



# PEGASUS PLAYScheme

## SUMMER 2019 EVALUATION

### Overview

2019 marked the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of Pegasus Playscheme. The scheme ran from Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July until Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> August inclusive. Pegasus as always strives to provide fun and professional day-care for the benefit of children with a range of disabilities and learning difficulties in the Dover/Deal and surrounding areas.

Pegasus operates an online system of booking through the website; parents/carers and organisations can download forms from the site and return them either via email or hard copy in the post. With our new website now in place, we also operate an online form filling in process for ease for parents/downloading etc. Applications this year began coming in swiftly and **we took 33 children in total**, a mixture of existing clients and new applicants, some attending full time and some for specific chosen days only.

In a supporting capacity **we employed 34 1:1 volunteers** aged between 14-18 who be-friended and accompanied the children/young adults on the scheme.

**We also employed 8 staff members and 1 trainee staff member** - this allowed for 1 Group Leader in all groups and 2 assistants. All staff were friendly, approachable and confident in their role and this supported the smooth day to day running of the scheme.

**On a daily basis we were sending out an average of 65 people in total across the 3 groups each day.**

### Venue

Astor College for the Arts was the host once again for Pegasus 2019. We are always greeted warmly by the school and the consistency with the venue always ensures

continuity and familiarity for parents and clients. The same groups have the same rooms each year; there is easy access for children/young adults with a range of needs and plenty of parking for the buses and parents/carers when dropping children off. It is useful to have the use of 2 additional rooms on the site for a kitchen/changing room and music room. Also a separate area for reception at the entrance to the building.

Parents feedback positively on the venue. We are supported on site by the caretakers in the event of any problems and they are friendly and welcoming to us.

The administration staff on site are extremely vigilant in ensuring that we follow and adhere to all legalities concerning DBS checks and insist that we provide them with relevant documentation for

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all members over the age of 16.

Due to school term times, this meant that the first day of the scheme was also our only opportunity to set up the rooms. Thanks to some extremely dedicated volunteers who arrived at the venue early, we were set up and ready for the arrival of the children at 12:00pm. We were also supported by the rapid relief team once again who set up to feed all the volunteers and children a delicious lunch. We are very grateful to them for their continued support.

A slight change to the scheme this year was to have an outing day on the last day of the scheme- this was due to the scheme only running for 12 days this year.

Parents/carers were pleased with this decision as it provided another full day of respite care for respective families - it did mean that we needed to employ the buses for this extra day, however as we were running for less days, the costs incurred for this were no more in total than for previous years respectively.

### **Transport**

Once again we employed Regent Coaches for our day to day transport, they are familiar with Pegasus and as some of the drivers have now been with us several years they know the children and are happy to support the staff with managing their transportation needs, special seats etc. Communication with the drivers individually and the company is very good and when we reported a problem this year it was sorted by the next day and a driver replaced.

The coaches are booked by the project coordinator well in advance of the scheme and our requirements are specified to ensure that we have the right transport to fulfil our needs.

Drivers are issued activity timetables in advance so they can plan their routes; they support each other with sharing key information about parking, facilities, best drop off points and so on.

On a day to day basis we try to keep the same driver with the same group so that we can maintain these positive relationships built between the drivers, staff and children, they in turn respond flexibly to the group's needs. The coaches continue to be one of the most expensive elements of the scheme however they are what makes the range of activities that we do accessible and the ownership of responsibility in regards to getting safely to venues is in their hands.

### **Who is involved?**

#### **The committee:**

Once again, Pegasus continues to run and be led by a Committee. Each member of the committee has a specific role to undertake which in turn ensures that the scheme runs smoothly and all tasks are completed. The committee are as follows:

Sue Clark - Chairperson and fundraiser

Sarah Slingsby - Vice Chairperson, Scheme receptionist, child coordinator and photo coordinator

Scott Clark - Project co-ordinator - this incorporates a variety of roles such as volunteer coordinator, activities coordinator and Youth Forum.

Val McLester - Treasurer and supplies coordinator

Anna Ladd - Staff Coordinator and scheme manager during the 3 weeks

Scarlet Clark - Publicity

We are also lucky enough to have a small core group of parents and committee family members who also offer additional support and advice during the scheme and we are very grateful for their support.

This year due to Anna taking maternity leave and not being in every day, Sarah stood up as scheme manager for the 3 weeks.

### **Staff**

Applications for staff began in February 2019 - staff from previous years were invited to apply, and application forms were placed on the website. We employed 9 members of staff - which included one trainee. All staff employed were either ex staff or volunteers and as such were very familiar with the running of the scheme and day to day. A training day was held before the start of the scheme to go through safeguarding, scheme policies and other relevant information - it was a chance for staff to familiarise themselves with the children they would have in their groups too.

Staff meetings were held as and when required to discuss and alleviate any issues which arose. All staff were paid weekly. References are requested for all staff. All staff and volunteers over 16 are DBS checked. A qualified first aider was present in each group. All staff were recognised by their red uniform shirt and identity badge. There was fluency and cohesion in each group from day 1 and all groups worked as an effective team.

### **Volunteers**

34 volunteers once again supported Pegasus this year, as we have come to expect, they are keen and fulfilled their role with professionalism, many of them have now been supporting Pegasus for a good number of years and as such slip into the role with ease. Volunteers attended an initial training meeting on the morning of the first day prior to the children arriving, which is a chance to meet staff and familiarise themselves with the needs of the children in their groups. Staff support those new to the role and guide them in building relationships with the children and scaffold how to interact/befriend the children on the scheme. All volunteers sign a code of conduct for behaviour and attend a weekly volunteer meeting. Expenses of £10 per day are paid to them on a Friday. Volunteers are recognised by their navy T-shirts. Feedback from parents/carers of the support the volunteers give the children is always positive and they are immensely grateful for the bonds which are made and seeing the friendly faces of their volunteers each day.

### **Children:**

Planning for child applications begins as far back as the November AGM where forms are available for collection. Following this, forms are posted on the Pegasus Website for parents to access, download and complete. Any parent requesting a paper copy of the form can phone and it will be sent to them. We continue to operate a first come first served system for applications and there is a deadline for applications to ensure that the child coordinator then has time to organise children into their respective groups. We took a total of 33 children across the course of the scheme. A 3 day trial period has proved critical for the inclusion of new children to the scheme and whilst we always try to include them beyond the trial period, it also ensures we are covered if we find they do not meet the criteria laid down in our constitution. Children were aged between 8 and 21 this year and were organised largely in age order across the 3 groups. We had a mixture of children who had previously attended and new children.

### **Youth Forum:**

Alongside the 3 week scheme, Pegasus runs a Youth Forum -this is attended by any Pegasus members over the age of 18, they pay a yearly subscription and then meet once a month in the local pub for a social evening. This is run and organised by Scott and Scarlett Clark with a committee of staff who coordinate activities led by Lyle Bax. The

young adults choose the theme for their evenings and also organise activities as a result of these meetings e.g. bowling, quiz nights etc. Feedback from these meetings is always positive - they would like more regular meetings ideally! The Youth Forum has now been running for 9 years.

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**Activities:**

Following child, volunteer, staff and parent feedback we provide a varied and entertaining timetable of activities taking into account preferences of all ages. Some activities are pre-booked and other days are left free so that the group leaders can plan their day - following discussion with the children and volunteers and also taking into account the weather on the day. The plan for activities across the 12 days looked as follows:

Other:

We continue to use Kevin's removals for bringing the playscheme equipment to and from the scheme. We keep the majority of the items in storage and also rent a local garage for resources which may need to be more accessible during the year.

Photos were once again completed in the form of montages presented to each child.

These are given out in frames as a keepsake from the scheme and the activities they have undertaken. Feedback on the montages is always very positive.

The children/volunteers and staff celebrated the culmination of the scheme at the Annual prom, held at Dover Town Hall - a lovely way to end the scheme and a celebration of another successful year.

**Data**

Parents were given a questionnaire to complete about how they find certain aspects of the scheme - see results below. Of the 33 questionnaires handed out, only 10 were returned (30%) however findings on the whole were very positive.

**My child enjoys coming to Pegasus:**

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
9	1	0	0	0	0
90%	10%	0	0	0	0

**Comments:**

My child loves Pegasus.

It is the highlight of his summer holiday.

Looks forward to it all year asking “when is Pegasus happening again?” from the minute it finishes!

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**I know my child is safe at Pegasus:**

<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Other</b>
7	3	0	0	0	0
70%	30%	0	0	0	0

**Comments:**

Never had any doubts.

Everyone is alert at all times e.g. to children in the corridor and making sure someone is with them.

**I am happy with the range of activities offered:**

<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Other</b>
7	3	0	0	0	0
70%	30%	0	0	0	0

**Comments:**

Days are packed full of activities.

**Do you think the scheme offers good value for money?:**

<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Other</b>
6	4	0	0	0	0
60%	40%	0	0	0	0

**Comments:**

**No additional comments made.**

I found the arrangements prior to the start of the scheme to be detailed and informative:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
5	5	0	0	0	0
50%	50%	0	0	0	0

**Comments:**

**No additional comments made.**

I have confidence in the staff on the play scheme and am happy to leave my child in their care:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
7	3	0	0	0	0
70%	30%	0	0	0	0

**Comments:**

**No additional comments made.**

The play scheme is managed and led effectively:

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Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
6	3	1	0	0	0
60%	30%	10%	0	0	0

**Comments:**

**No additional comments made.**

I am confident that the scheme deals effectively with any problems and responds well to any concerns raised.

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
3	2	5	0	0	0
30%	20%	50%	0	0	0

**Comments:**

No experience of this.

I like that the play scheme offers a buddy volunteer system and feel this benefits my child's social interaction:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
6	2	2	0	0	0
60%	20%	20%	0	0	0

**Comments:**

**No additional comments made.**

**Parent feedback additional comments:**

This is J's first time attending Pegasus; he really enjoyed it. Thank you for all that you do.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for providing an amazing experience for my daughter. Pegasus is the highlight of her year – something that we all look forward to.

Everything about Pegasus is amazing, my son loves attending and it really does help our family in summer. It gives our son structure and variety – thank you!



This is the first time we have used Pegasus. We are super impressed, our son has enjoyed his time with you, we feel lucky to have found you. Thank you.

My son loves coming every summer to play with the go kart and the days out too.

Wished it could have been 15 days instead of 12. It's lovely to see my son so excited and happy, he loves coming to Playscheme and gets a lot out of being with other

young people.

Sadly this is C's last year on the scheme, he has enjoyed every minute of his 8 years attending. It has always been the highlight of his summer. Consequently we always have to arrange our family holiday around Pegasus!