

Pegasus
Playscheme
Summer
Evaluation
2021

2021 saw the rise of Pegasus Playscheme after a year of lockdown, this was the 35th year Pegasus has been in operation and we were once again completely overwhelmed by the responses of our parents, volunteers and staff as there was a definite keenness for our return after a summer with no scheme due to the pandemic that was Covid 19!



As has been the case for the last few years, we were once again based at Astor school in Dover, the school welcomed us back and we were able to operate in our usual capacity in the rooms normally available to us.

All rooms were easily accessible and on one level in the building, we had space for a kitchen/changing room, entrance office area as well as the 3 base classrooms for each group. We were able to access the venue on the weekend prior to the scheme's commencement to set up and receive our resources from storage – delivered competently as always by Kevin. We also had water delivered as this is not something we have provided due to the venue's restrictions.

As the scheme started we discovered we were also sharing the venue this year with a school summer school – based upstairs, however their arrival and exit times were staggered to ours and as such this did not cause any problems and they had allocated space outside which also did not interfere with space we were able to use.

We were very aware that as a committee, there may be some reticence from our clients attending in relation to Covid restrictions, however as guidance changed on the 19th July, we were able to run normally as we always did but ensured that plenty of handwashing, hand sanitising and regular cleaning took place in order to reassure all stakeholders to feel safe – masks were at discretion of parents/volunteers.

Resources such as squash, biscuits, wet wipes, kitchen roll etc are always a bit part of the shopping at the start of the scheme however this year we

were exceptionally lucky to have a wealth of donations kindly dropped in. Following a first donation which was thanked on Facebook, it opened the door to lots of people offering to donate and as such we were overwhelmed and thrilled to receive such a great start to our scheme.

As always we were also kindly supported by the Rapid Relief Team on our first day. They turned up and set up to feed all the staff, volunteers and children a delicious lunch, catering for all our varying needs of vegetarian, coeliac, etc. As our first day is a 'getting to know you day' we remain on base and so this



is such a great resource. They were also joined by St. John's ambulance and the fire brigade who came for the children to see their vehicles and to chat with them and not to forget Summer the amazing face painter – a really informal great

start to the scheme before we head off for outings from day 2! Not to forget the ice-cream van too!

Clients

This year the range of children on the scheme was perhaps broader than it had been in recent years, the spread of children from different areas was as follows:

Dover	13
Deal	8
Folkestone	10
Canterbury	5
Faversham	2
Ashford	2

We had quite a range of new children apply this year, some who had heard of us through word of mouth, the website or were KCC/SS referrals. All new children to the scheme start with a 3-day trial so that we are able to assess their needs and ensure they fit our criteria for need and behaviour. Feedback from all new parents was positive – see data below.

Unfortunately, one of the new children who applied required at least 2:1 support for his behaviour and as such was not able to remain on the

scheme – they were encouraged to reapply next year if they felt the needs were more in line with our criteria. As is the case from year to year, the children who may have historically been on the scheme alter and change in their needs and this in turn has an effect on whether they remain eligible for the scheme. All parents/carers are encouraged to reply annually though as we are aware of these changing needs. We never like to turn any child away as we recognise the need for this essential respite care for parents/carers/siblings etc.

This was also further reinforced with a call from SS this summer in the first week of the scheme who were desperate to find a placement for a child whose family required support – this child however was only 6, despite explaining to SS that our age for the scheme is 8-21, they still asked whether we could consider taking her as they were in crisis need. This was not something we were able to do but does once again reinforce the need for the scheme and the essential work that we do.

Children who attend the scheme are supported by a team of staff and also 1:1 volunteers.

The staff leading the scheme were in the majority new to their staff roles this year but had historically worked for Pegasus as volunteers in the past so were confident and familiar with the way the scheme runs and the children



and their needs. For us as a committee this also reinforces their dedication and want to further their skills in a staff capacity.

All staff were trained prior to the start of the scheme; the training covers the policies we run by, safeguarding practise, the activities we had planned for this year and the needs of the children who would be attending. This training day is essential for staff to feel confident and efficient in their roles, to ask any questions and to build rapport with their staff team.

All adult staff and volunteers over the age of 16 were DBS checked prior to commencement of the scheme.



Volunteers to the scheme were once again keen and eager, applying well before the start of the scheme and attending all days in the majority of cases. Some were new to the play scheme however many were repeat attenders who love the

children, the activities and being part of the scheme itself. The bonds and rapport built between volunteers and children are priceless and parents frequently comment upon the friendships made and the dedication of our volunteers. They are priceless to our scheme and we could not run without them! Across the course of the scheme the total Volunteer hours were as follows:

9.30-3.30 daily – 6 hours daily

Week 1 – 888 Volunteer hours

Week 2 – 918 volunteer hours

Week 3 – 1014 volunteer hours

Total across all three weeks: 2820

Not including committee voluntary hours too! What dedication!

Children places were booked and paid for prior to the start of the scheme, and some who had not booked all days requested further bookings where we had availability – they had erred on the side of caution as were not sure how their children may respond to attending but they loved it and wanted to come even more!

Transport

Regent Coaches once again provided the scheme's transport and 3 coaches took the groups out on a daily basis. Coaches varied in size from 29-51 seats, whilst the larger coaches provided that element of luxury and had improved air conditioning; they did prove a bit of a hindrance in that some activities were harder to access due to their size. Regent as always were happy to alter coaches as requested.



Having used regent coaches consistently over the course of many years now, we have built an excellent relationship with the owner and the drivers; drivers are keen to come and drive for the scheme each year, they are friendly, sociable, adaptable and always willing to help and this makes the journeys and getting to and from locations so much easier.

Drivers are issued daily timetables in advance of the scheme so that they can plan routes and parking prior to setting off. They check in daily with the scheme admin to check locations, any additional needs, key information and are extremely professional.

On a day to day basis we try to keep the same driver with the same group so that we can maintain the 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. We could not be without them.

Activities

Date	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Monday 26th July	First Day Fun	First Day Fun	First Day Fun
Tuesday 27th July	Brockhill Farm 1000	Vineyard 1030	Bowling
Wednesday 28th July	Swimming 10 - 12	Canoeing 1000	Free Day
Thursday 29 th July	Wingham Wildlife Park	smArt 1000	Clip and Climb 1030
Friday 30th July	Bowling	Clip and Climb 1030	Wet wheels 1000
Monday 2nd August	Free Day	Tobogganing 1000	Wingham Wildlife Park
Tuesday 3rd August	smArt 1000	Swimming 10 - 12	Brockhill Farm 1000
Wednesday 4th August	Wet wheels 1000	Wingham Wildlife Park	Canoeing 1200
Thursday 5th August	Clip and Climb 1015	Port Lympe 1000	smArt 1000
Friday 6th August	Swimming 1300 - 1500	Bowling	Vineyard 1030
Monday 9 th August	Port Lympe 1000	Wet wheels 1000	Tobogganing 1000
Tuesday 10 th August	Vineyard 1030	Free Day	Swimming 10 - 12
Wednesday 11 th August	Canoeing 1200	Brockhill Farm 1000	Port Lympe 1000
Thursday 12 th August	Tobogganing 1000	Swimming 1300 - 1500	Free Day
Friday 13th August	Cinema 1000 & Dover Beach	Cinema 1000 & Dover Beach	Cinema 1000 & Dover Beach

As you can see from above the committee had planned a full and varied timetable of activities for the children attending the scheme. Some based on activities undertaken previously along with some new ones too.



The activities above are all pre-booked and paid for so that staff need only to plan for the spare time around the main activity each day.

We have found historically that staff also like to plan at least one day for themselves hence the planning of a free day for this. This allows staff to plan an activity based on the children in their group and their interests and needs.

Unfortunately, and probably not as a surprise, we had to make some last minute changes to the timetable as some places were unexpectedly closed for covid related reasons at the last minute; some for the duration of the scheme and some for maybe just one of the 3 weeks. The staff however rose to the occasion and re-planned and booked different things to fill their days.



Some additional venues which proved very popular with the children and staff reported them exceptionally supportive were Treasure Pottery in Ramsgate, the Daisy Elephant Craft Den in Ashford, The Marsh Maize at Dymchurch – to quote staff, “So accommodating, very thoughtful and a business that’s also interested in the Charity itself”. The Watering Hole at Quex Park

and The Hop Farm (although maybe more Group 1 suitable).



All activities ran with no real problems other than we need to be wary of start times for bookings as it is unrealistic for groups to attend any venue before 10:30am – and as such we faced some rather impatient lifeguards who were a little rude about a group’s late arrival! Most venues however were extremely hospitable and welcomed the scheme keenly.

For the children the memories of them undertaking the activities are captured on camera and photo memories are shared at the end of the scheme. Historically we have sent photo montages, however as many children are returning attenders we felt their walls may be a bit full of photos now so this year they received all of their own photos on a memory stick with a memento keyring attached. This way parents can then choose the photos they wish to print for themselves or simply enjoy looking through them as a PowerPoint. This was well received.

To end our scheme as is always the case, we culminate in our annual prom – this year, the ‘Phoenix Ball’ – rising after ‘lockdown! Each year this has been hosted by Dover Town Hall for no cost, however due to renovations there this year, we had to source an alternative location. The best deal and location proved to be The Marina Court Hotel on Dover Seafront – this was good for parking, accessibility, and despite having to pay for the venue was a success. We hope however to return to the town hall next year as space there is optimum.

Who is involved?

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 MBE – Chairperson, Secretary and fundraiser

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

Scott Clark –Volunteer co-ordinator and activities coordinator.

Scarlett Clark – Social Media and Youth Forum support

Annabel Thompson – Treasurer

Anna Ladd – Staff Coordinator and scheme manager during the 3 weeks.

Lyle Bax and Rhian Taylor – Youth Forum

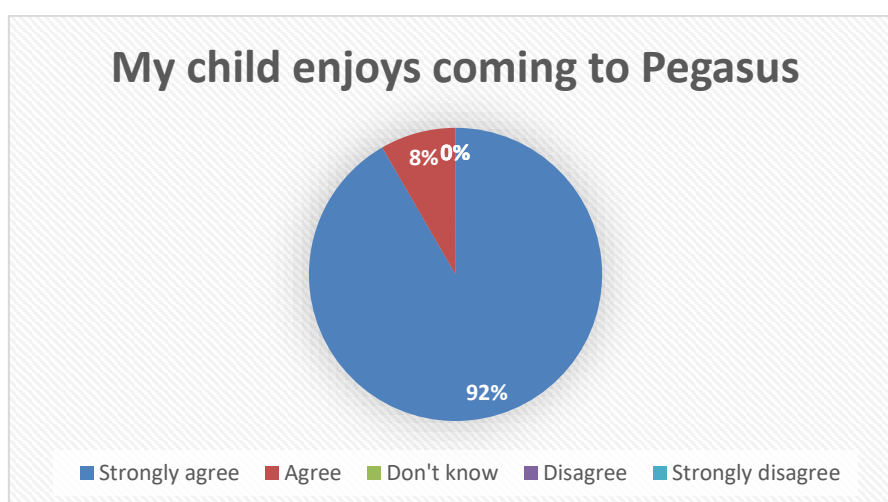
Kim Bladon - trustee

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

So, to end our scheme as is traditional, we ask the most important people our children/parents and carers for their thoughts and feelings on the scheme – this is their feedback.

Parent/Carer feedback: 36 questionnaires were sent out and 12 returned. (33.3% response). Due to the limited response it may prove beneficial next year to send forms out both in paper and email form and extend the time for return. Despite this, we have some very positive feedback, please see below...

1.



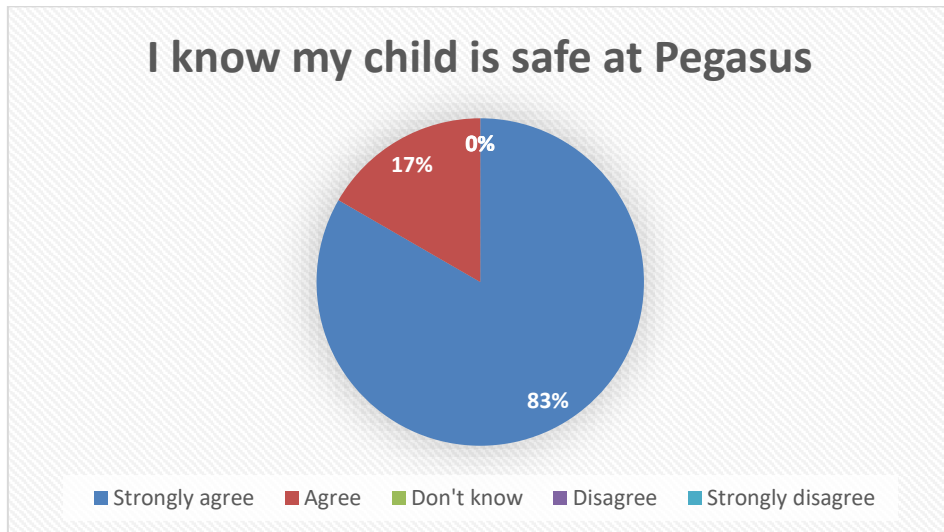
My child enjoys coming to Pegasus:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
11	1	0	0	0	0
92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Comments included:

- She said that she loves all the activities.
- He loves it!
- It's the highlight of their year.
- He is talking about returning the next day when I pick him up.
- My son loves Pegasus.
- It is the highlight of his year.

2.



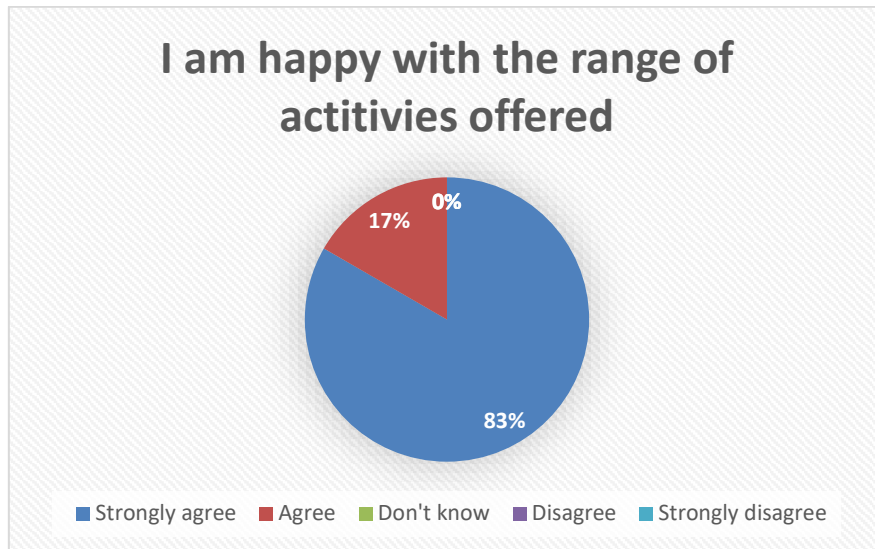
I know my child is safe at Pegasus:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
10	2	0	0	0	0
83%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Comments included:

- Staff have ensured med plans and training prior to the scheme starting at incredibly short notice.
- My child said "all the helpers keep me safe every day of the week"
- The utmost care is always taken.

3.



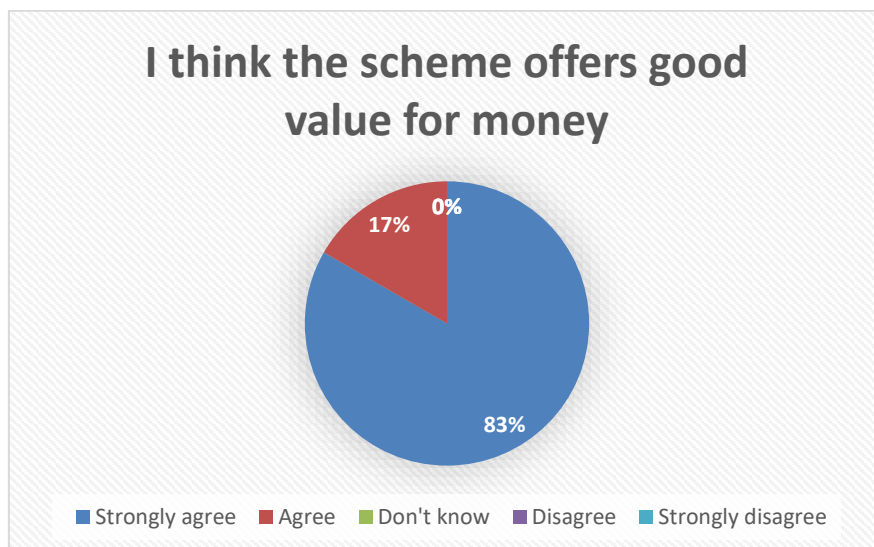
I am happy with the range of activities offered:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
10	2				
83%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Comments included:

- The activities have ranged from educational (museum) to physical (swimming) to a wide range of crafts.
- Lots of varied activities.
- Amazing activities that they would never experience elsewhere.
- She loves doing the things that we would find difficult doing as a family.

4.



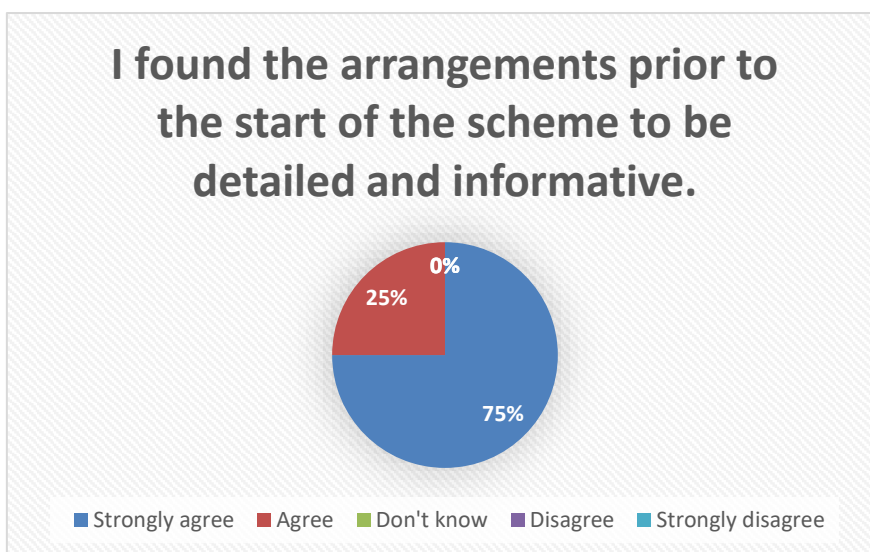
I think the scheme offers good value for money:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
10	2				
83%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Comments included:

- Exciting activities fill every day of the scheme – rain or shine.
- The activities, transport, staffing, snacks and social aspect from those attending is definitely worth the money.

5.



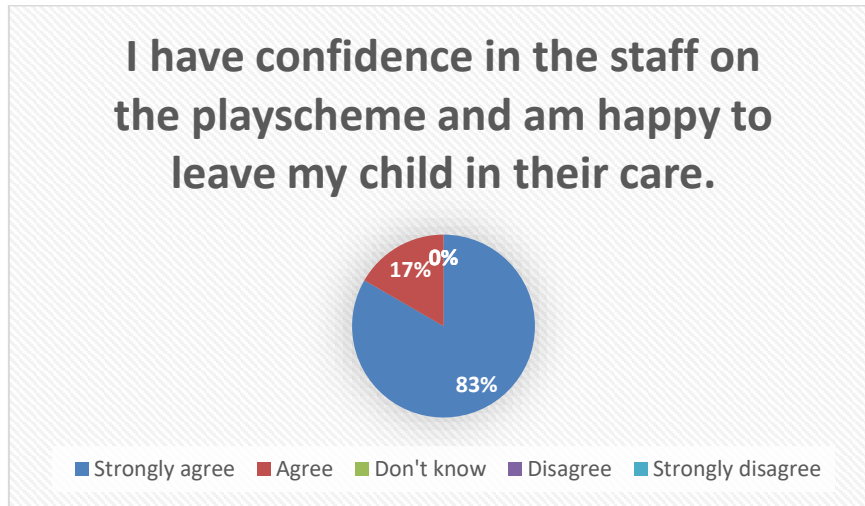
I found the arrangements prior to the start of the scheme to be detailed and informative:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
9	3				
75%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Comments included:

- Lots of info about COVID via email.
- Considering we were last minute last comers, both training activities, support, clothing, snacks, medical were all thoroughly discussed.

6.



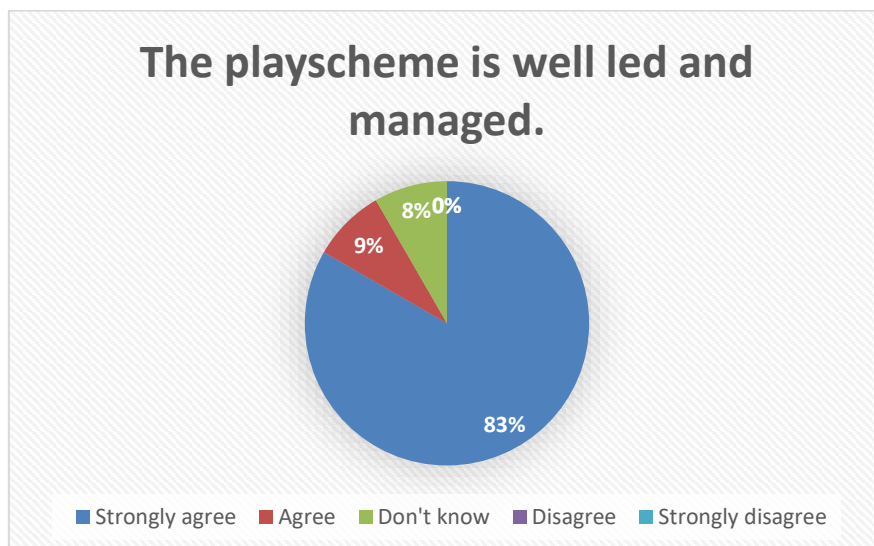
I have confidence in the staff on the play scheme and am happy to leave my child in their care:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
10	2				
83%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Comments included:

- They have over 30 years' experience and are kind, caring and pleased to see her every day.
- Group leaders immediately put my mind at ease – amazing bunch of people.
- I have never felt so relaxed leaving him as he is so happy to attend, leaving phone at home, hood down and communicating from 3rd day.

7.



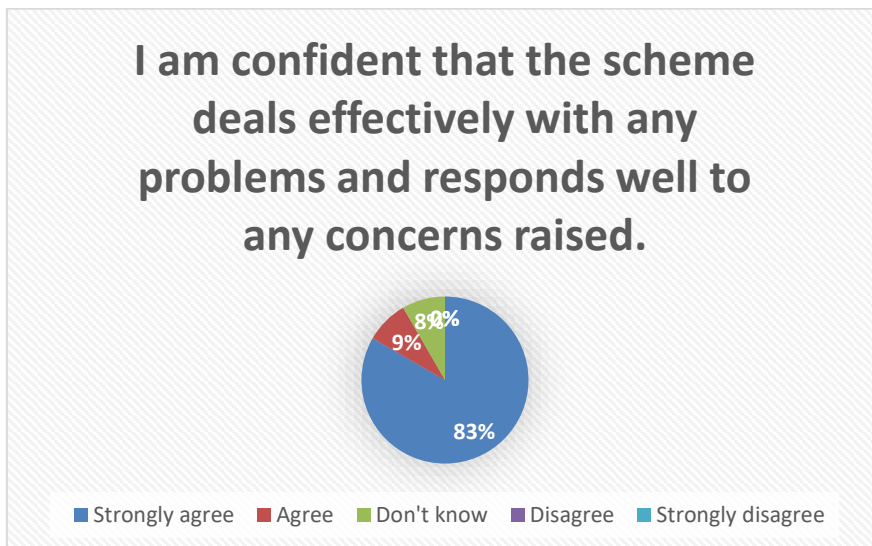
The play scheme is managed and led effectively:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
10	1	1	0	0	0
83%	8.3%	8.3%	0%	0%	0%

Comments included:

- The committee are brilliant; everyone seems to know what they are doing.
- Plenty of staff available to talk to in person on desk, or greeted by group leader, everyone knows what's going on and when.

8.



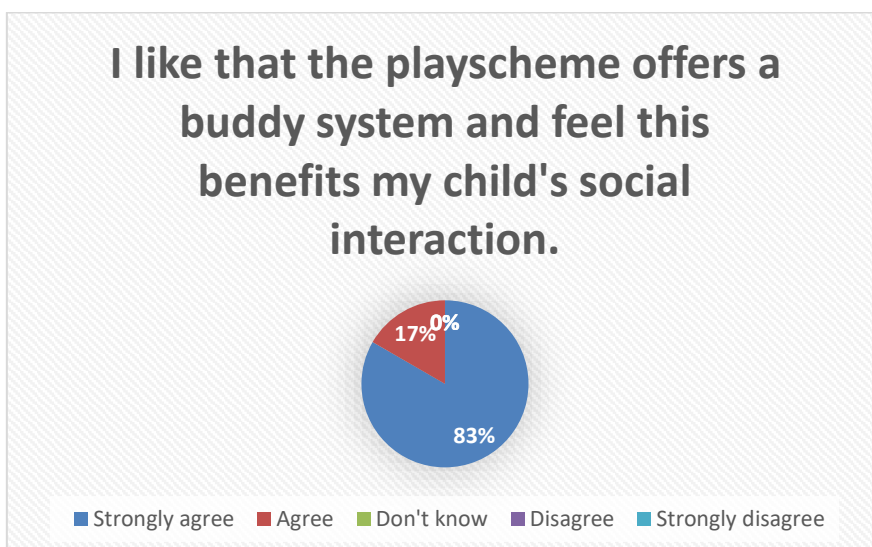
I am confident that the scheme deals effectively with any problems and responds well to any concerns raised.

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
10	1	1	0	0	0
83%	8.3%	8.3%	0%	0%	0%

Comments included:

- Luckily none have arisen but I have every faith I will be notified and the situation managed appropriately until I arrive.

9.



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
10	2				
83%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Comments included:

- The model is brilliant from every perspective; the only thing missing is annual guaranteed government funding!
- Definitely helps his socialisation.
- My lad has shockingly really enjoyed the buddying and accepted his buddy changes daily which is encouraging him to socially connect with new people and not rely on the same ones.

Other comments:

- Happy faces everyday – speaks volumes – wonderful scheme.
- You are all fantastic!
- My child loves coming to play scheme, he is always excited to come and gets home tired but extremely happy.
- The activities challenge my son and gives him a great range of activities to try.
- I cannot praise Pegasus enough! I have 100% faith that my son is cared for, safe and having fun – you are all wonderful – thank you!
- My son is usually mute and doesn't like leaving my side. He reluctantly but inquisitively joined on the Monday and to my delight skipped out eager to return, He has enjoyed it so much that he has managed to increase his days as and when they have been available. His personality has been apparent at group enjoying banter with his buddy and team leaders. He is speaking more and more, coming home shattered and sleeping well. He has challenged himself (zip line etc) where usually he wouldn't attempt it but his encouraging buddy have supported him and gave him the confidence to try. As a parent, knowing your child is happy, content, supported, having fun and asking to return, means the parents actually get quality time to relax, respite for a reasonable cost (reasonably priced as in affordable) so an added bonus. I cannot put into words how grateful I am for my son and myself to have had the privilege of being part of Pegasus and the positivity included.
- My son loves coming to the play scheme – it builds his confidence and he makes new friends.
- Pegasus is amazing!
- The scheme really is the highlight of his year. He gets to do so many activities that even I have never done! He loves socialising with the other kids and volunteers but I think it does the volunteers good to see life can be different for others. A fantastic experience.
- My daughter has absolutely loved coming, nothing negative to say at all – we will be back next year!
- This is the first year our child has been on the scheme and wont hesitate to let her come back if possible – she is really enjoying it – it has been fantastic for our family.
- The scheme gives my children the most wonderful few weeks of their summer.
 - My daughter likes to go on the bus every day! It's the best thing since sliced bread!