



LS29 Special Needs Support Group  
Registered charity number: 1152732

## **Update Report: LS29 Time Holiday Club**

The club launched for ten sessions in August 2018 at a fully accessible venue, Ilkley Children's Centre.

It has a disabled toilet with change table and hoist, a lift for wheelchair users to the second floor, a sensory room and safely enclosed outside space.

We ran the club twice weekly, one 6-hour session for primary-age young people, one 6-hour session for secondary.

We employed a manager, supervisor and around 12 keyworkers for each session, depending on the needs of the young people attending. All our staff had a background in SEND education, respite care or playwork.

We offered a maximum of 20 places per session supported by our staff, including 1:1 support if needed. An additional five young people were welcome to attend for free with their regular carer or continuing care nurse, if our staff was not qualified to meet their needs.

Throughout the five weeks of the summer holiday 2018, we accommodated 48 children in total, with a high rate of repeat bookings.

### **About the beneficiaries**

Of the children who attended:

- 75% attend a special school in term time.
- 25% have a complex health need that requires medical interventions through the day, or PMLD.
- 100% have an intellectual disability and/or autism.

- 15% are looked after or adopted (national average: 0.62%)
- 25% are on free school meals (national average: 13.6%)

We also see family members as direct beneficiaries of respite through the club. So for the 48 who attended, there are approximately an additional 144 beneficiaries (two parents/carers and one sibling for each child).

## **Our volunteer programme**

We involved up to 5 volunteers per session from the local community, some retirees who have worked in SEND care, some young people who would like to work in this field. We also included adult volunteers with learning disabilities from Ilkley social enterprise 'Outside the Box', providing them with work experience, and our young people with role models.

## **Activities and trips**

The young people enjoyed trips into the local community to practice life skills like shopping and traveling on public transport. In the summer we went to Saltaire on the train, to a guide camp for outdoor games, and to Ilkley fire station. We also focused on music and art with drumming workshops and adapted dance classes, and we did animal therapy, sports, lots of sensory play, baking, film showings and bushcraft.

## **Costs to attend**

Our standard fee in the summer was a normal mainstream holiday club rate of £20 per day. We offered discounts for families struggling with more than one young person with additional needs, and free places for families on free school meals. We generally asked families to contact us for a chat if they were struggling to pay – as a club, we don't want to exclude anyone on financial grounds.

## **Feedback**

We ran a feedback survey with parents and carers after the August sessions. We had 27 responses. We were rated 4 out of 5 or above across 9 criteria:

- Booking process – 4.65
- Activities and trips – 4.12
- Pricing – 4.82
- Level of care – 4.80

- Daily feedback to families – 4.36
- Venue – 4.47
- Communication as a club (social media etc) – 4.76
- Impact of the respite on families – 4.78
- Impact of the club on young people's wellbeing – 4.59

Some of the comments from the feedback survey:

*'It gave him the opportunity to make new friends, something he struggles with. He had a fun place where he could be himself'.*

*'Was lovely for her to have a place where she could play and feel accepted in her own local community'.*

*'Great chance to socialise and spend time away from parent. It can get very lonely in the holidays'.*

## **Long term plans**

We are funded for our pilot year until August 2019, and we are now applying for funding from August 2019 onwards, including some longer term (3-5 year) grants.

We have sessions planned for Christmas and Easter. We are currently expanding our volunteer programme to include sixth formers, and we are seeking to recruit a sessional Registered General Nurse, so we can increase the number of young people with complex medical needs who are able to attend.

At the moment parental contributions are just a small fraction of our income and we rely heavily on fundraising.

We have a consultation under way on increasing parental contributions by accepting social care funding from families at an unsubsidised rate (we don't currently accept social care funding). We would then ring-fence our fundraising money to subsidise costs for families who are paying out of their own pockets.

Some photos from the summer



