

Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

Annual Report

Summer 2011



Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

Summer Scheme Statistics		
No of children attending		
	2011	2010
Week one	11 girls 26 boys = 37	9 girls 25 boys = 34
Week two	10 girls 30 boys = 40	13 girls 23 boys = 36
Week three	10 girls 31 boys = 41	8 girls 26 boys = 34
Total children attending	62	59
No. of Leaders		
Week one	24 female, 3 male = 27	22 female, 3 male = 25
Week two	23 female, 3 male = 26	27 female, 5 male = 32
Week three	23 female, 3 male = 26	22 female, 5 male = 27
Total no of leaders	28	27
Escorts (also leaders)	4 female, 2 male = 6	4 female
Drivers	1 female, 3 male = 4	1 female, 4 male = 5
Total Staff employed	32	36
No. of volunteers		
All 3 Weeks	4 female, 1 male = 5	3 female 2 male = 5
2 out of 3	10 females, 1 male = 11	14 female
1 out of 3	11 females, 3 males = 14	5 female, 3 male = 8
Total volunteers	32	26
Ratio of Children's Personal Care Needs		
	2011	2010
With nursing needs (inc. Medication , tube feeding)	3 out of 61	10 out of 61
Needing Feeding	10 out of 61	15 out of 61
Needing Changing/toileting	18 out of 61	24 out of 61
Needing One to One Supervision	43 out of 61	43 out of 61
Ratio of Disabilities		
Epilepsy	12 out of 61	18 out of 61
Autism or on Autistic Spectrum	27 out of 61	23 out of 61
Wheelchair/ Buggy Users	10 out of 61	17 out of 61
Needing transport	25 out of 61	24 out of 61
Communication Difficulties	59 out of 61	58 out of 61

Other people / organisations involved:-

Jo Galasso – Play scheme coordinator, Chris Parapia – Scheme secretary/volunteer, Brian Watkins – Scheme treasurer, ASAS Management Committee, Liz Burrows and Lauren Howell – 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, Joseph Gallagher – music workshop, Wayne's World – disco & karaoke **and** the parents/carers/siblings/and extended family.

Lineham Farm, Herd Farm and Low Mill Outdoor Pursuits centres where we've held our residential breaks and Leeds City Council for giving us the tender contract to provide these.

Range of Abilities/Disabilities

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

Diagnoses include: - Agensis of the Corpus Callosum (central part of brain that joins the hemispheres is completely missing), Attachment disorder, Angelman's syndrome, A.D.H.D, Autistic Spectrum Condition, visual impairment/cortically blind, Cerebral palsy, chromosome disorders, Communication Disorder, Congenital Cytomegalovirus, Down's syndrome, Duchene Muscular Dystrophy, Duane's Syndrome, dyspraxia, epilepsy, Focal Polymicrogria, Fragile X, Global developmental delay, hemiplegia, Hypertrophy, hydrocephalus, Pallister Killian Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Trisomy 20q Mosaicism, Tuberous Sclerosis, quadriplegia and other rare or unknown conditions.

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, one leader is hearing impaired, 1 volunteer has communication difficulties and 2 have physical disabilities, 1 leader, 3 volunteers and 2 children were from mixed race/ethnic minority groups.

This year 12 young people left the scheme due to being too old, relocating out of the area or moving onto other services and we had 13 new children of which 4 have an Autistic Spectrum Condition, 4 have Down's syndrome, 4 have Global Developmental Delay 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 and on the residential. She also line manages Jo, provides regular support and supervision and liaises with the management committee regarding annual appraisals.

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

Residential Breaks



Lineham Farm, Leeds 16



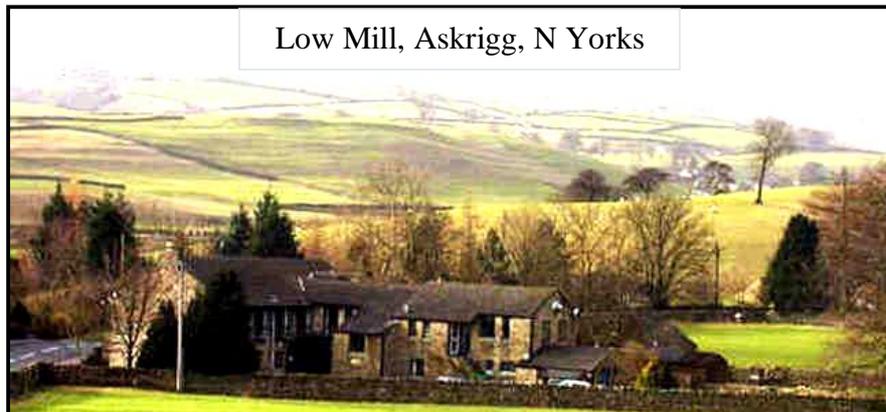
Herd Farm, Leeds 17

We have again been successful in a bid to Leeds CC for an Aiming High tender contract for £36,400 from June 2010-11, and this has now been extended for 6 months from July-Dec 2011 with a value of £26,205, to provide residential short breaks for children Leeds city wide with disabilities and activity days for their siblings.

Our residential breaks are for children 7 – 18 years who don't receive overnight short breaks, we've provided breaks for 72 children from July 2010 – September 2011, with one still to come in October 2011, these were as follows:- September 2010, May 2011 and October 2011 at Lineham Farm, October 2010 at Herd Farm; June and September 2011 at Low Mill.

In addition we've provided activity days for 41 siblings, 7 – 13 years; these took place at Kirkstall Leisure Park and included bowling, lunch and cinema, with additional days arranged for October and December 2011.

We have just submitted a new tender application for Jan-Dec 2012 this is for funding to run our holiday play schemes, 6 residential short breaks and 4 activity days for siblings, so fingers crossed.



The children have benefited from the short breaks in so many ways, first by being able to spend time away from home – for some children this was their first time away from home so it was scary but a major achievement for them and their parents;

making new friends, sleeping in bunk beds, sharing a bedroom with other children – like having a sleep over, being able to do things for themselves and gaining independence and confidence.

They have also being 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.



On a recent home visit to a girl with cerebral palsy, who walks with a frame and uses a wheelchair, she and her mum both said they didn't think she'd be able to do the abseiling, canoeing or zip wire – she did everything several times and absolutely loved it, she said she was exhausted when it was time to go home but couldn't wait to tell her parents what she'd achieved and show them her certificate and pictures.



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 approx £11,811, this was a £2.4K decrease on last year's (approx £14,265).

Our liaison with Sainsbury's came to an end in April but we are really grateful for all their efforts and that of our parents and children who got involved with bag packing, collections and raffles, in total they raised a whopping £4110.85.

Fees were increased slightly to bring us closer in line with other special needs play schemes to £9 per child per day, negotiable; other schemes are still charging between £11 and £13 per day, with some also charging £10 per week for transport.

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

Leeds City Council, Omega Training Ltd, Rene Horton Charitable Trust, Holy Family School fundraising activities, Holy Name Catholic Primary school summer concert and parental contributions.

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 a couple of new staff and many new volunteers the planning and training sessions were really important to get to know each other and for the newcomers to find out about the scheme, understand our policies and procedures and undergo Safeguarding training. This was carried out in house by Chris Parapia over 2 sessions at Guiseley Methodist church, she was assisted in delivering the training by Arthur Hoyle, who used to be on our committee but is a member of the church, he provided the technical support and we are grateful to the church for allowing us to use it. .

We held one meeting and a preparation morning at Green Meadows but as they are now charging us for its use we tried to limit this to save costs, but it was important for the new starters to visit the setting and 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.

Whilst the volunteers did some basic disability awareness training the leaders met and shared their experiences, models of good practice and their behaviour management techniques which was less formal and very informative and hopefully useful to the less experienced staff.

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' most of the time, with one driver coming in just to assist with trips out, which worked well.

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

The Scheme/Programme



We decided that we would really focus on encouraging the children to be healthy, providing them with fruit instead of biscuits for snack and not buying any ice-creams when out on trips, and each group had one treat of a trip to McDonald's but this was after their swimming sessions so a fair trade off. Through doing this not only did we encourage the children to be healthy but also our bank balance stayed healthier, and no one at all complained!

The children were encouraged to walk whenever possible, sometimes just to and from the bus stop but every little helps. There were many physical activities including swimming, bowling, trampolining, trips to the park and play centres, bouncy castle, activities with Bradford sports team, Dance for Life sessions and a bit of relaxation too – Yoga, this wasn't just for the children but we also put on a session for the parents at their coffee morning.

Each of the groups had a session on the climbing wall at Aireborough leisure centre, this was thoroughly enjoyed by most of the children, even those in wheelchairs could take part, some going up the wall and some watching and cheering the others on.



We had many of our usual and well loved activities, sessions and trips, like trampolining, swimming, aromatherapy, art and crafts, sport, visits to the donkey sanctuary, the Rapide Brothers and Zoot - circus skills.



Circus Skills with Zoot



The Rapide Brothers, Skilful Natty, Cautious Lucy, and...

The Amazing Finnegan!



There were several high lights – the trips to Nell Bank, where the children did the obstacle course, pond dipping, team challenges, and the wheelchair users enjoyed riding on the Nellmobile and there was lots of fun with the water play session.



We had a visit to The Big Swing at Eccleshill Adventure play ground, the staff were a bit apprehensive at first as it just seemed like a building site in progress but it's about adventurous play and the benefits the children gain from it and they definitely do have a fantastic time, jumping out of windows 10 feet up, rope swinging, doing wood work with hammers and nails, painting some of the structures and going on the sunken trampoline and the only injury was a minor graze. There was a sensory garden but not that much to engage the wheelchair users so the staff took them to the nearby skate park and pushed them really fast up and down the ramps which they absolutely loved.



There were so many other fabulous trips and activities that the children loved as illustrated below in wonderful pictures.



Bowling



Fun at Harewood House



Hydrotherapy



Play Day at Baildon Recreation Ground



Mask making



Rebound therapy



Playing out in the rain



Baking buns – yum yum



Making Pizza



Just chilling out



Otley Park



Donkey Riding



Cricket



Bowling



Trips to Lister Park, Roberts Park, Netherfield Park, Otley Park



Chicks, digging and Tractor rides at Hesketh Farm



Very brave children with Morley Exotic Animal Rescue's Skunk, Owl and Snake



Drumming and Guitar Jamming Session

We had our usual party lunch and disco to end the scheme, with the theme being the Olympics, keeping on the being healthy theme, we had lots of medal winners turning up, I'm sure they bought them from the pound shop though.

The week after the scheme we also organised a trip to Light Water Valley, which was a great day, the weather was lovely and sunny and everyone had a good time going on rides by the end of the day everyone was shattered.

We thought we might have had a visit from Ofsted as it's been 4 years since our last inspection, they didn't turn up however we were well prepared and able to show them how much the children love the scheme and how well they enjoy and achieve, it's a major part of their year and something they always look forward to.

Other information

Fundraising

The summer raffle raised £53, start collecting now for the Christmas raffle on the Activity Day, Saturday 3rd December.

Coffee Mornings

Chris and Jenny 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 some relaxation from the yoga session.

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

There is some uncertainty about how the special schemes are going to be funded in future, so let's hope that our tender bid, grant applications and fundraising activities can keep us going for further years. If anyone would like to raise money for the scheme please contact Jo and she will offer any assistance required.

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 for every child because EVERY CHILD DOES MATTER.

Jo Galasso
Playscheme Co-ordinator

I'm not actually sure what's going on here, some sort of dance or martial arts, but they're obviously having fun at the end of scheme disco.



Child Evaluation Form

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

What has your child enjoyed at play scheme?

Familiar faces; The company of others her age; Meeting friends; Nell bank; Swimming at Richard Dunn; Being outdoors; Cinema; Lister Park; Hesketh farm; Harewood house; Everything; Sporting activities; Big swing; 'The clown people' this is all I got; Picnic; Spending time with Lauren.

What hasn't your child enjoyed?

Nothing; Climbing (too high); It being her last year; Circus; Cinema.

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

Enthusiastic and welcoming; Very attentive; Friendly and approachable; interested in the children; Always kind and helpful; Lana was very informative; He loved being with Candice; Bernadette and Paul on transport were lovely and kind; Rachel and Emma both very good; Lorraine was amazing; Jenny and Anthony have been fantastic; All of the transport staff are always happy and polite; Abby has enjoyed playing outside with Yasmin; I can't praise them enough Emma H had a relaxed nature which put Scarlet (and me) at ease at the home visit.

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?

A big spring clean; Being able to take our other children out without having to negotiate a wheelchair and knowing that she is having a great time; I have had quiet time with my baby girl; Ordinary things that aren't normally possible; Time to relax; The ability to work in the school holidays; Spend time with siblings; A trip to the library which is impossible with my son; A lovely holiday abroad; Able to pack without so called 'help'; I'm able to look after my husband who is ill. It enables him to rest; Undisturbed time with my daughter; I went shopping and came home sane.

Is there anything that could improve the scheme?

A timetable in advance; A few pictures of the great things he has been doing; Possibly a bouncy castle; Know the changes to the timetable even if this was the day before.

Other comments..

An excellent play scheme; my son slept like a log every night which is unusual; Good staff and an ambitious range of activities; Wonderful; It gives my son the ability to be himself; My child has even been talent spotted for golf while attending the scheme; A wonderful experience; Gives me peace of mind, I couldn't manage without it; I would like to volunteer -I am a beautician and will come and do nails and makeup; The diaries are very useful; If only there were more weeks; My daughter has studied the timetable religiously and talked about the other children constantly; It's helped my daughter to have structure during the summer; Without it the summer would be miserable and I would be very stressed; My son has now been attending for 12 years and asked about the scheme before I even mentioned he had a place.

Volunteer Evaluation Form

What have you enjoyed about play scheme? Highs

Seeing the children have fun and getting to be a part of it; Swimming; Dance for life; Bowling; Nell bank; The full day trips; Trampoline; Meeting new people; Jungle kids.; the Big Swing; Working with F at Richard Dunn as I felt comfortable with him even though communication was limited.

What haven't you enjoyed? Lows

Not being able to work with more children; Being on base; When planned activities are cancelled because they haven't been organised properly; Not many activities for children in wheelchairs to take part in; Early mornings- 2 people said this; The trip being cancelled -but this was due to the rain and can't be helped; I didn't enjoy the last week as there were too many volunteers and I didn't have much to do.

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

Yes the training sessions were very useful; It was great to see how the scheme worked before it started; Basic Makton training.

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

Great and really fun to take part in; Good but need more; Fantastic; The range for physically able children is excellent; Varied to fit the needs of all the children; Very diverse; Much better due to the amount of buses; I think the big swing was too dangerous.

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 nice and welcoming; I didn't know anyone on my first day but felt at ease; Most were nice and very helpful; Friendly and will give advice if you need it; The leaders were all nice and welcoming. Team leaders not as much.

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

It was interesting learning about the different disabilities; Maybe include what to do if one of the children had an accident; It gave you an idea of how to approach the children; It was a good re-cap; I gained the confidence to look after the children; Lots was common sense.

Is there anything that could improve the scheme?

More trips; More jigsaws and board games; Name tags for leaders and volunteers; Team leaders should be the first to arrive; Get rid of the TV and Wii; Adventurous - but a trip to the coast.

Would you do it again?

All said yes

Any other comments, ideas, suggestions would be appreciated.

None given.

Leader Evaluation Form

What have you enjoyed about play scheme? Highs

Children enjoying/achieving things that were unexpected; Exotic animals; The new children were brilliant and settled in really well; Encouraging children to try new things.

What haven't you enjoyed? Lows

The rare occasions when there haven't been enough activities on site; Difficult when a child has to wait for a long period of time.

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

Yes; When being a leader; The procedures of taking out the group; Basic Makton.

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

Good-flexible to suite individuals needs; The volunteers should be given more opportunities to get out with the children; Some volunteers needed to be reminded of what one-to-one actually meant when out on trips; The big swing was good for children of all abilities; The climbing was good but most children had had enough after half an hour.

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?

Good- work well as team; Some volunteers needed reinforcing what the role was when working with the children; The group gelled really well; Nicole was a great team leader especially in the morning team meetings; Yasmin also did a good job when acting team leader for the day; All of the leaders were great but some of the volunteers did not understand the 1-1 concept; The junior leaders should be encouraged to gain more experience changing.

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Is there anything that could improve the scheme?

More structured morning team meetings to discuss what has/will happen – raised by 2 leaders, unsure from which group; More male volunteers/leaders in 9-12 group; An alternative room for the sensory activities - it was a bit small.

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

Yes- very approachable; Both Jo and Louise were very supportive; Team leader to have a structured morning meeting x3.

Any other comments, ideas, suggestions, case studies, would be very much appreciated. Please give at least one magic moment or comment from the children, PTO.

EC touching and being gentle with the animals; JO's mum came and thanked me for what we did and said how much she appreciates the scheme and how it helps her family so much. I felt very touched; All of the children were so happy; Watching the children pass the rubber chicken at Nell bank.