



SUMMER EVALUATION 2022

Well 2022 saw the 36th year of Pegasus Play Scheme and we are still going strong, we have come through Covid and despite lots of challenges with sourcing funding have been able to successfully run for another summer.

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:

"Pegasus goes beyond inclusion as it forges community bonds: because it runs for 3 whole weeks the young people can get to know each other and make lasting, genuine friendships, it's fantastic and unique!"

Our outcomes for 2022

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	Hythe	Folkestone	Canterbury	Ash
15	9	1	2	1	4	3	1
31.9%	19.1%	2.1%	4.3%	2.1%	8.5%	6.4%	2.1%
Whitstable	Ramsgate	Walmer	Dymchurch	Lyminge	Herne Bay	Hawkinge	Ashford
1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1
2.1%	2.1%	4.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	6.4%	2.1%

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 19 children attending across the course of the scheme

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

Group 3: 17-21 age bracket saw a total of 14 children attending across the course of the scheme

Therefore a total of 47 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 4 requests for spaces from children under 8 who we also had to turn away.

We received one social services referral and have taken 4 looked after children.

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.

Following a parent request to pay for their place through the child care grant system we are looking into the set-up for this as this will allow parents to pay via the government gateway system. This will hopefully be set up ready for next year.

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 will be added to the child forms.

All children received a photo memento of their time on the scheme – this year they were provided with these in folders which they can then add to year on year – these build an excellent picture of how the children spend their summer.

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 24, 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 11 staff – including one trainee.

We employed 6 staff from previous year, 2 staff who have transitioned from volunteer to the staffing role and 3 new staff.

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. 35 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 : 924 volunteer hours

Week 2 – 894 volunteer hours

Week 3 – 996 volunteer hours

Total volunteer hours across the scheme: 2814

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 their free day this year groups went to Quex park – this was an excellent venue with plenty to do for all children and at a very reasonable cost.



In retrospect, timings of some bookings may need to be altered slightly next year to allow for lunch times as some bookings meant that lunch was perhaps too late for some of our children who require 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.

An additional statement will also need to be added to child forms next year to ask whether parents/carers are happy with their child's information being shared with a third party; this is as a result of some activities requiring DOBs and more for their paperwork.

Date	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Monday 25th July	First Day Fun	First Day Fun	First Day Fun
Tuesday 26th July	Brockhill Farm 1030	Wet wheels 1030	Inflate and Play 1045
Wednesday 27th July	Swimming - St Margarets	Canoeing 1130 - 1330	Clip and Climb 1055
Thursday 28th July	Wingham Wildlife Park	smArt 1000	Free Day
Friday 29th July	Inflate and Play 1045	Swimming - St Margarets	Wet wheels 1030
Monday 1st August	Clip and Climb 1055	Tobogganing 1100	Wingham Wildlife Park
Tuesday 2nd August	smArt 1000	Inflate and Play 1045	Brockhill Farm 1030
Wednesday 3rd August	Wet wheels 1030	Wingham Wildlife Park	Canoeing 1045 - 1245
Thursday 4th August	Bowling 1100	Marsh Maze	smArt 1000
Friday 5th August	Marsh Maze	Free Day	Bowling 1100
Monday 6th August	Port Lympne	Clip and Climb 1055	Tobogganing 1100
Tuesday 9th August	Free Day	Bowling 1100	Swimming - St Margarets
Wednesday 10th August	Canoeing 1045 - 1245	Brockhill Farm 1030	Port Lympne
Thursday 11th August	Tobogganing 1100	Port Lympne	Marsh Maze
Friday 12th 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.

Our biggest disappointment this year was the lack of funding support from KCC despite parents writing to KCC to support the application it was still unsuccessful although we are one of the only charities providing the specific support which we do. See appendix 1 to read some of the emails sent by parents/carers to KCC in support of the scheme.

Parents pay £30 per day for their child to attend the scheme which seems a reasonable cost and created an income of just under £14,000 this year

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

We share some of the costs of the scheme with the parents/carers and encourage them to support with fundraising if they can. One of our ex-staff members completed a 24 hour treadmill walkathon during the scheme and raised in excess of £2000.

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

Annabel Thompson – Treasurer

Anna Ladd – 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 18/47 questionnaires back this year

Where did you hear about Pegasus?

Through a friend

From a parent at my daughter's school

Used service before

Google Search

From another parent

Through Early Birds course at Whitfield and Aspen School

Someone who volunteered many years ago

Social worker

Word of mouth



Volunteered when I was a teenager (1992-1993)

He has been attending for 12 years

Friend

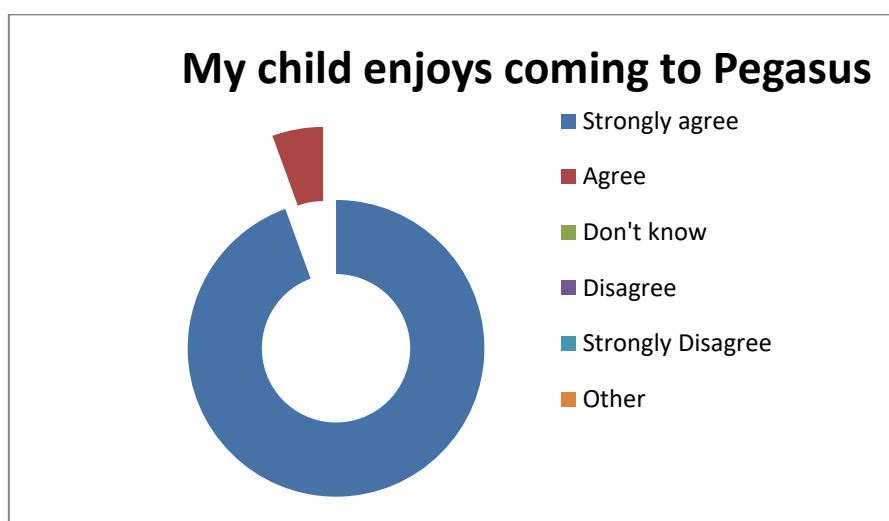
From Sarah Slingsby – she recognised the child with me and that I had had a previous foster child who had used the scheme.

Whitfield aspen

My brother used to go

My child enjoys coming to Pegasus:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
94.4%	5.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%



Additional comments:

Excellent is an understatement

My son loves attending, main aspect of summer holidays.

It's one thing he talks about all year

Totally loves it, so excited each day

He counts down all year to the next one

My boy absolutely loves Pegasus

Very happy and excited to attend

He loves it.

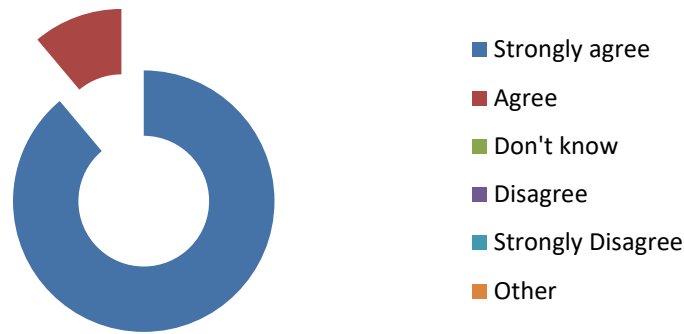
It's the highlight of her summer

He struggles with new situations and people so has some anxiety around this but at the end of each day he says he's enjoyed himself.

I know my child is safe at Pegasus:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
88.9%	11.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%

I know my child is safe at Pegasus



Additional comments:

I have no worries at all about leaving him there

A brilliant team

Believe all safety measures are taken

It is hard to leave your child and be 100% confident but I would say I am 90% sure he will be fine

I've never had any concerns in the past 12 years

So much confidence in all staff to really look after my children

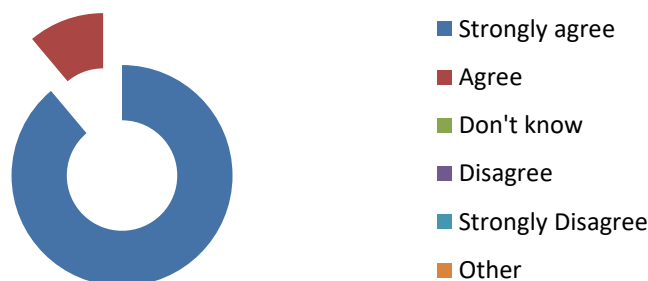
The 1:1 throughout the day is fantastic

The organisation at Pegasus is outstanding

I am happy with the range of activities offered:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
88.9%	11.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%

I am happy with the range of activities offered



Additional comments:

Fantastic activities

Amazing range on offer

Great challenges for the children

No parent or carer could offer their child the varied activities you do

It would be nice to do a few more different things from the previous year

Fantastic range of activities, something different every day

Fantastic experiences.

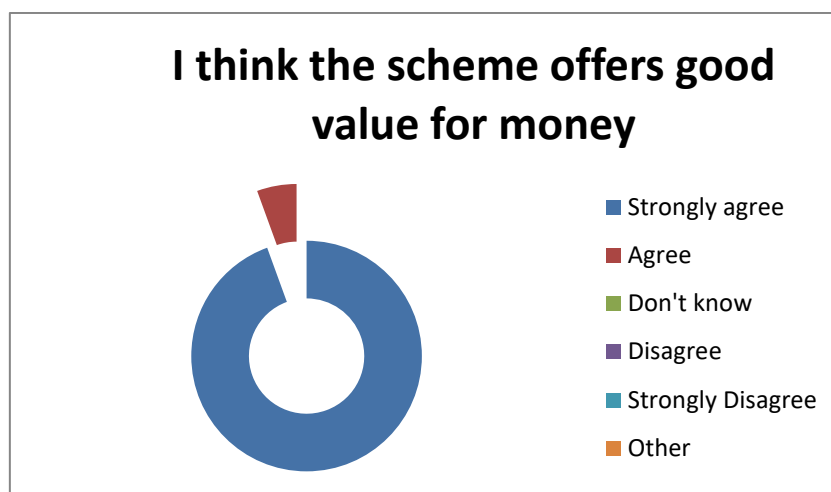
Never boring and appropriate for the needs of the children

Our daughter is totally engaged and excited at the start of each day

*** would like to do dodgeball and Nerf activities too.

I think the scheme offers good value for money:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
94.4%	5.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%



Additional comments:

Amazing playscheme with so many amazing experiences.

Worth every penny for their enjoyment and the experience they get.

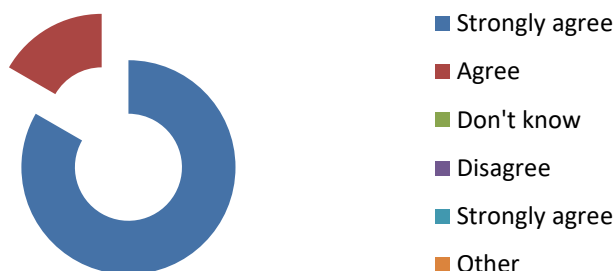
With activities and childcare for 6 hours of the day, good value.

Yes as it provides such variety.

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
83.3%	16.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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



Additional comments:

Very well structured



Informative emails and positive presence on social media

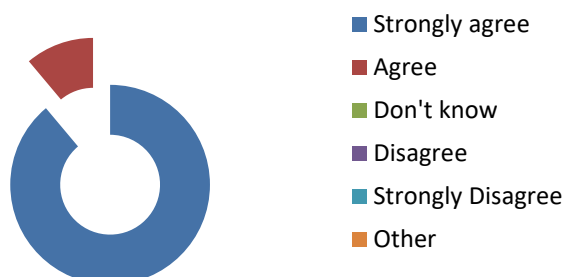
Nothing is too much trouble and any enquiries dealt with promptly

Everything runs so smoothly.

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
88.9%	11.1%	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:

Totally!

Great people creating the team

Buddy system is such a positive experience for all.

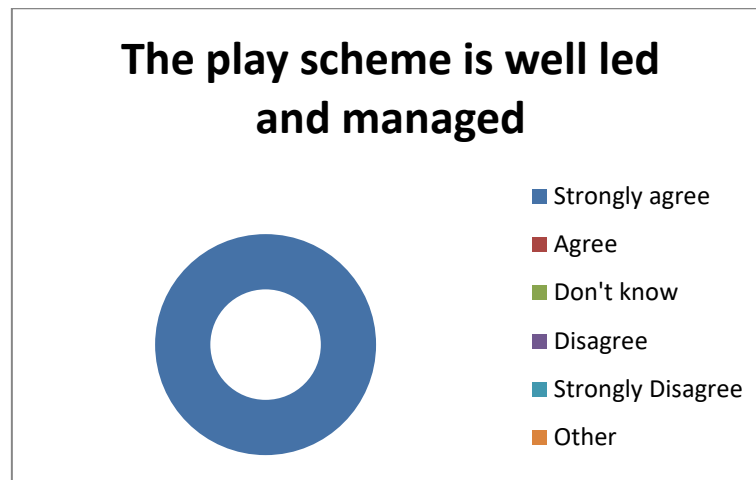
Never had any concerns

Amazing bunch of people

Constant supervision which he needs

The play scheme is managed and led effectively:

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
100.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

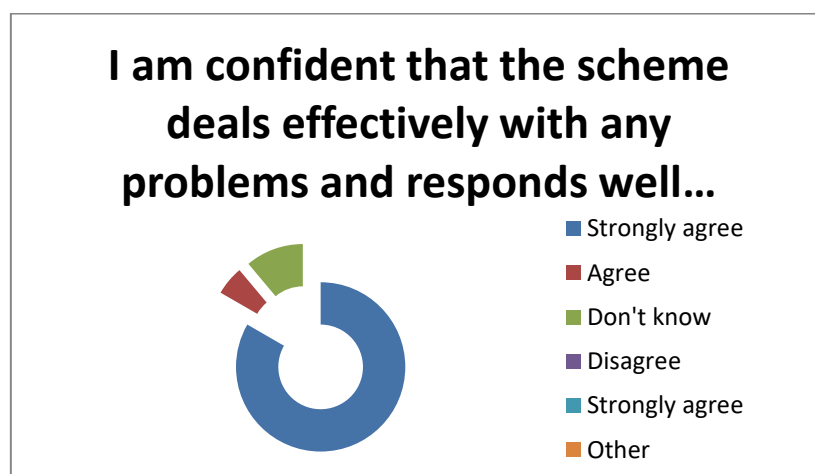


Additional comments:

☺ Gold star needed for all!
 Very organised and well run
 Couldn't fault it

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
83.3%	5.6%	11.1%	0%	0%	0%



Additional comments:

I have trust in this.

Never had any issues

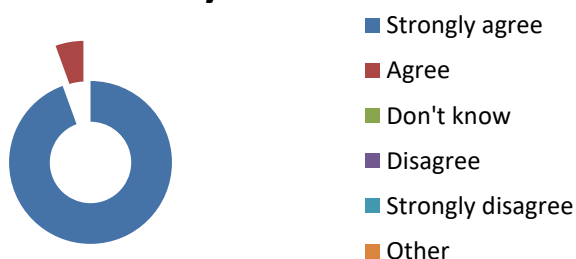
I haven't needed to find this out as yet (fortunately)

I've never had any issues but feel confident scheme would deal effectively with any concerns raised.

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
94.4%	5.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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

**Additional comments:**

Excellent role model for our children a good life experience for the buddy's

I know that there are buddies but we don't find out much about them and they change daily. My son just gives me the feedback of the day being "good" or "fun"

Fantastic opportunity for local teenagers to experience having fun with children and young adults with learning disabilities.

*** loves each and every one who listens to him and makes him feel special.

Please tell us anything you think is particularly good about Pegasus Play scheme or any suggestions or improvements that you would like to see:

- I just wanted to drop a line and say that the playscheme is amazing ... is completely enjoying it. I'd just like to give a mention to ... (group leader GL). ... struggles at times to connect with people but she has taken to GL so well and In fact she was quite nervous about wet wheels tomorrow and said she wasn't sure about it until GL told her he would make sure she was on his boat. The smile on her face was lovely so please pass on my appreciation to him. Especially for Quex park today. She loved it.
- Thank you so much for Wednesday, ... really had a fantastic time and now keeps saying 'new club Pegasus fun' He's looking forward to next week doing 2 days. A huge Thank you to the young lady that looked after him. We were a bit nervous

when picking him up as he can be a bit testing with new people so we weren't sure how he would act but the young lady said he had been great. Do you take any pictures during the days as would be nice to have some to put in his holiday scrapbook. Thanks again

Child coordinator replied to say that all children receive a photo memento.

- The time, the energy, the experience all given by all staff for our children is so valuable. All of the above are a life experience that is so important for our children.
- Pegasus offers some independence for my son who otherwise would be with his family 24/7. He gets the opportunities with Pegasus not afforded to family life. He has grown in confidence and accepts challenges he wouldn't with his family. Amazing playscheme.
- The whole structure in what you deliver to the children is second to none, a real support to many SEN families. A great asset to the local community and creating special memories for our children.
- ... has a wonderful time and we are thankful for it as the holiday is very long and this helps keep her entertained.
- My son really looks forward to attending Pegasus each year because of all the different activities but mainly to make new friends and meet up again with old friends. He also enjoys the independence. Time for himself away from the family.
- Pegasus is the best! My boy absolutely loves coming every day – Thank you.
- 100% lovely playscheme – we look forward to this every year.
- Pegasus goes beyond inclusion as it forges community bonds: because it runs for 3 whole weeks the young people can get to know each other and make lasting, genuine friendships, it's fantastic and unique!
- My son loves coming to Pegasus he meets new people and he loves the activities.
- The scheme is well organised and the children who attend really enjoy themselves. My son first attended 2021 and couldn't wait to go this summer – he's been talking about it all year. ☺
- As a family we would struggle without Pegasus play scheme being available. I can relax knowing my son is being given opportunities to have fun, socialise with his peers and other able bodied teenagers. A positive community project which benefits so many.

- As a mum of 2 severely disabled children Pegasus really does provide a lifeline for the long summer holidays. My kids have experiences here that I would be unable to let them do with me. I would really struggle to manage the holidays without Pegasus, my son can be particularly challenging and the staff manage him amazingly.
- As stated earlier I cannot fault this scheme. This is the second foster child we have had that uses the scheme. He loves being busy all the time and over the summer this is hard to maintain. Pegasus gives him the chance to be himself, in an environment that is caring and non-judgemental. Not having this available it would mean he would have to go into respite to give us a break – this is not ideal for him as he needs stability of coming home daily. The scheme bridges that gap supporting him, us and social services.
- It is lovely to hear how *** is getting on each day – a few more details in the comms book would mean that we can prompt her communications when she gets home. Otherwise a fantastic scheme that needs funding and recognition from our government.

APPENDIX 1

Following KCC's refusal to fund or even part fund the scheme this year, parents were encouraged to send an email to them to express their need for the scheme and what it means to them as parents/carers – here are some of their emails below:

Email 1

"Dear Ms Bowden.

I felt compelled to contact you after discovering today that Kent County Council recently have refused Pegasus play scheme what was a regular grant. A grant that has helped Pegasus provide this absolutely essential service for decades. I am extremely saddened to hear that without this funding they may have no choice but to cease operations.

In my teenage years (thirty years ago now) I was a volunteer helper for Pegasus. This gave me a great insight into caring for disabled children. For the youngsters that volunteer now, Pegasus are inadvertently creating are another generation of caring people who will advocate total inclusion for disabled people.

My experience with Pegasus put me in good stead in dealing with my oldest child who is severely autistic and now an adult.

I have seven children in total and including my oldest, three are autistic. Obviously one being my adult daughter and two boys age 6 and 9. *** age 9 first attended Pegasus last summer. He absolutely loved it and has been talking about his time there ever since. He is extremely excited about going again this summer.

He got to visit lots of different places and really enjoyed meeting new people and making lots of friends.

I felt totally at ease sending him as I knew this was a very long standing charity and the staff that runs it are very experienced and they love what they do. They make a huge

difference to children's lives and it gives these children something to really look forward to in what would be an extremely long six weeks. Not just a long six weeks for the children but also for their parents/carers. Having this available for their children is also an essential form of respite for many.

I have been recently searching locally for any other sorts of play schemes for SEN children for my 6 year old severely autistic son and there doesn't appear to be anything at all. I have even asked his school's FLO if there's anything and the only thing she could find was Pegasus (unfortunately he is still too young to attend). But this proves my point to how essential it is that Pegasus continues to run.

There isn't anything else that even comes close. The funding KCC has provided in the past has ensured that Pegasus has continued. I know that Sue Clark works tirelessly to fund raise for this charity but I fear there is no way she would be able to meet the shortfall that KCC can provide. I request the decision to refuse the grant be reconsidered. I also feel that if Pegasus had to fold then in the long run it will cost KCC more as parents are likely to apply for PA funding so they can arrange respite which I think would exceed a one off grant.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you take my points on board.

Kind regards.

Email number 2

Dear Nicola and the Disabled Children's Team,

Re: The non-renewal of a grant for Pegasus Play scheme, Dover.

I am writing to ask you to rethink your decision to not fund Pegasus Play scheme with a KCC grant.

Pegasus Play scheme is a lifeline for so many parents over the summer holidays. There is nothing else like it locally that gives a reliable block of childcare with trusted volunteers. The local offer is very patchy for parents of disabled children, if they can secure any childcare at all, it offers a day or two of respite at best and the summer holidays are long and difficult for families of children with additional needs.

In these tough times, where the cost of living for disabled families is rising quicker due to all the unseen costs we bear, we are under pressure like never before and to have a respite and give our children the opportunity to take part in activities with their peers is a massive boost and allows parents to continue to work and have a rest from their round the clock care duties as well as carer siblings having a chance for more parental attention and respite from their care duties.

Please rethink your decision; it will make a massive difference for families across this part of Kent.

Yours sincerely,

Email 3

Dear Ms Bowden,

We understand from the Pegasus Play scheme committee that Kent County Council has declined to provide a grant this year to support the running of this invaluable summer scheme. We are contacting you to ask you to reconsider this decision urgently.

Whilst the long summer holidays are a challenge for working parents of children in education generally, for those of us who work and are coping with disability in its many forms and its considerable impact on family life, that challenge is significantly amplified. The Pegasus Play scheme provides much needed support for both disabled children and their parents and also has the inspirational idea of involving local non-disabled young adult helpers in an integrated way in the scheme. The engagement, support and care provided by both the scheme's adult and young adult helpers is truly inspirational and goes a long way in helping to develop a deeper understanding of children with disability and their needs in a fun environment. The volunteers that run Pegasus do so because they know the difference it makes.

Our daughter so looks forward to attending Pegasus, talking about it and what it means to her months before the summer. She would be absolutely devastated if it was not able to go ahead due to funding shortfall related issues. Our daughter has already been let down by KCC over her educational transport arrangements during the past year, so this would be a cruel double blow.

We also understand from the committee that one of the reasons given for KCC not making a grant is that there are supposed to be other places doing what Pegasus does. We are not aware of any other organisation or charity offering what Pegasus does in East Kent.

Those of us who use the scheme, and recognise the invaluable work it does, try to fund raise as much as we can, but the size of the undertaking by the committee is such that decisions like yours not to provide a grant are significant and detrimental. The scheme is run by volunteers who understand the difference it makes to us and our children. For KCC to consider this a scheme not worth supporting is reprehensible.

Please reconsider your decision.

Yours faithfully,

Email 4

Dear Sir or Madam,

I want to express to you what Pegasus Play scheme has meant to my son, ***, over the last 9 years and what it means to our wider community.

It has been a vital element in the development of ***'s **sense of self** and **belonging in the Community**.

It has avoided the great difficulty of **loneliness** outside of the academic year, an established issue for young people with disabilities as I'm sure you are aware, and has therefore been a vital element in his continued positive **state of mind**.

As the scheme runs for a good portion of the summer break he has made **meaningful friendships** and has been **supported into adulthood** through the Youth arm of the scheme. Even when it couldn't run during lockdown, the proactive, volunteer team collated and

delivered activity bags, and ran zoom discos and quizzes, thereby providing a very important service during the **long school closures**.

From the moment the scheme finishes **** asks, "When is it time for Pegasus again." This is a scheme that works.

But it serves the wider community too by engaging 45 young volunteers to "buddy" the participants 1 to 1, ensuring safety and full participation, and giving those terrific young volunteers valuable **work experience** to add to their CV's and, for some, help in deciding their future career path...

Sue Clark and her entire family have worked so hard over a protracted number of years to keep delivering the scheme and the parents do what they can to support with fund raising.

Pegasus goes **beyond inclusion** by knitting together a community of variously able young people. This is an important local scheme, run by local people spending money in the local economy. Please reconsider the decision not to help with Pegasus' funding this year, if the scheme fails it will detrimentally affect 45 young people with disabilities and their families, plus 45 buddies who will lose the chance to contribute to their own community in a much needed way.

Yours Sincerely,

Email 5

Dear

I was very disappointed to learn that the Pegasus play scheme has not been granted funding this year. I am a foster carer and over the years have worked with several children who have gone to the scheme, and this has benefitted them in many ways.

For one of my children, he did not have any friends at school or outside of it, he was never invited to birthday parties, sleepovers - due to his needs he was unable to have a 'normal' teenage experience. However, every summer for 4 years he would go to Pegasus and meet new people and feel part of a group. He got to try activities and other things that he never would have otherwise. Due to his needs, other play schemes were not suitable - people did not understand, he needed constant supervision and help - and above all, understanding that he was a little different and to be able to express himself without judgement. I am so grateful to Pegasus for being able to support him with this and at the end of every summer programme; they would take a group photo which lived on the mantelpiece until the next year.

I have signed up my current child for this summer's programme - they have similar needs, and have trouble socialising and making friends. I was looking ahead and hoping that by starting Pegasus he would be able to have a safe space in order to learn about socialising as a teenager, but in an environment where his needs were understood and catered for. I had hoped that he would be able to join year on year and begin to build himself some solid friendships.

I hope that it is possible to revisit looking at funds for Pegasus Play scheme as this is a

valuable resource for disabled teens - it's something unlike anything else in the area and sorely needed.

Many thanks,

**** (therapeutic foster carer)

Sadly, despite an appeal and the emails sent above the decision was not revoked and we did not receive any KCC funding this summer.