



Support, Share, Experience: The Chairs Report

Intro

15 years seems a milestone to shout about.... If this was a wedding anniversary we would celebrate with crystal. Crystal being a representation of clarity and transparency. Crystal reflects light and bring radiance. Some look to crystals for magic, energy, love, calm and peace. All qualities found within every corner of Little Hiccups.

As we roll into our fifteenth year we celebrate more of the little hiccups magic with even more people as we have now reached 1000 registered members.

Purpose

AGM always follows in the wake of learning disability week. This years theme was "Do you see me", focusing on people with a learning disability being seen, heard and valued members of society. I really feel we do achieve those goals at Little Hiccups. Even more so in the current health and social care crisis. We are supporting carers to be empowered advocates for our young people with a growing calendar of educational / training events. Our stay and play and many varied family day experiences give young people and their siblings a strong a strong sense of self , a message of equality and accessibility whilst encompassing our #nolimits attitude with some amazing experiences and opportunities. Which I think strongly reflects this years theme set by Mencap for Learning Disability Week.

Achievements of 2023/34

Technology seems to be bigger and better for us this year. Expanding our learning through physical and virtual platforms. Developing our reach by entering into the world of Tik-Tok.

Our focus continues to improve on being diverse in the services we deliver and we are doing this now with the support of our volunteers. With small positive changes.

We are becoming more stable in our sources of funding and fund raising links.

Accessibility is huge on the political and disability activist agenda this year. Follow any disabled content creator to see this. We continue to strive towards being inclusive for all. We now provide detailed accessibility information prior to all of our events. We have the travel pod and stabilo making more opportunity to live life to the fullest.

Our e-commerce runs quietly but successfully.

We were able to send another group of families on a well deserved holiday supported by The Principle Trust.

Our trophy cabinet continues to fill as we were acknowledged with "Charity Excellence Framework Quality Mark".

We continue our strong partnership working with other charities in the city.

Another sign of our ongoing growth is we are now looking at taking on a second paid employee to help run and grow little hiccups.

Finally after a big hiatus we got to celebrate all our achievements with our winter ball in November which was a long time coming. It was fantastic to see all our supporters together again.

Volunteers

We successfully run events with an amazing support team of volunteers. Each bringing their own unique qualities and skills to the team. Look out for them at events as they are a wealth of knowledge.

2024/25: Objectives, Goals and beyond

As mentioned above we are expanding our reach by having a second paid employee. The goal is to be able to run more family events, secure more funding streams and generally grow us bigger and better. To allow opportunity for all our members to meet and take part in our services.

We continue to look at ways of being more sustainable and working with sustainable partners.

We aim to run a variety of family events that meet the wide and varied needs of all the Children that are registered with Little Hiccups. This is challenging as we have so many members now. Whilst still bringing the wow factor we are known for. As a team we are committed to ensuring our family days meet this criteria we have set ourselves.

Conclusion

We are living in challenging times and this does not leave Little Hiccups unmarked. The challenges of the world drive us as a team to want to do more and do what we do bigger and better. Like over confident teens we want to take over the world. We

didn't name our fundraisers conquerors for no reason. We do have to remind ourselves less is more and be grounded in doing what we do and doing it well. Patience is a virtue. Which is not what many teenagers at 15 possess. So with the rough comes the smooth and we continue to sparkle and bring light to many more members in the year we celebrate with crystal "clink clink". Congratulations on another successful year.

Sarah Stewart

Chair Person

Little Hiccups

July 2024