

BUCKS ACTIVITY PROJECT

NOVEMBER 2016

So the Summer and October is now over and we have just about recovered!! We have such a fun time out on schemes we struggle with the return to the office, it just isn't as much fun! So thank you for making it so enjoyable.

We tried some new activities this summer and they were a real success. Boxing was great, who would have thought we would have kept that one under control? Most of the children and young people got a go in the ring against the pro, who was fantastic with all of the group.

We also tried a Disco, the DJ was anxious that we would keep it going for 3 hours but the whole group danced until they dropped and loved it. I have to take this opportunity to apologise for what I heard to be some pretty poor singing from our staff, note for next time don't let the staff have the mic.

If you have any other ideas for new activities then please let us know, we are always willing to look into them!!

One of our families is the admin for a number of Facebook groups that support families that have children with disabilities. If you would like to check them out please search the following on Facebook, they have been recognised by the NHS as a trustworthy source of information:

- **Children DLA days out and discounts**—open group
- **Child disability living allowance**—closed group but you can request to join
- **Parents of DLA children**—closed group but you can request to join

There have been many changes over the recent months, which many of you are aware. This is the first opportunity we have had to share them with you.

Selina, Jasmine and Sophie have all moved on from Action for Children. I know that the clubs they run will miss them and we wish them the best of luck.

Imran and Suzanne have both been successfully promoted into Practice Team Leader roles. They will both be supporting the team leaders running the clubs, you will still see them out at clubs during the weekends and holidays as I know many will miss them at the clubs they have been running!

Due to the number of changes you will see different leaders at the clubs. Priyam has taken over at Marlow and Trisha is running Chesham. Shaun is covering Bellfield for the short term and we are currently recruiting to full time leader roles.

If any of you know of anyone wishing to apply please point them in the direction of the website or ask them to contact us.

At youth club the numbers have been increasing at both Wycombe and Aylesbury. Prior to the summer the groups brainstormed some names to call the clubs. They settled on Limitless.

If you know of anyone that may be interested in joining Limitless, please ask them to contact us. The clubs are aimed at teenagers who can manage in a group setting with minimal staff support. We are always happy to discuss suitability if ever anyone is unsure.

MEDICATION REMINDER

Just a reminder that any medication that is brought in for young people attending clubs and activities; Must be in date and have a pharmacy label on it which states the young person's name and directions for administration – we cannot accept any medication without this.

MOBILE PHONE PLEA

Many young people have mobile phones, can we please ask that if your child brings their mobile to session that they keep it in their bag unless they need to use it to call you. They can cause disruption in the groups and we find it challenging monitoring what they are doing on them. We cannot take any responsibility for phones or toys the children and young people bring to club if they get broken.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - FAILED TO ATTENDS & NO SHOWS (ensuring we use our limited short break service effectively to support children, young people and their families reducing service resource waste)

We feel that it is really important to share this information with you so you know what is happening and what resources are being lost/wasted. From July to the end of September 805 service delivery hours were lost due to children not attending and not giving us any notice, reason or making any contact with us.

The £ loss would be between £10,000 and £20,000 - due to places being pre-booked and staff being rostered to meet the needs of all children booked for that activity. The variance is large due to the varying needs of the children and the complexities that go with working with children with disabilities. We have been operating a waiting list that has been working well, however many families, understandably have already made alternative plans when they are called in last minute.

We will be addressing the issues with the families for the frequent no shows, however the majority within the 805 hours are just the odd session missed by a large number of families.

Buckinghamshire County Council who fund this service through their contract with us has to ensure they get the best value and service from us and in the current climate of budgets continuing to be reduced for short breaks this waste of resources has to be reduced.

If you are no longer able to attend any session, please notify us as soon as possible, even if it is on the day. The cancellation policy requires 48 hours, however we need to know whether to expect your child even if this is on the day. This will reduce the amount of resources wasted.

Questionnaire Results

With the summer programme and July to September bookings we sent out our annual questionnaire, which is your chance to give us feedback on how we were doing. Below are some of the results that we thought you would be interested in. We would like to thank those of you who took the time to complete the questionnaire, we didn't get a massive response, just 38 after sending it to approximately 350 families, however we are really pleased with your feedback. Thank you as it helps us plan and improve our service!

All of you are happy that we provide variety in activities and they have a positive impact.

95% feel that the cost of the activities is reasonable.

90% of you feel that the project has helped your child try new activities, 82% have developed new skills, while 70% of you feel that your child has made new friends while attending activities with us.

95% of you feel that you are more able to cope due to the support you get from your child attending Bucks Activity Project

92% feel that we respond to your queries and suggestions and 97% feel that the team is approachable and are always willing to listen to what you have to say.

76% of you felt actively involved in Bucks Activity Project

85% feel that the paperwork is clear and easy to understand.

However 70% of you do not really use the visual timetable. Due to this we no longer send one out with the holiday programme