



# The DASH Club

## Annual Report 2013 – 2014



'Working in Partnership with the Concrete Garden this beautiful art work was created by the young people of the DASH Club working under the tutelage of Pearl Kinnear Art Specialist.'



# The DASH CLUB

**Our Motto:** - We aim to make a difference

**Our Mission:** - To promote the physical and mental health of young people with additional support needs by the provision of sport, cultural and leisure activities.



This report was produced in April 2014 and covers the financial period from April 2013 – March 2014

## Content

- 1. The Board .....
- 2. Project Manager.....
- 3. Development Officer.....
- 4. Background.....
- 5. Quality and Standards.....
  - 5.1. Care Inspectorate.....
  - 5.2. SSSC.....
  - 5.3. Training.....
- 6. Achievements.....
  - 6.1. Sport.....
  - 6.2. Music.....
  - 6.3. Drama.....
  - 6.4. Art.....
- 7. The Team.....
- 8. Thanks.....



## 1. The Board

Catherine Chow – Chairperson

Neil Doherty– Vice Chairperson

Isobell Hollis – Treasurer

Heather Reynolds– Secretary

Maureen Owens

Sandra Brown

Caroline Black – Co opted Member

Margaret Mills– Acting Head Teacher Milton School (co opted member)

Peter Graham – Accountant. (co opted member)

## **2. Project Manager's Report**

Rose Hitchon

2013/2014 has been a year of massive changes within the DASH Club. Kathleen Green retired in June 2013 after 11 years of dedicated service as Project Manager and Alex Cuthbert our longest serving staff member left to take a post at Glasgow University; we will miss them both but wish them every success in their new ventures. This leads me on to congratulate Brian Potts our new Development Officer. Brian took up post in August and is doing a fantastic job bringing us up to date with all the latest technology. Welcome aboard Brian you have joined at a very exciting time.

If an organisation is to survive it needs to remain relevant and move with the times. We continue to offer a programme of health promoting and cultural activities to the young people of Milton School but this year we have taken the first steps to enable us to extend our provision beyond our present client group. The Board are keen that the service we offer should be extended to include P7's during their transition year and 18 – 25 year olds to include former pupils. We are presently working on the legal requirements for this extension of service and hope in the near future to be in a position to seek funding for this new exciting venture.

Milton School has just completed a lengthy consultation into the merger of Milton School with Ashcraig School in the east end of Glasgow. The merger is to go ahead and extensive refurbishment of Ashcraig has been agreed with the proposed move taking place in January 2015. How this will affect the Club has yet to be determined; we have been in touch with both Glasgow Education Services and the Head Teacher of Ashcraig School and have been assured that we will continue to be a partner in the new set up. Successful partnership working is very important to any organisation and the DASH Club has strengthened its relationship with its partners over the year. Particularly I would like to mention North Area Transport Association (NATA), the Concrete Garden, New Rhythms for Glasgow, Glasgow Life, Glasgow CAN and Jobs and Business Glasgow.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of our dedicated team who have made this Club the success it is. I would like to say a big Thank you to all the team, to our funders, to our partners, and to our young people and parents: 2014/2015 is going to be a great year.

## **3. Development Officer's Report**

Brian Potts

Since taking over the role in August as development officer I have been supported by the board of directors, club staff and parents. I would especially like to thank Rose who has not only supported and guided me through my first year in the job but has also taught me so much about how the club is ran in a professional and dedicated manner.

Over the course of the last year the club has been able to expand the range of activities we offer to club members. The 'Out There' Programme has started which has allowed the club to attend weekend sporting fixtures and the return of the Spring Programme which was a great success.

The club has continued to run a varied programme throughout the year and we have been able to add not only an animation project but also work on the nationally recognised Discover Arts Awards.

The DASH Club has moved into social media with the creation of a Facebook page, this allows our club members, families, friends and supporters of the club a chance to follow club news and view pictures from club events.

#### **4. Background**

The DASH Club, previously known as Milton Kids DASH Club was founded in 1999 to give the young people of Milton School – a school for young people (11-18yrs) with complex needs the opportunity to access a programme of initiatives designed to develop them both physically and culturally. The legal status of the Club changed in 2010 when it became a company limited by guarantee. The new company changed name to the DASH Club and began trading on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The aims of the Club however remained the same i.e. to promote health, well being, social skills and self confidence. With the support of trained staff our young people are encouraged to choose and participate in a range of activities calculated to maximize their potential whilst allowing them to have fun.

#### **5. Quality and Standards**

The DASH Club are very proud of their achievements over the years and has gained a reputation for good practice. We are committed to providing a service which allows our young people to have fun with their friends in a safe and caring environment

##### **5.1. Care Inspectorate**

The Club is registered with Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) everyday name “Care Inspectorate” formally the Care Commission and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)

In February 2013 the Care Commission carried out an unannounced inspection. The grades awarded by the inspectorate were:-

Date	Quality of Care and Support	Quality of Environment	Quality of Staffing	Quality of Management/Leadership
23 Feb 2013	5 - Very Good (I)	5 - Very Good (I)	5 –Very Good	4 – Very Good (I)

The report can be viewed on line.

##### **5.2. SSSC**

The DASH Club is registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). All promoted staff have completed registration and are looking towards gaining the required qualifications to satisfy the requirements of the SSSC. Application packs have been handed out to all support staff in line with the Statutory Regulations regarding the phased programme of compulsory registration of key groups – the DASH Club, registered with the Care Inspectorate under day care for children, falls into this category.

##### **5.3. Training**

A trained workforce is crucial for the safety, development and success of any organization and we at the Club have a strong commitment to both on and off the job training.

All staff receive training in Child Protection, First Aid, Moving and Handling, Autism Awareness and the theory aspect of Escort Awareness. Experienced staff are trained in Crisis and Aggression Limitation Management (CALM) and are re accredited every year.

## 6. Achievements

The Club aims to provide a safe environment in which our young people are encouraged to take part in a range of activities that may sometimes challenge them but will ultimately enable them to achieve their full potential.

### 6.1.Sport

Health promotion is an important part of our ethos. We offer a variety of activities including swimming, athletics, games, dance and health fitness. We have a designated session of 10 pin bowling. Under the auspices of trained coaches we encourage our young people to stay as fit as possible whilst having fun. We have introduced boccia as a core activity in the hope that we can form a team(s) with the aim of a Club league and the possibility of challenging other clubs to a match.



### 6.2.Music

Music appeals to all ages and abilities.

Our young people take part in workshops organized by New Rhythms for Glasgow (nrfg) a community project that offers specialist music workshops for all ages. Our young people are encouraged to express themselves through music using a variety of equipment including keyboards, percussion instruments and computerized equipment which, with very limited movement, produces a variety of sounds.

### 6.3.Drama

Research shows that drama has a positive effect on the physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development of young people. The drama sessions, under the guidance of qualified drama specialists, allow our young people to join together to use their imagination to create scenarios where, with the help of staff and fellow students, they can enter the magical world of make believe.



We recently took part in a film making project 'projection reflection.' Our young people working with film makers urbancroft films produced a short film- shadowed images behind a screen. The music backing the film was played by Elske Thaden a member of our support team. <https://vimeo.com/82289480>



### 6.4.Art

This year the Club has worked in partnership with 'The Concrete Garden' a local project promoting healthy living in one of the Glasgow's most deprived areas. Working with a very talented art specialist our young people have created works of art using recycled materials.



Four club members also worked alongside two artists from 'Project Ability' to complete the nationally recognised Discover Arts Award.



## 7. The Team

There is no doubt that the DASH Club could not flourish without the dedication and hard work of our staff. Over and above their commitment to our young people they have fundraised by running 10K's, jumping out of planes and in June of this year 6 brave souls are competing in 'Tough Mudder' to raise funds.



Our Young people attended a football match at Parkhead – tickets donated by Celtic Football Club

## Web Site

[www.dashclubglasgow.org.uk](http://www.dashclubglasgow.org.uk). Please visit our website. The website is user friendly and easy to navigate, or follow us on Facebook for all the latest news and announcements.

# Thank You

Thank you to all our **financial backers** whose support allowed us to deliver a quality service to the young people of Milton School.

We work in close partnership with the School and wish to express our thanks to Margaret Mills and staff for their assistance in the course of the year.

Our longstanding contract with **NATA** (North Area Transport Association), who provide us with necessary adapted buses, helped to ensure that our young people were transported home safely at the end of Club sessions.

Thanks to all the professional **specialists** and **therapists** who have worked with staff and young people to deliver a service in their areas of expertise. We also wish to extend our thanks to the staff at Barmulloch Community Centre and Possilpoint Community Centre for the welcome they extend to both staff and our young people, on a weekly basis.

**Finally**, thank you to **all our staff** for their hard work, dedication and commitment to maintaining and improving the quality of service to our young people, and to the members of our **Management Board** who give of their time, support and expertise, vital to the existence of the Club.





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