Breaks The Calvert Trust in Keswick was the venue for our first residential this financial year which took place from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th November, 18 young people with a wide range of disabilities attended including one young man, a powered wheelchair user and who uses a talker to communicate. Activities included horse riding, canoeing, indoor climbing and abseiling, and use of the sensory room and hydrotherapy pool. It was a fabulous venue, well equipped to deal with people with disabilities as well as able bodied guests. For some people it was the chance of a lifetime to do such activities and give them the sense of freedom they can seldom experience.



Further residential took place from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th February to Low Mill, Askrigg, North Yorkshire, the weather caused us a bit of concern as it was snowing heavily and we were worried whether the coach would be able to make it back to collect us, it wouldn't have been so bad to have had to stay another night apart from one young lady never slept from arrival till departure so heaven knows what she'd

have been like if we'd stayed longer.

Lineham Farm, Leeds 16 from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th March, unusually we had quite a few girls attend this residential, our waiting list is predominantly boys, 18 children attended in total and for some children this was the first time they had ever been away from home and a difficult time for their parents letting them go away for the first time.



After some initial confusion and difficulties with the funding agreement with the West SILC we were again contracted to deliver 4 residentials from April 2013- March 2014. Considering we had over 130 children on our list some who've had a break and would love more and many who are yet to be offered a residential break we do have evidence that there is still a real call for residential breaks. Many parents say it helps their child to prepare for possible school residentials and others whose children aren't allowed on the school residential as just happy that their child has the same opportunities as their peers.

So further very successful residentials were carried out to Lineham Farm from 26th to 28th April - we thoroughly enjoyed the milder weather enabling the children to see the newly born lambs as well as doing climbing, biking and art sessions.

Low Mill from 31 May – 2 June and 27th – 29th September the young people thoroughly enjoyed canoeing, caving, gorge walking and zip wire. The final one for the financial year will be in February 2014 again to Lineham Farm. We've decided it's too cold to go canoeing and gorge walking in February!

Quote from a parent

My son said he really enjoyed himself and wished he could have stayed longer, he said he enjoyed everything about the residential and would love to go on again.

We felt really relaxed as there is normally a high level of stress in our house; it was nice just to be able to do things as we wanted rather than in a routine.

I think these breaks are really good for disabled children as they get chances to enjoy themselves, socialise with others and meet new people, I also think they are really good for families too it gives them chance to relax for a few days. – Feb Low Mill.



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, gaining independence and help builds their confidence. 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 as well as keeping their rooms tidy ready and making their beds!



Finances and Fundraising

We would like to thank the following for their most generous donations towards our future activities - Rene Horton Charitable Trust £4,000; Frank Parkinson Charitable Trust £2120, Omega Training £1000, Rotary Club of Aireborough £600, Liz Kenwood-Herriott £30, Rotary Club of Otley £150.

As well as successfully being re commissioned to provide the 4 residential breaks we were also successful in our bid to the North West Inner and Outer Area committees in securing substantial funds towards the year's holiday play schemes. Jo was asked to attend their panel meeting to tell them more about the scheme and benefits to the local community, this along with our regular SEN play scheme grant now administered by SCOPE meant we were in a good financial position to carry out our planned activities for this year. Along with the very valuable parental contributions we aren't doing so badly considering the current economic climate. We had the usual raffle at the summer scheme, fundraising curry night and raffle as well as raising over £1000 + gift aid via the localgiving.com 'Grow Your Tenner' matched funding campaign. Jenny Pemberton is doing a skydive and some of the funds will be going to ASAS - £230 so far and we've been chosen by Asda, Otley in November and Waitrose, Otley early next year to receive funding from their instore Community programs.

Staff and Volunteers

We only recruited one new driver and 2 new leaders – male ones! And we had 4 other male and 21 female leaders return. Nineteen volunteers also returned and we only took on 17 new ones. Team leaders this year were Lauren Dempsey under 8's (Batman); Nicole Dempsey (Superman) (Deputy Yasmin Darnbrough) 9 – 12's and Louise Naylor (Scary lady with Red Wig) Deputy Bernadette Young 13+ group.



Planning and Training

In July, ahead of the Summer scheme, ASAS worked with Omega Training Services to deliver a bespoke programme of training open to all leaders and volunteers working on the scheme. The training sought to develop teamwork and confidence in working with the wide-range of children who attend the scheme but also delivered specific sessions aimed at developing new skills and equipping people with the important knowledge and competencies needed during the scheme.



Course participants hard at work

This included Safeguarding, communication skills (overcoming barriers to communication and useful signs), managing challenging behaviours (understanding the difference between attention seeking and behaviour as a form of communicating need and developing techniques to de-escalate situations – using lots of positive reinforcement, distraction and praise; disability awareness and infection control (highlighting the importance of effective hand washing). Between 20 and 25 people attended the training over the 5 weeks. Omega Training Services offered people the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised CACHE qualification in 'Understanding Inclusion in Health, Social Care and Young People's Settings. We are delighted to report that the majority decided to independently complete required written assessment tasks have successfully achieved their qualifications. Everyone demonstrated a tremendous commitment throughout the training, sharing their experiences and learning from each other as well as the tutors. Experienced scheme leaders Jenny and Nicole took on the role of tutors alongside Carmel Gallagher from Omega Training Services (herself a parent of a child on the scheme).



New volunteer, Rebecca Binks, was nominated by Omega for a Learner Award in recognition of the hard work and amazing growth in confidence she showed throughout the course. She will now go through to the shortlisting panel in November to see whether or not she will be an overall award winner. A fantastic achievement! The feedback from the volunteers was overwhelmingly positive. Newer volunteers said that they felt the training had really prepared them for the scheme and that they had already made strong friendships.

More experienced people said that they appreciated the opportunity to revisit some of their earlier training and to work with others. Everyone said that they felt valued by ASAS and would welcome the chance to do more training, perhaps building on what they have now achieved and looking to study at higher levels too.

People who are already employed elsewhere throughout the year felt that the training offered by ASAS gave them even more chance to continue their professional development and build their CV's.

Following the success of this training ASAS and Omega Training Services are looking into what other qualifications could be offered to volunteers throughout next year and beyond. Omega Training Services would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at ASAS for allowing them to work with such a great group of people! Carmel Gallagher.



Participants glammed up for an Awards Evening which took place on 1st October during a fundraising Curry Night at Red Pepper restaurant in Otley.

We saw several people putting their new skills into action during the scheme, in particular the behaviour management strategies.

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 smoothly, the only issue was we were short of drivers a couple of days as Paul had to go to a wedding, and one of the buses broke down one day so some parents brought their own child in or they had to wait for one of the other buses to collect them.

As always many of the planned trips with the 13+ and 9-12's group were on 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

74 children and young people with disabilities, age 4-19 years attended the summer scheme from Wednesday 24th July to Friday 9th August, which was based at Green Meadows school, Guiseley. Some of the children have profound learning and physical disabilities requiring full support with feeding, changing and administration of medication. Others have moderate to severe learning difficulties and challenging behaviours, and in some cases, required 3 to 1 support.



Sensory Leeds, water play and fun with the Rapide Bros

The under 8's group were particularly challenging this year having several severely autistic children who had to be watched 100% of the time to keep them and others safe, most of their workers sustained bites and scratches due to the child's frustrations through their lack of understanding or ability to express their needs. This said they group enjoyed in-centre activities like the bouncy castle, swimming, trampolining, circus skills, sensory play session, art, baking, sand and water play, and trips to play centres, parks, the donkey sanctuary and Sensory Leeds where thoroughly enjoyed and gave the children chance to experience new experiences in a supportive environment, something parents often shy away from due to their child's behaviours.

The 9-12's group were a more of a laid back group, there were several children with physical disabilities in this group but they were able to integrate and enjoy most of the same activities as their able bodied peers, and when they couldn't alternative activities were always planned such as rebound therapy, hydro therapy, sensory sessions and aromatherapy. The group enjoyed the in centre activities like Morley Exotic Animals, Billy Biscuit and Nick Toczec – children's entertainers, wood work, Go-kart and den building sessions, and trip out to Lineham Farm for climbing and animal care sessions; Leeds Wall, Swimming and inflatables at Aireborough leisure centre, the Big Swing Adventure playground at Eccleshill; Nell Bank – obstacle course, pond dipping and water play and Eureka.



Go-kart building and visit to The Big Swing Adventure playground

The 13+ group comprises of a wider age and abilities range, they integrated some of the activities and trips with the 9-12's group so everyone was catered for. We have a lot of mainstream young volunteers in this group who are good role models and encourage the young people to behave appropriately, the group often go out by public transport – trains and buses, to gain independence skills and do things their non-disabled peers enjoy such as bowling, cinema, chilling in a café, reading magazines, listening to music. They enjoyed in centre activities like art, drama, trampolining and dance sessions, they also went to Nell Bank (below), Lineham Farm and swimming at Aireborough.



Activities at Nell Bank, Ilkley



Leeds Climbing wall, Donkey Sanctuary, Woodwork session and Rebound therapy.



Visit to Sensory Leeds, Play area and Lineham Farm



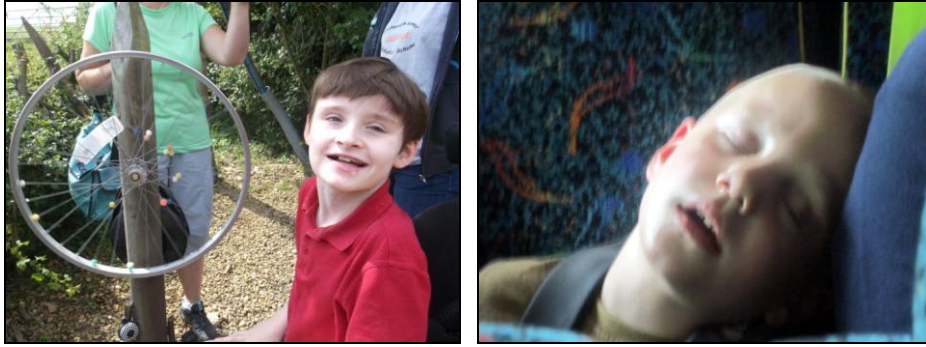
Visit from Morley Exotic Animal Rescue



Riding at the Donkey Sanctuary and going on the bouncy castle with an Umpa lumpa!



Circus Skills with the Rapide Brothers



Enjoying the musical garden at Lineham Farm, bus journey back after a long day

Several children were new to the scheme this summer and it was nice to see them and their parents relax and grow in confidence throughout their time with us, and have asked how they go about attending again, we assure them they're now on our mailing list and will be informed about further activity schemes and events.

On the last day of the scheme we all come in fancy dress, and have a party lunch and disco, everyone made such a great effort in their costumes, some of them even went out on a trip in the morning dressed up. Some of the children really enjoy doing Karaoke and they all like dancing with their new friends, parents and siblings can also attend and some do, so they can see us in action which they find reassuring to know where their child has been spending time and having fun.



The Supermen Triplets!

Coffee Mornings

Chris again ran two coffee mornings for parents/carers during the scheme, these were quite well attended, they had chance to chat with others, raise issues they had and gain information and support.

Localgiving

Last year we signed up to localgiving.com and received some matched funding when they ran their 'Grow Your Tenner' campaign which they repeated this year.

There was a pot of £500,000 given by the government to match each individual donation of £10 or regular donations of £10 for six months. We asked people to make donations if they could and within a couple of weeks we'd achieved the maximum per charity of £1000 plus gift aid.

One of our leaders Jenny Pemberton is doing a Skydive and she donated £230 from what she's raised, the day the dive was planned it was too windy so she hasn't done it yet but we wish her luck and we are very grateful for her efforts so far.



Olympic Challenge Funds

With the proceeds of money raised from Chris Parapia's Olympic Challenge we ran an Activity Day on 30th October in the half term holidays when 18 young people aged 12- 18 years enjoyed a day of bowling, lunch at Pizzahut and visit to the cinema to see Cloudy with a chance of meatballs 2, everyone enjoyed the day and parents particularly enjoyed having a bit of a break in the holidays, some were able to work and others do what they felt like instead of having to do everything to suit and care for their child.

One parent said 'I don't know if I should go back to bed or do some work' decisions, decisions!



Plans are now well underway for our **Christmas Activity Day** on Saturday 7th December; we'll have entertainer Billy Biscuit, art & crafts with Lauren Whyte and discos/karaoke with DJTom, and not forgetting a visit from Santa with presents to take home.

Feedback

Verbally feedback was gained during the schemes; other is 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). We always try to improve the scheme through implementing comments and suggestions made

Here are some comments from parents

Our family uses the holiday playscheme every year. We are very pleased with the service. The organisation is excellent; the volunteers are really helpful and enthusiastic. Our son gets a lot out of being able to attend and we would find summer holidays very difficult without the scheme. Karen R

The scheme is very well planned and run with a great range of activities for the children and flexibility in case one of the planned activities doesn't suit a particular child. The one to one care for each child is fantastic and ensures that their individual needs can be met and that the children can have a great time and as a parent I feel very confident that my child is being very well looked after. Rebecca B

G loves attending the ASAS playscheme. It really boosts his confidence and self-esteem. It offers him the chance to make new friends and go to new places without having a parent with him, but whilst being in a safe environment. The time he is at playscheme offers me the chance to spend some quality 1:1 time with his sister. I am highly satisfied with the service, will definitely use it again, and would recommend it to others. Jane W

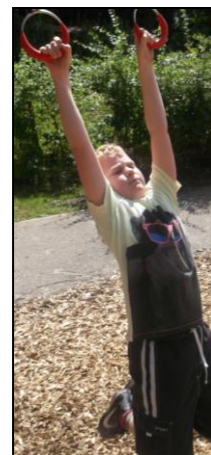
Final Comments



Another fantastic year clocked up – 25th summer scheme, the first one was in 1988 and 10th year of doing residential breaks, the first being in February 2003, as the scheme and other activities we organise increase there's more and more preparation involved 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.

Well done everyone!

Jo Galasso, Project Co-ordinator



Some of our Fantastic Volunteers

Charlie, Wayne, George, Chris, Craig, Ellie, Emily, Katie, Laura, Natalie, Julia, Hannah T
Lucy, Hannah F, Emily C, Beth, Emily W, Lizzie, Becky, Jude, Katherine, Rosie, Sophie, Vicky