

The logo for DASH club is a purple rectangle with a white border. Inside, the word "DASH" is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the word "club" is written in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

DASH club



Annual and Financial Report 2015 - 2016

©AR

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.

Main Achievements 2015-16



Arts Awards

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Minibus Fundraising

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Successful School Merge

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Holiday Programmes

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Over's Programme

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Music Therapy

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Bowling

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This report was produced in April 2016 and covers the financial period from April 2015 – March 2016.

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The Board

Catherine Chow - chair

Patricia Graham - vice chair

Isobell Hollis - treasurer

Heather Reynolds - secretary

Maureen Owens - board member

Kelly Mitchell - board member

Brian Potts - board member

Jacqueline Wright - board member

Kathleen Green - co-opted board member

Rose Hitchon - co-opted board member

Project Manager

Although new to this post, I can see what a great job the Club has done over the last year. It has been successful in supporting 42 young people in accessing after school activities, an increase of 17% from the previous year's 35. The 12-18 year olds attended more than one afterschool activity per week and our new 18+ programme ran regularly every Tuesday night. We offered a choice of activities within the school term and topped this up with additional holiday programmes. Without the Club, this group of young people would not have had the opportunity to socialise in a safe environment, to increase their self-esteem and confidence and to try new things from a range of cultural, art and sport activities and games, all of which were tailor-made to allow them to maximise their potential. Our Club has successfully broken down some of the barriers that young people, with additional support needs, face every day. The stable numbers and regular attendance suggests that The Club is being enjoyed and valued by its young people. My hope is that The Club keeps up the good work – a task that would be impossible without the dedication of the staff and the continued support of our partners.

Eva Kourova Project Manager (covering for Melissa Chan presently on maternity leave)

Development Officer

Over the last year there have been many challenges for The DASH Club to overcome- but overcome them we did. To kick-start the new financial year we ran a very successful Spring programme for 22 young people. The feedback from all involved was very positive. We continued our weekly sessions in our usual fashion knowing that the young people and The DASH Club had a big transition with the approaching school merger. Everyone kept upbeat and supportive as this challenge approached. Glasgow City Council (GCC) asked for The DASH Club's support in facilitating a Summer programme that would help new secondary school pupils in transition. We ran a successful 6-day programme for 23 pupils, 5 of whom joined us for the first time from Ashton school. A member of the health & well-being staff team at Ashton School joined us; this proved invaluable for the newcomers who had never been involved with DASH before. It was a great success and greatly appreciated from all involved, especially our newcomers. This shows that we have a friendly, welcoming staff that made everyone feel safe and happy.

It was a difficult time for the Club after the merger of Milton & Ashcraig schools, due to a very complicated transport strategy which meant that GCC could not replicate the drop offs from school to Club as they had done before the merger. This proved a big challenge for DASH and resulted in the decision to move part of our services to the new Ashton school. It has worked out very well in terms of the facilities on offer but now that all sessions are running smoothly, our next step is to look at trying to get back into the community.

I would like to thank the Board, my project managers and DASH team for their continued guidance and support. They have helped keep me focused on the continued development

and organization of the programme, supporting our members to excel and enjoy all they do during their time at The DASH Club.

Sean Stirling

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 30th 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.

Quality and Standards:

The DASH Club is very proud of its 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

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). Our last unannounced inspection carried out on 3rd March 2015 awarded us high standard points: Quality of Service (5, Very Good), Quality of Environment (5, Very Good), Quality of Staffing (5, Very Good), Quality of Management & Leadership (5, Very Good). The report can be viewed online.

SSSC: The DASH Club is registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). All promoted staff has completed registration and are looking towards gaining the required qualifications to satisfy the requirements of the SSSC. In addition, registration of all support staff has been carried out 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.

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

Achievements

Sport

Last year we provided an opportunity for young people to improve their physical fitness through a range of sport activities; those activities included swimming sessions and a variety of team and individual sport activities. The Club has been successful with



those as the target was **exceeded by 17%** (42 young people took part and original target was 35). Our

swimming sessions have been an ongoing success throughout the year with average 10 young people enjoying swimming every week. Apart from swimming, the Club provided **35 weeks of football, basketball, curling, rugby and softball with 2 new sports added to our list.** This way the young

people's options **grew from a choice of 4 to 6** and they got to **try something new.** This had a positive impact not only on their health but also on their sense of achievement and independence. The activities were enjoyed by on average 10-12 young people every week. Additionally, **75% of our young people took part in at least one sport activity** which encourages lasting positive effect on their health and well-being.



We also provided an opportunity to the young people to improve their health and well-being through 10 pin-bowling, aroma-therapy and variety of team and individual games such as darts and other target games. Those were enjoyed by a smaller number of young people per session – on average 8. The most popular activity here was 10 pin bowling at Springfield Quay. The sessions were at busy time allowing young people the opportunity to socialize with general public.



Art

We provided an opportunity to the young people to benefit from a variety of art activities that allowed for their potential to be discovered and their well-being improved. We delivered a choice of art activities to the young people twice a week in the last year through partnership working with Pearl Kinnear from **Concrete Gardens** who tailor-made sessions particular to our young people. These workshops were attended by on average 10 young people per session. All of our young people took part in at least one art activity of their choice last year. The art sessions are extremely good for the improvement of the young people's communication skills and for their achievement of self-expression which helps to portray their personality and achieve their autonomy and independence.

Our biggest achievement was participation of the children in **Art Awards** facilitated by partnership working with **Project Ability.** Last year we supported **5 young people** to complete **Discover Arts Award** which runs for 7 weeks and **9 young people** to complete

Explore Arts Awards (last for due to finish April 2016). Through Arts Award young people gain a **nationally recognised qualification** enabling them to progress into further education and employment. Arts Award has five levels, four of which (Explore, Bronze, Silver, Gold) are on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). From the feedback we have received from parents we can confirm that the introduction of these awards has made a massive difference to the young people involved reinforcing their sense of achievement and pride. It is therefore planned to source additional funding to enable us to continue with these awards.



Music

Our young people love music and one of our **biggest achievements this year was establishing** partnership work with Drake Music, which trained one of our members of staff in delivering their interactive music sessions. We are very excited about this and very much look forward to delivering the music sessions to our young people from 2016 onwards!



Drama

Our drama sessions, as usual, were very popular thanks to our lovely **Karen Docherty** and others that contributed to the delivery of our regular drama sessions and helped to make

them accessible to any of our young people.

Our aim in drama is to enable young people to discover their talents and express themselves freely using informal drama learning techniques such as play, games and role play- encouraging everyone to get actively involved.



Aromatherapy

Over the years we have had a long-term working partnership with Jean Morrison of 'The Ripple Effect'. Jean provides some much needed relaxation, stress relief and massage for our members and they love it. Her use of oils, music and soft lighting create a very relaxing atmosphere, so much so, that even the staff jokingly ask "can I have a turn?"!



Minibus Fundraising

The Club also held a very successful fund-raising event which we called Cash for DASH. We were overwhelmed by the donation of over £1600 – money that goes towards The Club's new mini-bus purchase. A minibus will give us a chance to take our young people for trips and so help them discover new places and see new things. We now have secured all the money that we needed to be able to accomplish this mission and we can't wait to start using our new minibus in 2016! Watch the space!



Successful School Merge

The Club for a while was negatively affected by the planned school merging of Milton and Ashcraig Schools to form Ashton School. It was unclear as to how transport to and from sessions would be managed; transport costs add substantially to our yearly expenditure but is seen as a vital part of our service allowing all too needed respite time for parents/carers to deal with other family members. After a series of negotiations, we settled with part of our programme being delivered in Ashton School – a decision that brought about many positives, but also meant that our social inclusion strategy i.e. having all our sessions in community venues was affected. However, we are forever smiling and enjoying the safe and accommodating environment of the school and plan to increase our presence in public venues through alternative ways. So, let's see what 2016 brings!



Our Team

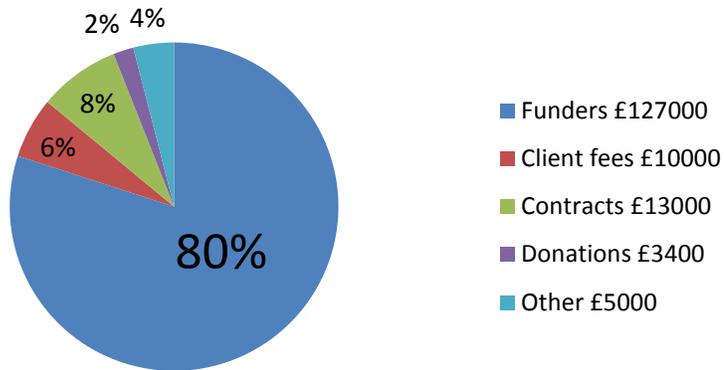
Our staff are trained in all relevant issues surrounding vulnerable people and people with disabilities. We also sponsor staff to develop professionally in specific fields of project activities such as music therapy and swimming so that The Club need not employ external individuals/organisations to deliver sessions. This benefits the Club both financially and adds to our staff development plan. MIDAS training has also been successfully completed by 2 of our senior staff members. This will enable them to drive our new mini bus and reduce our transport costs.

Since many of our young people find any little change in their routines difficult we especially value the consistency of our staff team; 85% of our staff have been with us for more than 2 years. This creates a safe and relaxing environment for the young people. This is something we treasure and wish to retain. There is no doubt that the DASH Club could not flourish without the dedication and hard work of our staff. Their commitment to our young people and their spontaneous fundraising activities make our team SPECIAL...

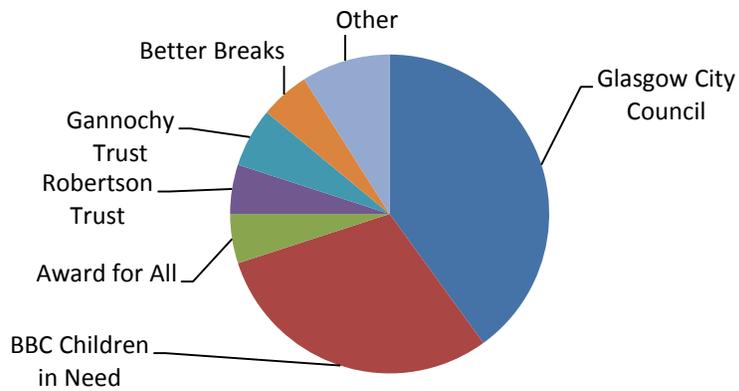


Finances

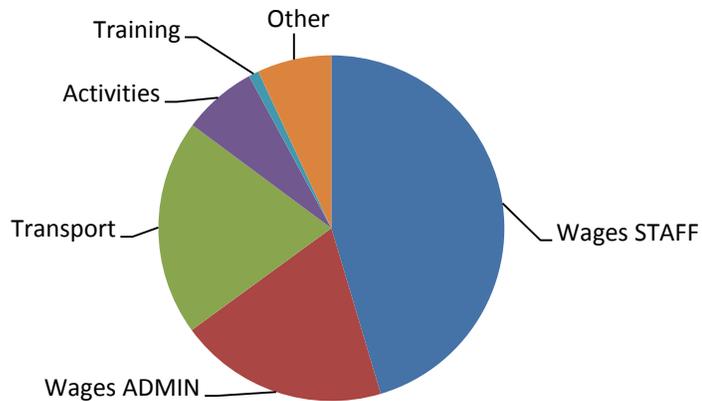
The DASH Club Income



Funders Income Break Down



The DASH Club Expenditure



Thank you!

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

*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**- **Concrete Gardens**, **Project Ability** and **Karen Doherty** and our Massage **therapist**, **Jean Morrison**, 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 **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.*



Web Site and Social Media

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.



Dash Club Activities 2015: Including Art Awards, games, social outings, aromatherapy, residential and others.