



SUMMER EVALUATION 2023

This year has seen us reach a great milestone of our 37th year of Pegasus Playscheme, providing many children and young adults have a summer of fun once again! There has been many challenges of reaching our targets with fundraising, but we have been a very successful scheme once again.

We are a charity playscheme (no 299301) and as such rely on fundraising, grants and donations in order to be able to proceed for the 3 weeks which we run each summer. We take children from a range of local areas and our aim is to ensure that they have a summer to remember, engaging with new people, embracing new personal challenges, whilst at the same time offering valuable respite time to families

Our values are at the centre of everything we do. The way in which we work with each other, our Children / Parents / Carers / Funders and these are laid out through our scheme outcomes, although we are a small charity, we aim high with our outcomes and feel we succeed in meeting these, year on year. The impact we as a small independent scheme are able to evidence is huge, not just for our children but for our staff, volunteers and the local community. One parent summed us up in her feedback this year with the following statement:

“It means enjoyment, inclusion, acceptance, love, no judgement, fun, being carefree, belonging and happiness. Like for once we are part of a community who understand”

Our outcomes for 2023

To provide 1-1 support to children and young adults with severe and complex needs and enable strong relationships to be formed with peers. To open eyes to the varying needs and reduce social stigma.

To use a wide variety of safely managed, fun and engaging activities which in turn provide social integration, the creation of long lasting memories and a healthy day out.

To inspire teenagers, and enable them through training to support young people with disabilities and to achieve their own summer to remember.

To make the local children and local families using our service happier and healthier whilst at the same time forging and building positive relationships.

To provide a safe haven that parents/carers can take reassurance in and find respite in during the long summer break and as a side effect reducing anxiety within the family unit.

To alleviate pressure on social care and provide spaces for children in the social care system.

To encourage independence when possible and support the older children through to transition to our Youth Forum.

To ensure that disabled children and young people are supported to optimise their physical and emotional wellbeing by having fun in a safe, supportive environment, whilst having opportunities to increase and support new skills to reach their optimum level of independence and participating in activities within their local community.

To promote the understanding that mental health matters. Disabled children and young adults can face challenges from birth and we aim to ensure a supportive role in their emotional needs along with those of the staff and volunteers.

Clients and Venue

The scheme was welcomed back once again to our usual venue at Astor School in Dover – this is a central venue for most of our clients who come from the local towns.

Children taken this year have come from the following areas:

Dover	Deal	Kingsdown	Faversham	Whitstable	Folkestone	Canterbury
13	8	2	2	1	6	4
28.89%	17.78	4.44%	4.44%	2.22%	13.33%	8.89%
Whitstable	Aylesham	Walmer	Dymchurch	Lyminge	Herne Bay	
1	2	3	1	1	1	
2.22%	4.44%	6.67%	2.22%	2.22%	2.22%	

Whilst historically we have largely been a scheme with children and young people attending from Dover and Deal, we have found that due to the lack of alternative provision in the local area that we are now taking people from a much wider area as per the break down above.

Due to volunteer and child ratios, we aim for between 10 and 12 children in each group each day – however not all children attend for every day – their varying needs are such that for some, everyday attendance can be too over stimulating so instead, the child coordinator attempts to fill every space so we can take over the 10/12, for example:

Group 1: 8-13 age bracket saw a total of 18 children attending across the course of the scheme

Group 2: 14-17 age bracket saw a total of 13 children attending across the course of the scheme

Group 3: 17-21 age bracket saw a total of 12 children attending across the course of the scheme

Therefore a total of 45 children benefitted from attendance on the scheme this summer.

We had to sadly turn away 3 children this year due to numbers and space in groups. We also had 2 requests for spaces from children under 8 who we also had to turn away. We also had to turn away a request during the scheme due to lack of spaces.

This year we have been a support for a range of different family situations with 5 individuals who are looked after children, one child with a special guardianship and one adopted child. Our funding for a range of children has been received from different areas such as referrals from social services and school payments for 2 children.

After taking on a request from a parent from last year, we have been able to implement payment through the child care grant system, meaning they have been to pay through the government gateway system successfully.

All children's spaces are paid for prior to the start of scheme as this supports the payments of activities etc – we do not offer refunds in the case of illness as unfortunately their activities/space on the bus etc are already paid for and as a charity we cannot incur this cost. This is in line with social services guidelines and other play scheme providers.

What is evident is that many parents believe we are completely KCC funded and are surprised to hear that this is not the case.

Parents/Carers complete detailed forms for the application of their child to the scheme, however it is hard to know from a piece of paper the true extent of their needs and there have been some children this year who clearly require more than the one to one support we can offer. All new children to the scheme start on a 3 day trial so we can see whether we can cater for their needs along with whether this is the scheme best suited to them. Next year a sentence asking about behaviour triggers and best strategies to support these behaviours will be added to the child forms.

All children received a photo memento of their time on the scheme – after implementing a folder for their mementos last year, we have been able to send home their photos to be added to this to remember their summer of memories.

Transport

Once again Transport was provided through Regent Coaches – transport is the largest expense for the play scheme (£18,000) but also one of our most vital



expenses as without the consistency and reliability of the coaches we would not be able to transport the children to the various venues for their activities. The coaches we had this year were



25, 29 and 38 seater – this does have some impact on numbers and the child coordinator has to carefully plan such that we are then able to fit all children, volunteers and staff on the buses each day. All drivers are issued a timetable prior to the scheme so that they can plan their routes, parking and pick up and drop off points. We are always very lucky in that our drivers become fully embedded into the scheme – they build relationships with the staff, volunteers and children and this consistency supports the children and the ease of running. On the odd occasion we do have a bus break down, these are easily rectified and new buses sent to replace. We have used Regent Coaches for many years now and there is a good relationship between the scheme and the company.

Staffing

This year we employed 10 staff – including one trainee.

We employed 4 staff from the previous year, 4 staff who have made the transition from volunteer to staff, 1 staff member who used to be a volunteer and decided to return as staff and 1 new staff member.



One staff member from last year also stepped up to be our new staff co-ordinator and scheme manager for 2023.

All staff are interviewed, references sought and DBS checked prior to the scheme start. They also undertake a staff training day where we run through the daily ins and outs of the scheme, staff can familiarise themselves with children details, meet their staff team and receive safeguarding updates – they also share contact numbers with one another so that they can meet and plan together prior to the scheme start – this ensures a smooth start from day 1.

We also employed approx. 36 1:1 volunteers – some of whom were new to the scheme this year and others who are returning volunteers. All of the volunteers once again rose to the challenge of the scheme and became trusted, responsive buddies who ably supported our children on the scheme.

Total Volunteer hours 9.30-3.30 daily – 6 hours daily

Week 1 : 930 volunteer hours

Week 2 – 966 volunteer hours

Week 3 – 1038 volunteer hours

Total volunteer hours across the scheme: 2934

Activities:



As always we had a full schedule of activities timetabled across the 3 weeks – everything in the timetable is pre-booked and paid for prior to the scheme starting; staff call to check daily that bookings are made and to clarify numbers. For a free day this year group 3 went to Quex park – this was an excellent venue with plenty to do for all children and at a very reasonable cost.



The timings of some activities have been revised, meaning the children could have their lunch at a scheduled time to ensure the continuous structure and routine.

All staff reported that Marsh Maize was a highly enjoyable visit out and the venue is extremely accommodating and welcoming to the scheme.

A new addition to the timetable this year of flip out and lazer tag have been very successful for all groups to access.

We added onto the children's forms for this year to check if the children's information could be passed on to a third party to assist with filling out documents when reaching the activities.

Date	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Monday 24th July	First Day Fun	First Day Fun	First Day Fun
Tuesday 25th July	Marsh Maze 1030	Tobogganing 1100	Clip and Climb 1030
Wednesday 26th July	Swimming 1030 - 1130	Clip and Climb 1030	Bowling 1100
Thursday 27th July	Brockhill Farm 1030	Canoeing 1045 - 1245	Tobogganing 1100
Friday 28th July	Flip out - Ashford - 1100	Swimming 1030 - 1130	Brockhill Farm 1030
Monday 31st July	Tobogganing 1100	Marsh Maze 1030	Canoeing 1045 - 1245
Tuesday 1st August	Canoeing 1045 - 1245	Brockhill Farm 1030	Wingham Wildlife Park
Wednesday 2nd August	Wingham Wildlife Park	Flip out - Ashford - 1100	Inflate and Play
Thursday 3rd August	Wet wheels 1030	Wingham Wildlife Park	Swimming 1030 - 1130
Friday 4th August	Bowling 1100	Wet wheels 1030	Lazer Tag Folkestone 1030
Monday 7th August	Clip and Climb 1030	Bowling 1100	Marsh Maze 1030
Tuesday 8th August	Free day!	Inflate and Play 1100	Flip out - Ashford - 1100
Wednesday 9th August	Inflate and Play 1100	Lazer Tag Folkestone 1030	Swimming 1030 - 1130
Thursday 10th August	Lazer Tag Folkestone 1030	Swimming 1030 - 1130	Wet wheels 1030
Friday 11th August	Cinema 1030 & Dover Beach	Cinema 1030 & Dover Beach	Cinema 1030 & Dover Beach

Funding:

As for many charities funding is becoming increasingly more testing and sourcing the £70,000 needed to operate is a real challenge. Every possible grant and funding application is applied for but sadly we are often not successful as the call on funds from charities is so high.

Due to the rising prices of all activities and resources needed to run, we have had to increase the price per day for the children attending to £40 each. This amount appears to be a reasonable cost to ensure the running of the scheme and has been an income of roughly this year.

However in reality the actual cost of a child attending for the day is more like £70.

Throughout this year, there has been many fundraising events such as

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 and fundraiser, supplies coordinator

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

Scott Clark – Secretary, Volunteer co-ordinator and activities coordinator.

Scarlett Clark – Social Media and Youth Forum support

Katrina Gravenor – Treasurer

Natasha Gilmurray – Staff Coordinator, supplies coordinator and scheme manager during the 3 weeks.

Lyle Bax and Alec Hall – Youth Forum

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.

Parent Feedback:

All parents/carers are given a questionnaire to complete to ask their views of the scheme – this is order that we can make necessary changes and/or adjustments and also to support validity in moving forward year on year!

We received 20/45 questionnaires back this year

Where did you hear about Pegasus?

Friend 7

Previous years 2

Facebook

Social media

Social worker

Banner

Family 2

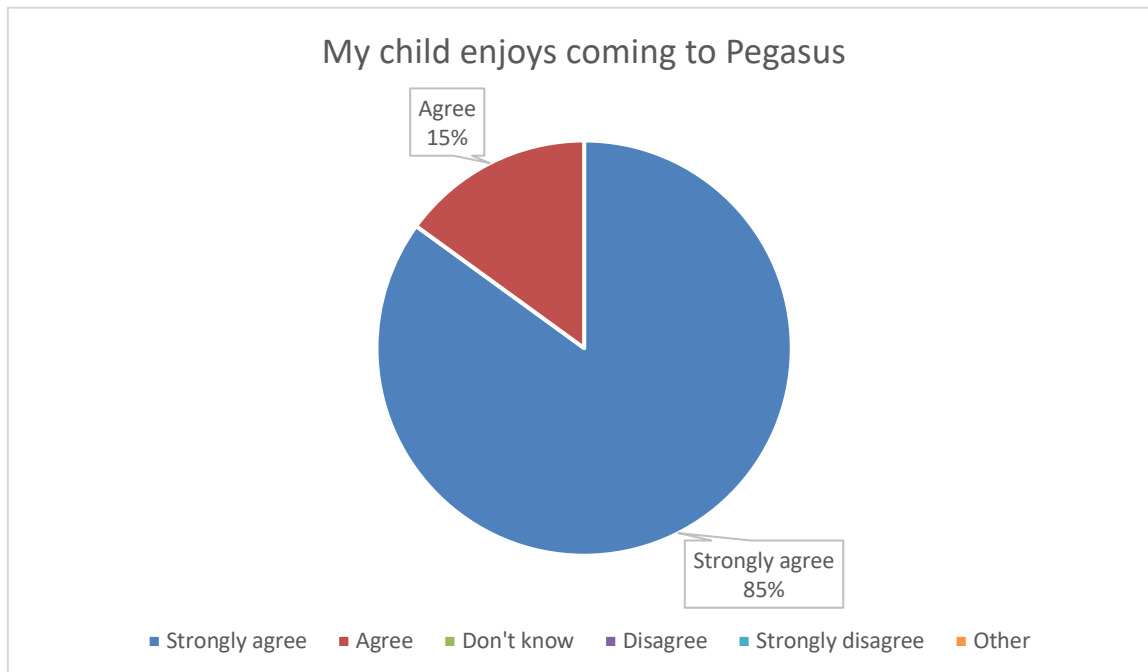
Word of mouth

Volunteered in the past



My child enjoys coming to Pegasus:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
58%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%

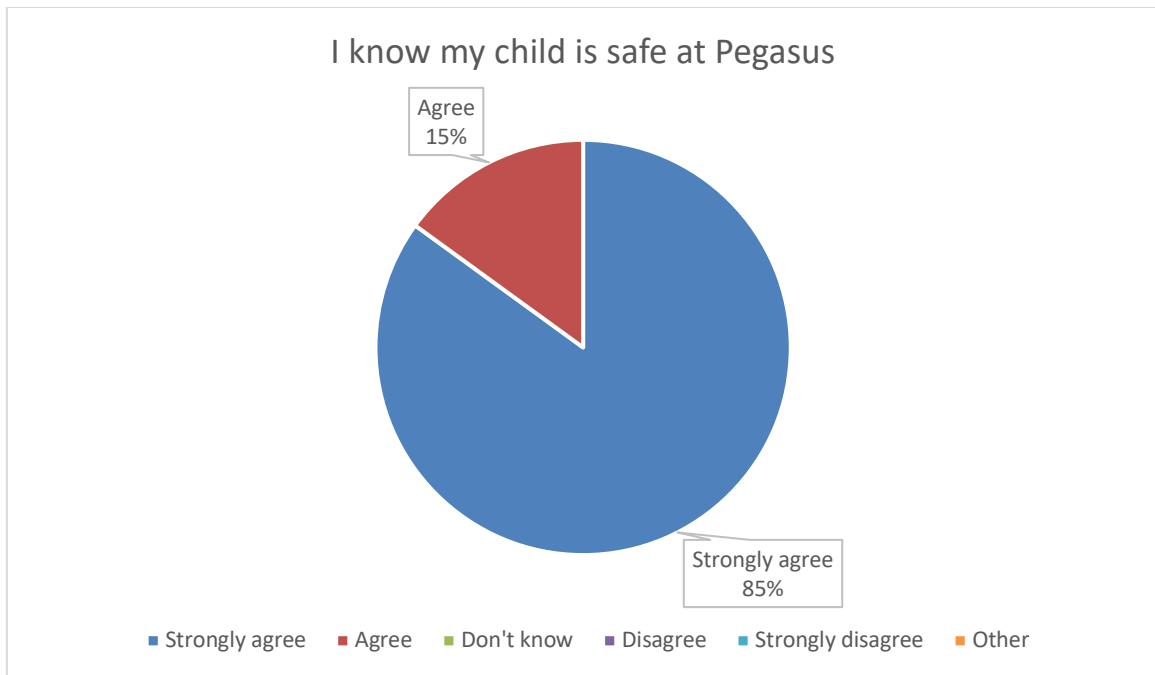


Additional comments:

- “highlight of their year”
- “He was unsure at first but now he waves his arms and asks for holiday club”
- “my daughter absolutely loves it thank you!”
- “has always looked forward to it all year”
- “guaranteed the best 3 weeks of the year!”

I know my child is safe at Pegasus:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
85%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%

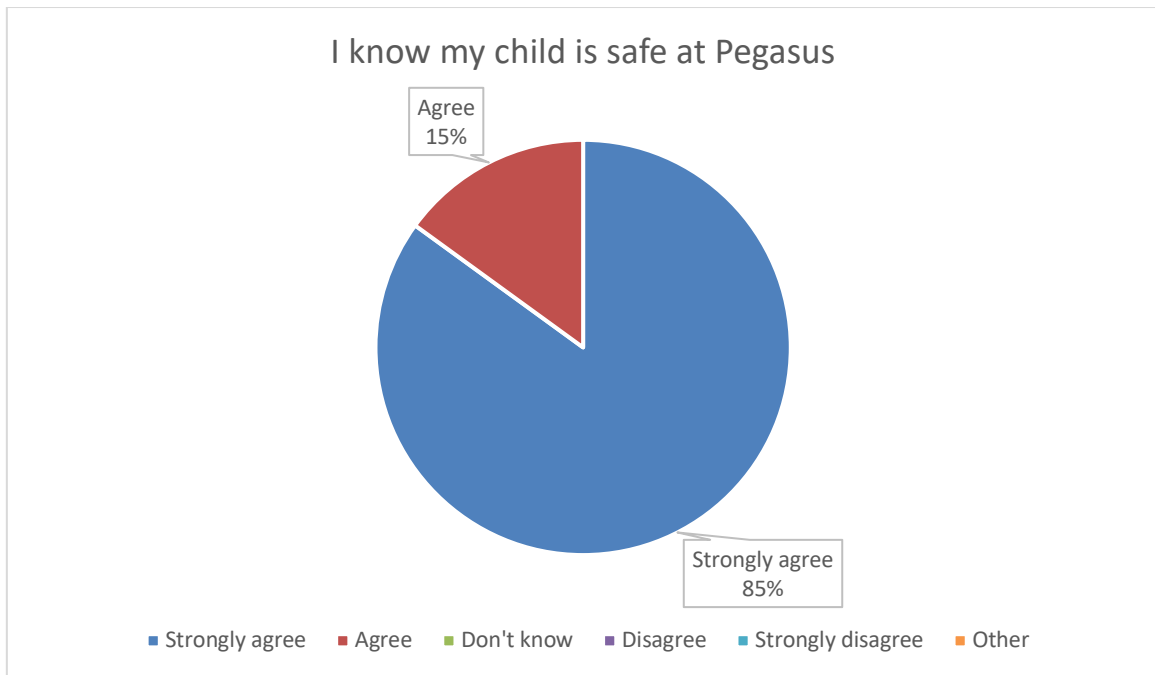


Additional comments:

- “1-1 and knowledgeable staff gives peace of mind”
- “no doubt, needs are always met”
- “I have no concerns he always comes out happy and seems well cared for”
- “adult to child ratio and knowledge of individual needs is amazing”
- “my son can be challenging at times and the staff and volunteers have supported him amazingly”
- “the staff worked with us to understand how to keep her safe and kept us updated”

I am happy with the range of activities offered:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
85%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%

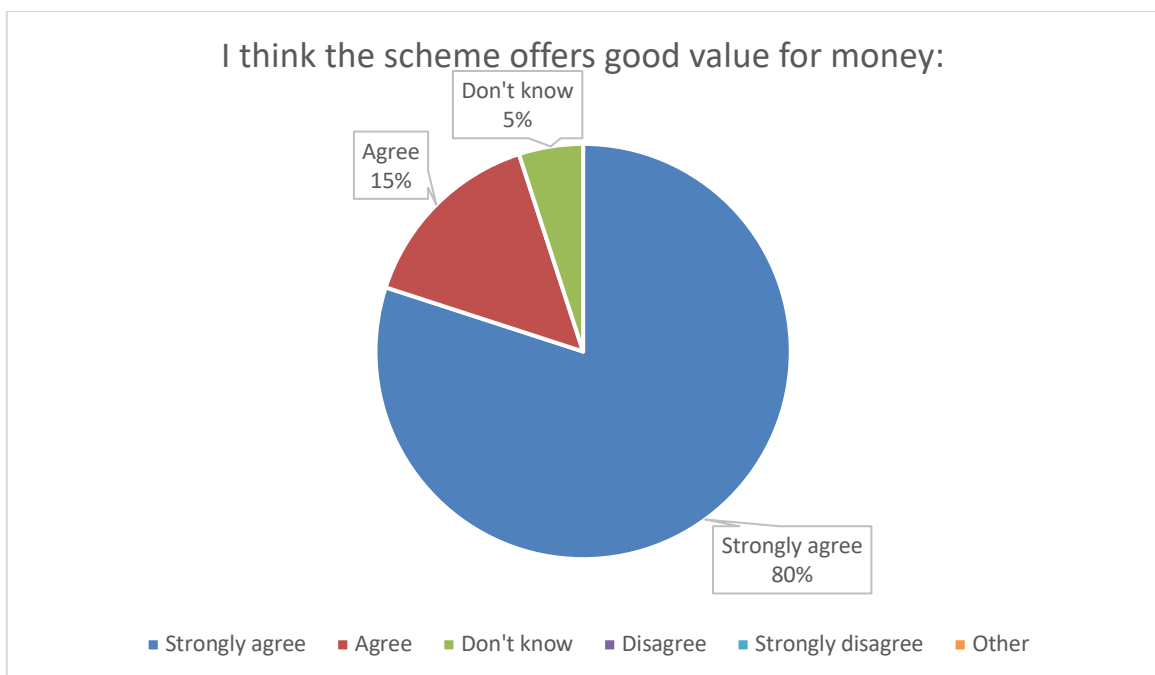


Additional comments:

“such varied activities, could never off this level without Pegasus”
 “fabulous range of activities for them to access”
 “he has so much fun”

I think the scheme offers good value for money:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
80%	15%	5%	0%	0%	0%



Additional comments:

“when your SEN child who is vulnerable has their full needs met, as they are, is a priceless service”

"I think so, but we have never found anything that ***** could attend before, but for the fun, his care and trips, yes!"

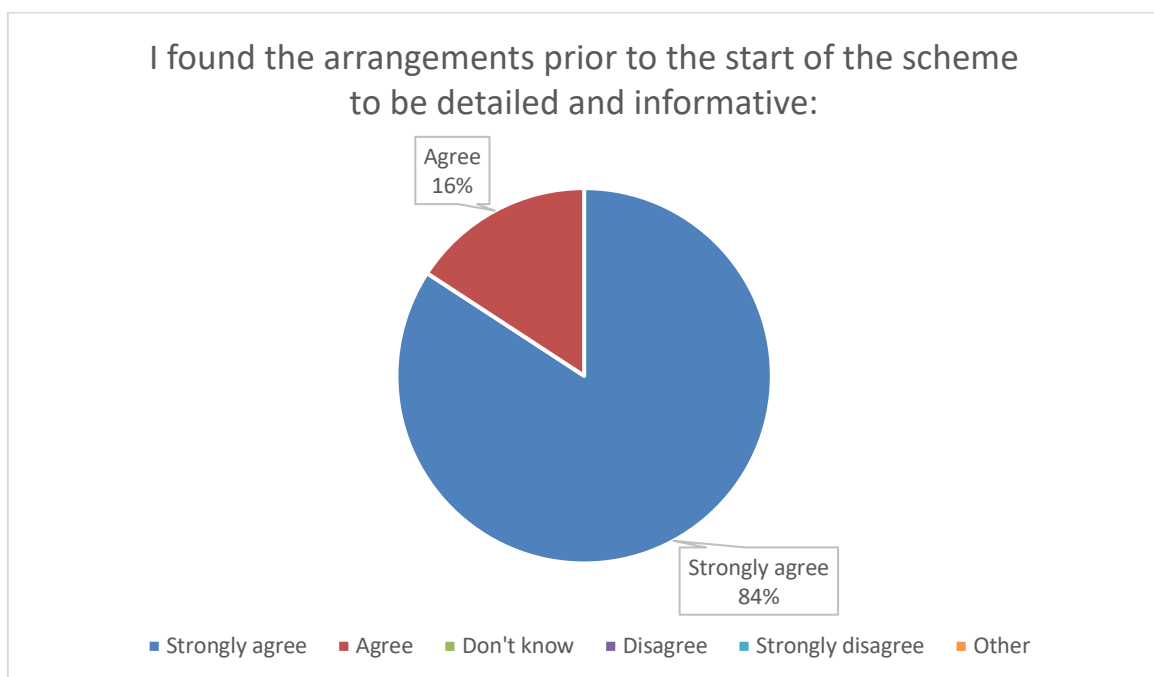
"definitely, next year I will book all 3 weeks"

"considering the experiences they get and the length of the days the value for money is great"

"even with the price increase we are happy"

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
84%	16%	0%	0%	0%	0%

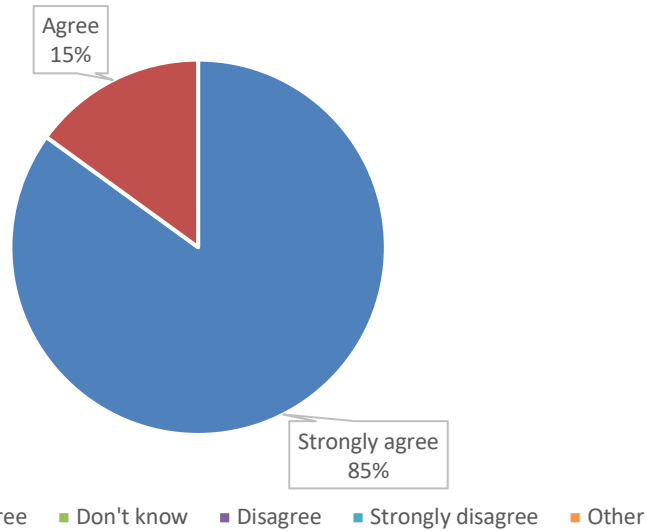


Additional comments:

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
85%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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



Additional comments:

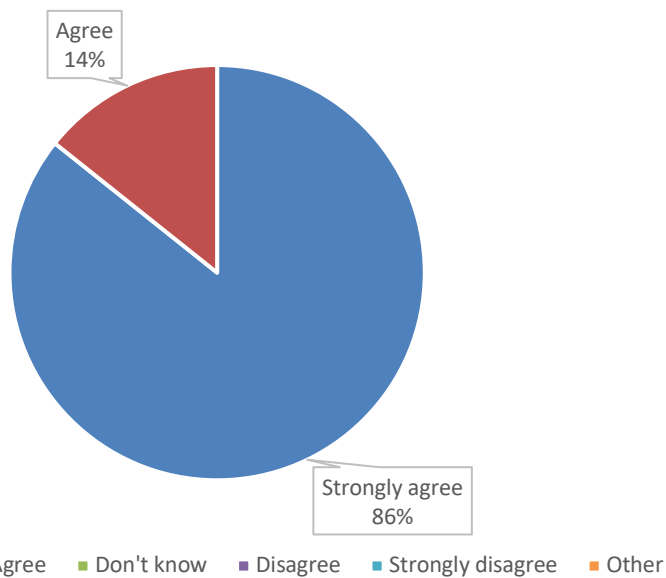
“I was a very anxious parent but they kept me updated and helped to ease my worry”

“Cannot say enough how wonderful, patient and kind the staff are – shout out to Tash for always supporting my ***** through it all”

The play scheme is managed and led effectively:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
86%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%

The playscheme is managed and led effectively:

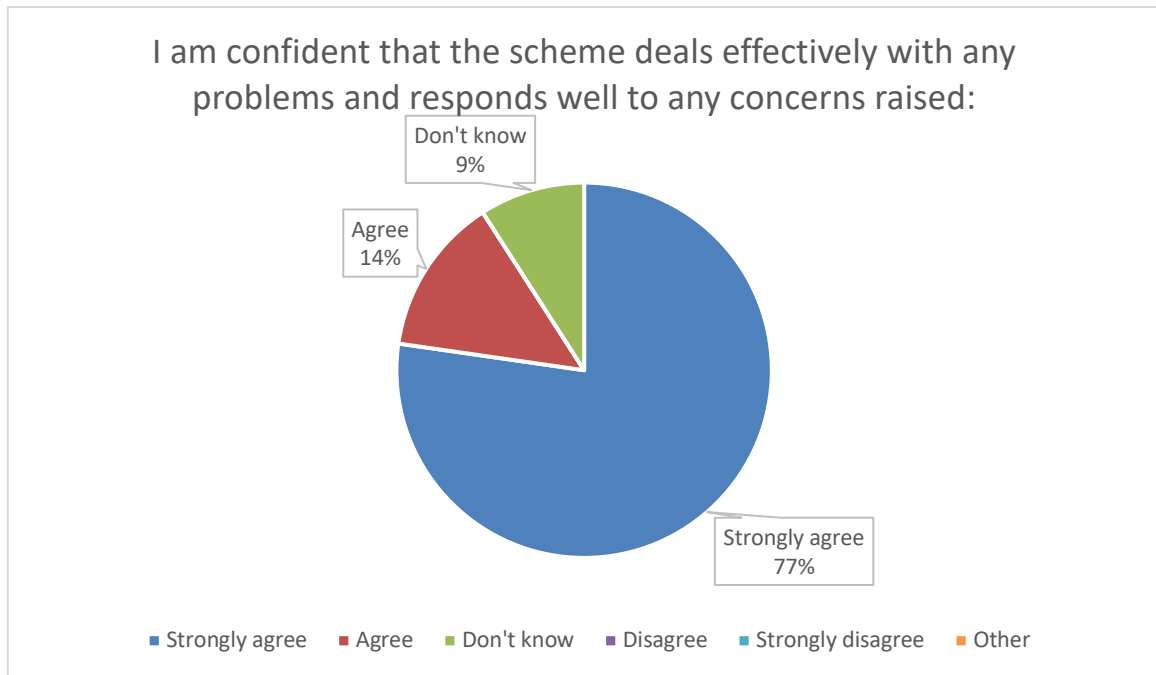


Additional comments:

“they clearly work tirelessly for our children”

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
77%	14%	9%	0%	0%	0%



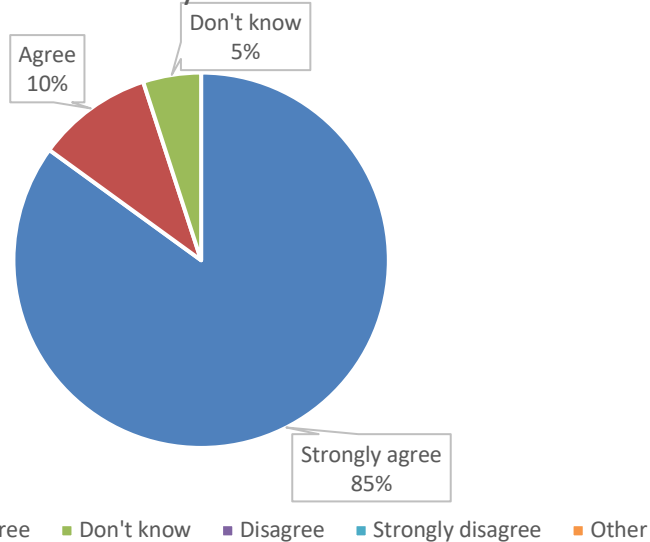
Additional comments:

“they have been so so good responding to me as a highly nervous parent – wonderful people”

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
85%	10%	5%	0%	0%	0%

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



Additional comments:

“great bunch of youngsters giving up their holidays to support children like mine. It's a lovely idea”

If possible, could you write a short statement explaining what Pegasus means to your child/family

“***** loves connecting with people his own age. Especially the buddies. It's something he looks forward to every year.”

“Pegasus helps bridge the gaps between social inclusion for neurotypical young people and neurodiverse; a truly blended scheme like no other I have come across before”

“Pegasus is a very valuable asset to the local community. Having our sons accommodated with their SEN and struggles is so very appreciated and admired within our family.”

“It is a safe, understanding and inclusive option for the summer. Many holiday clubs won't take ***** and as a full time working single mother it helps provide safe childcare so I can work and he is having a great time”

“This scheme is invaluable to our family. It gives our son a fun, safe play space in the holidays when we would struggle to get help and support, which means we can work and maintain routine for him when holidays are stressful for families with children that have special needs”

“Pegasus gives ***** a level of independence outside of the family home. He loves it and it pushes him outside of his comfort zone”

“Pegasus has been like a lifeline for us already, it has meant that ***** has got to have some fun without me struggling to get him to want to go to places, and has given me

some time to spend with my other children doing things that ***** wouldn't want to do, all while knowing he is enjoying himself."

"It means enjoyment, inclusion, acceptance, love, no judgement, fun, being carefree, belonging and happiness. Like for once we are part of a community who understand"

"As a full time carer for our granddaughter it is fabulous for her to have this. For us it is a short break respite for part of the summer"

"Pegasus is a lifeline for our family. There are very few (if any) clubs for those with special need. It is fantastic that **** is able to access this club with the great variety of activities and social interaction. It is very special and everyone is very caring."

"Finding out about this scheme has been fantastic for us, it's great to know my child is having fun and safe whilst giving us time with her sister to do things. ***** has made friends and enjoys going. Thank you so much"

"For ***** it is fun and educational as well as safe, he can be himself and develop social skills. The level of care and supervision provided also is of comfort to us as well as a chance for the rest of the family to have a break"

"As a single mother of 2 severe SEN children, the scheme gives them both opportunities and experiences that I could never do on my own. Being around the peers and learning how to do this is invaluable. I would absolutely be lost without the scheme every summer"

"Pegasus means as a family we don't dread the summer holidays as it helps distract from the change of routine and means we don't have to use all of our sick and annual leave to make childcare arrangements"

"Pegasus has been a vital part of my son's positive view of his place in the community and of him having a happy summer for the last 10 years. My grateful thanks to all of those involved."

"It's a chance for him to meet similar people and try new things. We feel part of a community"

"This is ***** 3rd year of Pegasus and he looks forward to it all year. He loves all the different activities and the people"

"We are so happy with the Playscheme. It has made such a difference to us as a family and ***** loves coming!"

My child said, "It's fun, exciting and it makes me feel happy". Pegasus means that we can cope more easily with the long summer holiday. I can spend quality time with my other child, and I can manage to juggle working with the school holidays"

It is invaluable to our family. It is the highlight of my sons' year"

Do you have any suggestions of improvements you would like to see next year?

Different activities.

Upper age limit increased

Longer hours/more weeks would be great 2

Please can you run next year! We need it for the great variety of activities.

Not really, I just hope to be a returning mum with an excited child!

It would be good to know what activities are on each day at booking so I can choose which days are appropriate for her but I realise all involves a lot of organisation so may not be possible.

Extend the weeks

Opportunity for the child to meet their buddy prior to the first activity. A pre-meet might help reduce anxiety for those children who need this.

Games in the room

I would like to see the scheme 'model' extended to all areas of Kent, as KCC are looking for holiday scheme models that work for families on low incomes that exclude disabled young people.