

Support, Share, Experience: The Chairs Report

Intro

Sweet sixteen. Recognised as the bridge between childhood to adulthood.

The first taste of freedom, responsibility and dreams taking place. In a SEND world this period is known as transition, another fearful hurdle. Something thought about way earlier than anticipated “the future”. We are watching many of the original little hiccups members take this transition with bated breath and excitement. It’s also a time of moving on for many of our original members which has caused the Committee and them some tears and sadness. The realisation we do have to say goodbye. Little Hiccups turning 16 shows our staying power; we have grown bigger, better and stronger than we could ever imagine in the early days. Dreams have been made. We really have grown into an established and respected charity.

Purpose

Through the last year we have debated various projects and ideas and as a group we have reined in that eager excitement (like a teen). In reality we can’t do it all even if we think we can. So we really did need to remind ourselves what’s written on the tin. What did Lindsay and Jack set out to do in 2009? AGM is a time to reflect and focus on our core purpose. At 16 we are smashing it; we are consistent and stronger. Our core service works well and is not a formula to be touched. Stay n’ Play and the family events are the glue, the main focus of what we do. We continue to get high numbers in attendance at both. The extras we provide are credit to the team’s hard work and years of learning and development. We don’t learn without taking risks. Thankfully we have not had too many falls. Happy Birthday to us.



Achievements of 2024/25

Another successful year with a few more potential medals in the cabinet. We came close in the 2025 Yorkshire Leadership Awards. It was an honour to receive a nomination and the ceremony was a wonderful event and a chance to showcase our work in a different way. We have also been shortlisted in the National Diversity Awards. The team are going to Liverpool to see if we become winners on the night. Fingers crossed. We have forged a good working relationship with Caballero Lounge holding both parent/carer and family events with them. We have worked with Mary Goodwin to develop the Accessible Mosaic Trail. It has been great seeing people visiting these. We are getting busier behind the scenes and it has been great to get Noel Davies-Attack as a paid member of the team. We have seen another round of Holidays and Physio. The feedback we get really makes it worth it. As stated last year it is a challenge as we grow to provide variety to meet the needs of all our members. Looking back at the events calendar we do seem to have managed this. I am looking forward to some of our summer picnics.

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. Grey tops assemble. They are really holding us together in the busy periods at Stay and Play. Thank you....

2025/26: Objectives, Goals and beyond

The big goal will always be to have our own building. To build a consistent income and sources of funding. To have a pool of Patrons that can be role models to our families. Perhaps we need to focus more on this. We need to use AGM as a chance to focus on our goals and make some action plans.



We continue to succeed with our sustainability goals. As mentioned we do want to be able to provide more family sessions. We have achieved the variety but to add to this would be fantastic.

Conclusion

When I think of teenagers I think of the Grease movie. Despite the actual actors being a lot older. Maybe a little bit like our committee. We are a huge bunch of kids. In Grease the Musical the teenagers are full of energy, change and a search for identity and with the right the support they find their path and thrive. Very much like the path we have found ourselves on as a charity. We have found our allies and direction. We have forged a strong identity in the Charity world. We know what we are doing and continue to keep smashing it.

Sarah Stewart

Chair Person

Little Hiccups

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