

## Chairs Report 2026

I recently joined a local community event for the opening of a local park that brought regeneration to the high street. It was fantastic to forget all the horrors of the world and watch the community come together. Whilst there, I was reading the flags produced by school children. This one really resonated;

*"We need to start working as a collective. If we understand one another we could build something special. A new society..."*

I believe community is the building blocks to society. Give back in your community to create a ripple effect of good for a better society. This strength in the community is needed more than ever as we face such uncertain times with global conflicts, economic crisis and political instability. Here at Hiccups we have not been immune. We have had to look at how we overcome financial deficits whilst growing all of our services, keeping our community strong so we can impact our society. The various models for community development talk about; commitment, collaboration and communication. I feel we may have nailed this within our community over the last year.



## Purpose

In the SEND world the fight for inclusion and advocacy continues if not stronger as to be heard above the global challenges of the last year. It somewhat forced us to bond together stronger at Hiccups as we strive to continue with our core service providing support to families of children with additional needs. We want no family to feel alone. Through small moments at the relaxed events and making memories at our family fun events. These key moments really pinpoint our purpose. Whilst we continue to grow within our other services that scaffold our core purpose such as education, therapies and counselling.

## Achievements

Accessibility is focused across all sectors in tackling equality and inclusion. Our accessibility info for events has been massively well received. Well done Mim - its small changes that make the biggest impact. Another area we have adapted we have grown our stay n play to sessions at TCV Skelton this has add options in our accessibility to come to stay and play. Thus meeting the wider needs of our members. MEMBERS !!!! Yeah all 1500 !!!! GO US....

No big gold medals this year but we have received some fantastic nominations. Dadsland has taken off and is gaining pace. As we see nationally a crisis in men's mental health. This is yet another way we strengthen our community. The Christmas party and the Eid party received huge praise. But we must not deny the impact of our other services from hydro to counselling. Equipment loans which allow families to make true memories. Education sessions that empower families for the challenges of being a SEND parent. In building our network we have also strengthened our engagement and are developing many more working partnerships.



## Volunteers

All of the above is not possible without our volunteers. Even if we did accidentally nearly bump one of them off..... There is a true sense of purpose and commitment from our volunteers. They really do make our community. They pull everything together at events and behind the scenes. Thank you for your continued commitment

## Objectives

Strength within our community. It felt like we had to scale back last year. Even though we have grown our education and work force. We have been skiing and are off sailing in September. We had some grand plans and no clear focus as we entered adulthood. Then the reality of our financial position has made the team take action. We now have a clear business plan. The team has got a solid strategic plan and plans in place for larger corporate partnerships. We have clear direction and many more objectives to add on to the scaffolding services we provide through education, therapy and counselling services. We continue the search for an Illusive Patron. Maybe we should just ask Harry Styles.....

## Conclusion

As the world got a bit scary. We pulled together to strengthen our community. Letting our members know their worth in society through our support and experience and sharing the good, the bad and the ugly. "it takes a village to raise a child".... **Impossible without our team's commitment. Thank you.**

