Summer Holiday Adventures

The six week summer holiday saw us running a variety of sessions and activities covering sport, past times, art, cookery and lots more! Thanks to us receiving a generous donation, we were able to arrange for 16 young people, with 15 supporting staff and volunteers, to spend five days in Coniston with the Brathay Trust on an outward bound residential course. Our trips to Brathay are always extremely popular with our young people and this time was no exception. Our young people were presented with lots of opportunities which allowed them to push themselves beyond their usual mental and physical comfort zones. The young people supported each other through individual and group tasks and thoroughly embraced the “have a go” attitude which is needed to get the most out of this fantastic experience. We would like to express our sincere thanks to our donors for allowing us to provide this amazing opportunity.

Hiking through the hills of Coniston on the way to another exciting activity

Discovering a head for heights on the climbing wall

Get down and boogie!

Our Time 4 Us group (for our 14+ year old young people), inspired by the fantastic space that the Kensington Mews now gives us, asked if we could host a disco night for them. Thanks to the money raised by the car wash fundraising event held in May, the group were able to enjoy a disco on 1st July, including food and a DJ! It was a fantastic night and the group are looking forward to doing it all again in the future!
Aspired Futures Team News

In September we welcomed Adele to the team as Lead Sessional Worker, Adele has joined us from Blackpool Sixth Form College and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience.

In October we welcomed Shane and Marjorie to the team, Shane is a fully qualified teacher who will lead our pilot Happy 2 Learn project which is being run in conjunction with Heyhouses Primary School in Lytham St Annes. Marjorie has been a volunteer with Aspired Futures for several years and will now also support Shane with the Happy 2 Learn project as a member of staff.

Getting Creative

Our children and young people have had some fantastic opportunities to develop their creativity and artistic flair:

- In August, Pasha from the Grand Theatre, in conjunction with the Grundy Art Gallery invited a group of our young people to take part in a two day workshop which had a Felix the Cat theme. This was a really great opportunity to develop art and craft skills and experience an insight into the art and theatre world. Our results were pretty amazing too!
- On 17th September, our Drama group took to the stage on Thursday evening and performed “Alice and the Rhyming Cat” to a fantastic audience at St Michael’s on Wyre C of E Primary School. The play which was written, directed and produced by Mike Brabin was a fusion of Alice in Wonderland and the Wizard of Oz. It was a great performance, well done to everyone involved!
- During the October half term holiday, Pasha once again invited a group of our young people to take part in a three day workshop. Day One began with a presentation from Costume and Set Designer, Irene Jade, the group then set about designing costumes for fairy tale characters. Day Two was facilitated by an artist who designs and creates props, the group were then encouraged to use their imagination and try out their newly learned skills by creating their own puppets. Day 3 continued the behind the scenes theme with a lesson in applying costume make up led by the team from the Blackpool Tower Dungeon team, our young people demonstrated their new skills and finished the day by watching a fantastic performance of the play Rehearsal for Murder.

This was a fantastic week for our young people who are all keen to pass on their newly learned skills to the rest of the young people, volunteers and staff at Aspired Futures.
Let’s talk money…… securing our financial future

Grant funding bids —

HSBC—a grant of £20,197.57 to provide state of the art music, sound, lighting and IT access to facilitate a variety of activities and events at our centre including the new Wondertree drama project.

Vera Wolstencroft Charitable Trust for Children and Animals — a capital grant which will allow us to create a well being den.

Gerald Richardson Trust—the bid for this grant was written by our children and young people who secured £500 to buy cooking and baking equipment.

Rotary which helped to fund the refurbishment of the Rainbow Room

Awards for All —this will fund the Wondertree Drama group held each Saturday afternoon for the next 12 months. (starting in November 2016)

Donation thank yous:-

We want to say a big thank you for donations (both financial and / or goods) received so far this year from:

♦ The Splash Foundation
♦ Nationwide Building Society
♦ Layton Permanent Allotment Association
♦ Napthens
♦ Russell Haldane
♦ St Mary’s Catholic Academy
♦ Personal donations

Fundraising -

(1) EasyFundraising scheme

(2) Ethical giving options—giving everyone the opportunity to support Aspired Futures as a gift to a family member, friend or colleague

If you would like to know more about the above please do give us a call

Additional Thanks to…..

The members of Layton Permanent Allotments who hosted a session for us at the allotments and allowed us to meet the bees, learn about bee keeping and making honey in September. In October, Jackie and Dave donated their giant pumpkin to us which was then dressed for the occasion by the Aspired Futures and Sandcastle Waterpark teams and then displayed at the Sandcastle to raise funds via a “Guess the weight of the pumpkin” competition. A big thank you to everyone involved!

Sponsorship—

This initiative is key to our long-term commitment to children & young people. We have individual and business sponsors making monthly payments which enables us to plan for our future. 100% of money received supports the services we provide. Our new look Sponsorship Pack is now available, this has been designed with input from within the local business community and printed for us by Smiths Hire. If you would like to know more please ring our main office 01253 769755. You could make a life-changing contribution.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 24th November

Thanks to Napthens and Danbro for organising our Christmas market, tickets are still available! This is a great opportunity to pick up some Christmas presents for family and friends.

Tuesday 13th December

From 5.30pm we will be singing Christmas carols and songs at the Blackpool Tesco Extra store (Clifton Retail Park) to raise funds. We’d love to see you there!

Our new website is now live!

Please take a look at www.aspired-futures.com
At Aspired Futures it is incredibly important to us that we provide a wide range of leisure activities to support our therapeutic work. The groups that we run each week are:

**Funtastic** (Tuesday)
Therapeutic play with our most complex children. A member of the Grow Blackpool team visits these sessions monthly and teaches our children and young people gardening skills and how to “Grow Their Own”.

**Learning to Love Learning** (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
Our education sessions run alongside the main sessions on a Tuesday and Wednesday and provide additional support for homework / school projects etc. These sessions are facilitated by Ian, a fully qualified primary school teacher.

**Happy 2 Learn** (Tuesday and Thursday)
A pilot scheme in conjunction with Heyhouses Primary School concentrating on providing educational support, instilling a desire to learn and strengthen the children’s emotional/social skills. Shane, a qualified teacher runs these sessions.

**Let’s Get Active** (Wednesday)
An Athletics based session which runs alongside our Comfy Wednesday sessions.

**Comfy Wednesday** (Wednesday)
This session provides a wide range of non-physical indoor taster activities for all ages to enable the children and young people to identify what they enjoy and are good at. We provide art, play, board games, puzzles, dressing up and will cater for specific requested activities to ensure we engage even the most challenging children. This session also teaches the importance of healthy eating and the group cooks for everyone attending a Wednesday session.

**Create 2 Connect** (Thursday)
An opportunity for our children and young people to express their creativity in a variety of ways, from performing arts to textiles and will also learn life skills including sewing, knitting, upcycling etc.

**Stepping out** (Thursday)
A small group for children aged 10 years and under which will focus on developing self esteem, resilience and social skills. The Happy 2 Learn children also join this session.

**New Beginnings** (Friday)
A small group for newly referred children and young people who are not ready to join the bigger therapeutic Comfy Tuesday and Wednesday groups, enabling the team to get to know their strengths and weaknesses before we integrate the children into our wide variety of other activity opportunities.

**Sportfuntastic** (Saturday)
A variety of different activity stations each week, including an introduction to boxing, circuits, gymnastics etc the choice of activities changes every half term.

**Wondertree Drama Project** (Saturday)
Our Drama group enabling all children and young people, regardless of their confidence or skill to experience performing.

**Horseriding** (Saturday)
A 6 week course for girls aged 11+ to help build self confidence and encourage comfort zones within a safe and encouraging environment.

**Time4You** (monthly)
A group for our young people aged 14+ to help them continue to develop their team working, confidence and social skills. The young people are encouraged to make suggestions and have ideas for session activities.

The activities detailed above are our regular sessions and each supported child / young person attends at least one of these sessions. We are also very fortunate and are given additional opportunities during the school holidays and weekends by supporting organisations which help us to provide a varied programme of experiences and activities.