



Scarf Annual Report 2019

Scarf Committee Members 2019:

Chair—Gary Morgan

Treasurer—Bob Burney

Secretary—Jo Williams

Fundraising Officer—Paula Williams

Trustee—Lynn White

General Committee Members—Jenny Gloady, Debbie Morgan, Kate Reeve and Natalie McNicholas.

What Scarf does

Scarf supports families living in the New Forest who have a child/young person with additional needs through organising regular term-time and holiday activities for the children and their families.

Scarf aims to meet the needs of the disabled child, but also to recognise the impact on the whole family, particularly siblings, who also need fun and support. Parents and carers particularly value the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation and share experiences and gain support.

Term time activities include a **Drama Club**, a **Youth Club** and a Saturday morning **Multi Sports Club**. During each of the school holidays Scarf runs a **Holiday Programme** of fun activities for children/young people with special needs as well as their siblings to take part in. We also run regular **Scarf 2** activities for young people from age 15-25 years, usually during the school holidays, with the aim of offering fun and social activities for young people to take part in, supported by Scarf support workers.



Achievements in 2019

6 different Holiday Programmes with 41 activities in total

33 Youth Club Sessions

30 Multi Sports Sessions

35 Drama Sessions

7 Scarf 2 Activities

3 Pilot Girls' Group Sessions

82 families joined up as Scarf members

£25,981 fundraised this year (grants and donations)



Membership

During 2019, we reached a total membership of 82 families, with all families taking part in some activities over the course of the year (many families taking part in a variety of holiday and term-time activities). We always welcome new members to the Scarf group and we had 13 new families joining in 2019.

To join Scarf, families must live in the New Forest area (we go out as far West at Christchurch and as far East at Totton) and have a child (aged up to 25 years) with special needs. We have kept the membership cost to £20 per annum for several years now.

"Scarf is like having an extended family. Since becoming a member, my family have tried out so many activities that were outside of my reach, we have met and made friends and my son has realised that he can access the outside world with like-minded members. He has realised, and seen, that he is not alone - and so have !! Thank you for all the work that the Scarf staff and support workers do. It truly is appreciated".

Scarf Clubs and Activities

Holiday Activities – we organised 6 different holiday programmes this year to cover each school holiday (new for this year was the Christmas Holiday Programme, which was very popular). We ran 41 activities in total over the school holidays (a 12 week period). Many families took part - 444 family days out/activities were recorded!

Our holiday activities are for the whole family to enjoy – siblings are welcome to join in with their brother/sister with special needs. We try to include both new activities as well as old favourites. The challenge is to find a balanced programme that will appeal to a variety of ages and abilities and differing tastes! We managed to find many new activities for 2019 including a robot workshop, sailing, the puffin cruise, the Isle of Wight Coach Trip, Mr Stink at the theatre, Patrick's Patch, Sea Short Safari and Chocolate making!

"Scarf gives us something to look forward to during the holidays. Some of the activities we have done with Scarf we just wouldn't be able to do on our own or my daughter wouldn't even consider if it wasn't accessed through Scarf".

Youth Club— our relative new youth club, re-started in 2018, has gone from strength to strength. This takes place on Thursday evenings during term-time at New Milton Rugby Club. We had 33 sessions over the year with an average of 15 children/young people attending each session. Many friendships have been formed at this very relaxed, informal club for young people with additional needs (from 13-25 years). Big thanks to Jen and her fantastic team for making this such a special place to be. There were many highlights this year, but in particular our Signing/singing session with Sarah from Sign In School who did an amazing session with the young people and inspired a youth club sign/song performance at the New Milton Youth Festival.

Girls Group Pilot Sessions— at the end of 2019 we organised 3 pilot sessions for girls experiencing issues around socialising and isolation and who were finding it difficult to access Scarf activities. The aim was to offer simply a safe and positive place for girls to relax and be themselves with others who may be in a similar situation, helping to build confidence and self esteem. These sessions were a great success and we are looking forward to building on them in 2020 with funding from the Tampon Trust.

"The scarf girls pilot group has come at the perfect time for my daughter. When she was at her lowest, feeling different to all of her peers it has helped her to meet others who are really similar and realise that some of her 'ways' and anxieties are shared. I have seen her become more confident and less low in mood. I think that Cerys and Faye running it is pivotal as they truly understand the struggles that girls on the spectrum face. It has been useful for me as a parent to meet other mums in a similar situation too".

Saturday Morning Multi Sports— another great year for Multi sports, which is for 7-19 year olds with special needs. We ran 30 sessions in blocks of 5. We tried a variety of sports this year included yoga, aerobics, dance, basketball, yBall, canoeing, football and a gym session, with approximately 12 children attending each session. These sessions are part funded by Hampshire Short Breaks.



Scarf 2 Activities— our aim is to offer young people (15-25 years) with additional needs a range of fun and social activities to take part in during the school holidays, supported by Scarf support workers. We had 7 activities this year with an average of between 12-13 young people attending each session, the most popular being our legendary Christmas party! But also on offer were a pizza making party, skittles, ringos at Snowtrax, the New Forest Bus followed by pizza and Raft building at Hengistbury Head.



"Scarf is a family, with so many people to meet and talk with, we are all in the same position and everyone is willing to help others, that's why Scarf is so important to us all and it includes the siblings in the activities".

Epic Drama— takes place on a Monday evening during term time for over 10's with additional needs. Jackie from Atticus Arts took over as drama teacher for this group in 2019, running 35 sessions over the year, with on average 10 young people attending. These sessions enable our young people to act, gain confidence, work together, and have fun! It also allows our parents/carers to meet in Forest Arts for a coffee & a chat...vital to the wellbeing of our parents.

Fundraising in 2019

None of Scarf's activities would be possible without the very generous individuals, families, companies, charities and trusts who have given their time and money to us!

We are so grateful for every donation we receive. Scarf could not run without you. Thank you to...

Hampshire CC Short Breaks Funding

Groundworks (Tesco's Bags of Help)

Sally and Rick Coombe's Open Studio Event

Rose and Den Sque

Sing Sway

Solent Radio Control Model Yacht Club

Seth Woodcraft and his football fundraising event

Lily Cherpokova's Christmas Fundraiser

Mrs Sylvia Whitlock

Mark Stewart

Forest Arts Up-cycling Project

Co-op Community Fund

Goodalls Strawberry Farm Honesty Box

Barton Bees

New Milton Mayor Charity of the Year Donation

New Milton Freemasons

Our fundraising total in 2019 was an impressive

£25,981

We wanted to say a special thank you to **Sally and Rick Coombe** for raising nearly **£2,000** for Scarf this year through their Hampshire Open Studio Event, where not only do they exhibit their impressive artwork but also have a bring and buy stall and delicious homemade cakes and teas/coffees on sale. They work tirelessly over the 2 week open studio event, always promoting Scarf and often triggering other donations through spreading the word about our work. They have been doing this for 13 years now and over that time have raised a remarkable total of just over **£19,000**. What an incredible achievement. Thank you Rick and Sally, and also their daughter and Scarf member, Jo Williams, who supports them in all their endeavours!



Special thanks goes out to **Sarah Newman** and **Jackie Lewis** who have stood down as Scarf Trustees after many years of contribution to Scarf. Sarah was integral to developing Scarf in the early years and enabling it to grow into what it has become now, she was Scarf Chair for many years, and then became a Trustee. Jackie was also on our Committee for several years, most recently as a Fundraiser, and also as our Safeguarding Officer. The Committee would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment both contributed to Scarf over a long period of time.



Thank You's

Thank you to the amazing team of people who support Scarf's work either in a paid or voluntary capacity.

Scarf Staff

Katy Bailey (Scarf 2, Meet and Greet)

Ruby Biddiscombe (Youth Club)

Faye Brace (Multi Sports, Youth Club, Girls' Group)

Ellie Dibden (Youth Club)

Lucinda Dowson (Programme Coordinator)

Casey Flaxman (Youth Club, Multi Sports)

Gemma Greenhalgh (Multi Sports, Holiday activities)

Charlie Hayter (Multi Sports, Drama)

Thomas Hind (Youth Club, Multi Sports, Drama)

Jennifer Hood (Youth Club and Multi Sports Coordinator)

Joel Hood (Youth Club)

Susie Jacobs (Youth Club and Multi Sports Deputy)

Maria Minarikova (Multi Sports)

Cerys Williams (Youth Club, Multi Sports, Drama, Girls' Group)

Volunteers

Kieran Procter (Scarf 2 volunteer and DJ!)

Paul Reeves (Youth Club)

A big thank you to **Karen Brace** who is our Parent Rep for and passionate supporter of our Multi Sports Club, offering advice, support and sometimes even running the club in Jen or Susie's absence.

Finally thank you to all the parents/carers who gave up their time to be part of the **Activities Focus Group**, supporting Lucinda in evaluating our holiday activities and planning future programmes: Paula Williams, Cathy Smith, Jill Barnett, Jenny Gloady and Maria Budd.