

Annual Review

2016



Children and Families Staffordshire

Putting children first

Chair's Report - Graham Hill

This is the first annual report from CAFS. In April 2015 former Home-Start Stoke-on-Trent Trustees and a handful of Home-Start staff established CAFS in order to build upon our decades of success by expanding our services to a greater age range and a wider geographical area. With the kind financial support of our founding benefactors, we have continued our acclaimed Aiming High project, recruited and trained new volunteers and immediately set about providing our one-to-one family support.

As the rest of this document shows, we have achieved a great deal in our first year, but the level of need for our services is great and growing and, while we have a well-defined strategy for the development of our work in the future, its delivery is dependent upon our securing adequate resources.

I would like to thank all those who have helped us make such a success of our first year - our funders, our volunteers, our partner organisations, our staff and my fellow trustees. I look forward to detailing even greater success in next year's report.

A Family Said...

"I'd like to take this opportunity to express how good I think Children & Families Staffordshire are. Matthew loves his time and I trust them 100% - I can see how at ease and comfortable he feels when he is with them and their experience and attitude shines - I've only witnessed them smiling with the children and being really respectful & professional - they let me know how he has got on at the end of the session and show an interest in him too.

In addition, Eileen went beyond what is expected of her when Matthew's taxi turned up late the other week to collect him from school (45 mins!) and in turn dropping him off at the cinema 30 mins late as a result. She kept me posted by text and let me know once he had arrived safe. I was very appreciative of what she did and even though I thanked her personally I wanted to let you know too."

Peter Coates Commented:

"I am happy to support this excellent charity that does so much for the most deprived children of Staffordshire and I hope others will also give their support."



Children enjoying the great outdoors

Senior Officer Report - Chris Pointon

The first year of Children and Families Staffordshire has been busy and interesting and we are really proud of how much has been achieved.

- * The actual registration of the charity, opening the bank account, then securing enough start-up funds to actually put into the bank account. We are extremely grateful to those local business people such as Peter Coates and others, who had the confidence in us to commit funding to our new service.
- * The transfer of two Home-Start projects to the new service, Aiming High for Disabled Children and the Grove School Project, to ensure continuity for those children and families and give us a presence in the City.
- * Securing funds from other national and local charities, including Garfield Weston, Tudor Trust and The Rowley Trust, to pay towards our core costs.
- * A grant from Awards for All so that the first new volunteers can be recruited and trained.
- * Developing all the necessary paperwork, including forms, policies, leaflets.
- * Building a web site, creating Facebook and Twitter accounts – ensuring a good presence on social media.
- * Ensuring monitoring and review systems were in place, and very importantly, achieving PQASSO Level 2 Quality Assurance.
- * Recruitment of our first volunteers, who, after completing the New Volunteer Induction Course, started to visit the first families in January 2016.
- * A small grant from BBC Children in Need has enabled us to provide play in the home for those children with additional needs who aren't attending school because of illness or exclusions. This means the children continue to have stimulation and they are able to socialise with others when the workers take them out to the cinema and other places as a group.

Challenges we face over the coming year include:

- * Securing longer term grants and contracts so that we are able to build and grow the service and provide support to more children, young people and their parents/carers.
- * Exploring the possibility of achieving The National Befriending and Mentoring Approved Provider Standard to increase our chances of successful fundraising.
- * Identifying potential partners with a view to making joint applications and collaborative working.

A Family Said...

“CAFS were the only organisation who were willing to help us through my difficulty with depression and anxiety. My husband and myself could not have managed to get our child to school for the 2 months that I couldn't bear to face the world. Our family is now back on track and my husband can go to work knowing his family will cope. Many heartfelt thanks.”



Concentrating on the task at hand

Helping Hands Project Report

The aim of the Helping Hands Project was to provide additional support to 25 families whose children attended Grove School, mainly from Eastern Europe, and whose first language was not English. Our worker set up and provided 2 homework clubs for both parents and children to attend, so that the whole family could be helped with school work, and also coffee mornings for parents to socialise and receive information about local services, including ESOL classes.

During school holidays home visits were made to make sure parents understood what school project work their children had to complete and to provide any necessary resources they may need.

The project was funded by Big Lottery Awards for All for 12 months. The very valuable information collated from the outcomes is included in future funding applications.

Aiming High Project Report

Our Aiming High team organise and deliver fun activities for Children with disabilities at various venues for The Stoke on Trent Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme. These consist of trips to the local park, swimming, go karting, wall climbing, ski-ing, tubing, dance, cinema, bowling, multi-sensory therapy sessions and many more.

Our aim is to ensure that every child coming to our activity has a fun time in a safe environment, making new friends along the way, while parents and carers have a well-deserved 2 to 3 hour break. Each session is personalised to meet the individual child's needs on the day.

One to one care is available and our staff hold a minimum of NVQ3 Childcare qualification plus additional training i.e. Safeguarding Children, Paediatric First Aid, Makaton, Behaviour management.

Due to the popularity of our service and requests from children we were asked to extend our child age range to 0-10 years for our activities, which we have successfully delivered since last October.

We have recruited and trained volunteers to add extra support for the children on our activities and also offered work placements to local Colleges and Universities to medical student's requiring valuable experience working with our families

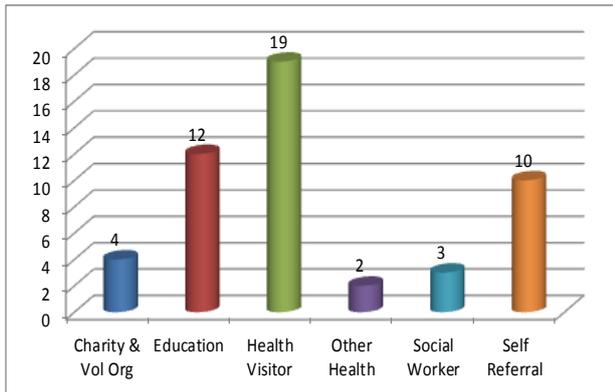
The transition from Home Start SOT to Children and Families Staffordshire has worked well and I can't believe that a year has already passed. Being based at The Bridge Centre has given many advantages for our team as we can use the facilities to deliver activities when weather has been against us. Our Family Disco held at The Bridge Centre, now held on a monthly basis, has been a huge success where parents and children enjoy quality time together.

The BBC Child in Need Funding which we gained in January 2016 has enabled us to offer extra support and quality time to 12 children so far who were not attending school for reasons beyond their control. This has been greatly appreciated by both children and parents and professionals.

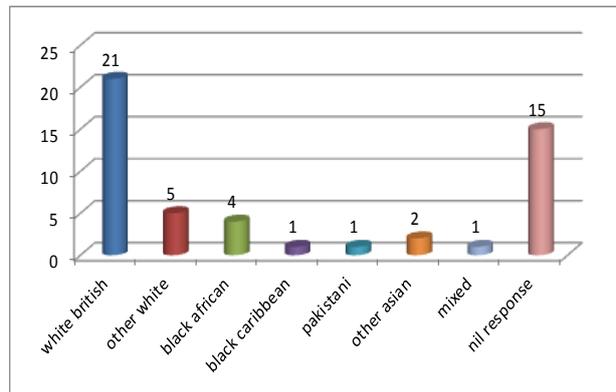


Having fun tubing on ski slope

Source of Referrals



Ethnicity of Referred Families



Financial Summary

Year
Ended
31/3/16
£

Incoming Resources

Grants	123079
Donations	112451
Other Income	0
Total Incoming Resources	235530

Resources Expended

Charitable Activities	93285
Governance Costs	34840
Total Resources Expended	128125

Net Outgoing Resources	107405
funds b/fwd	0

TOTAL FUNDS 107405

Retained Reserves

General	75652
Designated	31753
Restricted Funds	9988
TOTAL FUNDS	117393

Out of **fifty** families referred to CAFS this year:

thirty one families were supported

six families were not supported due to a change in the family's circumstances or the referral being unsuitable

thirteen families are either in the process of being assessed or waiting to have a volunteer placed

Of the thirty one families supported **sixty two** children have reaped the benefits



Founding Trustees of Children & Families Staffordshire:

Graham Hill, Angie Walmsley-White,
Phil Harper, Katie Forrest-Hay, Sue Tams,
John Pemberton, Richard Barnes.

Stephen Davies (Advisor)

A **BIG THANK YOU** to those who have supported us in this first year: Peter Coates; Gareth Higgins; Guy Forrest-Hay; Rowley Trust; BBC Children in Need; Big Lottery Award for All Fund; Tudor Trust; Garfield Weston Foundation; ARC IT; KDK Dance Studio; Step2Step Dance; Action for Children; SOT Safeguarding Board; Changes; Keele University School of Medicine; Bridge Centre. And of course, all our wonderful volunteers who have given their time so freely.