



## Scarf Annual Report 2024

### Scarf Committee Members/Trustees 2024

Chair—Gary Morgan

Vice Chair—Paula Williams

Treasurer—Geoff Walker

Secretary—Debbie Morgan

General Committee Members—Kate Reeve, Cathy Smith, Linda Cohu, Elaine Williams (also Health and Safety Officer), Cerys Williams, Lisa Harrison

Trustees—Gary Morgan, Paula Williams and Katy Bailey (also Designated Safeguarding Lead).

### 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/young people and their families.

Scarf aims to meet the needs of the disabled child/young person, but additionally 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, share experiences and gain support.

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



### Achievements in 2024

- 6 Different Holiday Programmes with 88 activities in total
- 38 Youth Club Sessions
- 29 Multi Sports Sessions (for 2 age groups, 7-17's and 18-25's)
- 34 Drama Sessions
- 9 Scarf 2 activities
- 5 Parent/carer get-togethers/sessions
- 118 families joined up as Scarf members (including 27 new members)
- Almost £42,000 fundraised this year (grants/donations).
- 7 Monthly Art Sessions with Spud in Sway



**2024** - Another busy year for Scarf in 2024 —we've put on more activities than ever before! We hope everyone has enjoyed all the activities they've come along to and that new members have felt welcomed.

Lots of members have been actively engaged in supporting us in different ways this year, whether on the Committee or helping with fundraising. Special thanks to Paula Williams and a team of volunteer parents for all their efforts with making hampers for the Lymington "Party in the Park" raising over £1,000. Thanks to Teresa Morrissey for organising a fundraising weekend at the Kings' Arms Pub Lymington to raise over £1,000 for Scarf. Once again thanks to Linda Cohu for helping Lucinda with the all the parent/carer support meetings/events this year.

*"Scarf offers wonderful opportunities at such an affordable price. There is such a lack of options for SEN children to find activities that are inclusive and therefore these opportunities you provide are so incredibly valuable. Scarf create a safe space for children to explore and you can't put a value on that. The members and staff are all very supportive and encouraging. I feel very fortunate to be a member."*

## Scarf Clubs and Activities

**Holiday Activities** – School holidays are always busy times for Scarf with high numbers of families attending numerous activities. As usual, we programmed in lots of old favourites (e.g. the Sea Water Baths, Romsey Rapids, cycling with Pedall, animal assisted therapy, boat trips, canoeing, craft activities and the Panto) as well as some new activities this year including Becky's Bakes, Bright and Bubbly and Em's Friendly Farm. We tried to ensure there were plenty of activities for younger children with the numbers of younger members on the rise, with some activities particularly targeted at this group. We'll continue with our booking system where activities are no longer allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Instead families are given a week to make their bookings and then where activities are over-subscribed, they are allocated as fairly as possible to ensure everyone gets some activities. With our higher membership numbers, sometimes we've had to hold waiting lists for activities, but hopefully everyone got to go on the majority of the activities they wanted.

*"The team at Scarf know my young person really well. He has complex issues but he is always safe and has a wonderful fully supported time on activities which is amazing. It gives our young person an opportunity to be included and try new things".*

**Saturday Multi Sports**— We've offered a variety of sports this year, including Taekwondo, tennis, basketball, football, cycling. We've continued running two clubs with a younger and older age group, and found new funding for our older club through HIWCF (Get Active, Get Involved) funding until May 2025. It's sometimes challenging finding coaches available on Saturday mornings, but we are committed to doing so, and are always keeping our ear to the ground for new coaches/instructors who may work well with our groups. We have a fantastic team of committed helpers for our Multi Sports club, to whom we are very grateful.



*"Scarf makes a huge difference! My son is already becoming more confident and happy. He loves attending scarf and seeing his new & old friends. Its an amazing charity and we are so happy to be involved with Scarf and the amazing people who run it. Thank you so much."*

**Youth Club**— Another great year for our Youth Club, with over 20 regular members. Again we'd like to thank an amazing team of support workers and volunteers who are so committed to this group. Sadly we've had issues with venues this year— New Milton Cricket Club were no longer able to host us after Easter, so we have returned to The Life Centre in Tiptoe. This is a great summer venue, but can be very cold in winter. We are working with the venue to improve this, and always on the look out for the perfect venue for our group.

**Drama Club**— Based at Ashley Junior School, on Monday nights—parents/carers stay for the sessions (but go upstairs for a coffee and a chat). We have around 10-12 children/young people who regularly attend. Unfortunately Emma Kerr, our drama teacher, left us in July, but since then the group has been supported brilliantly by Cerys Williams, a sibling and one of our support workers, who led the group for half a term. We now have a new teacher from Blue Apple Drama who is busy settling in. Our group is supported by Thomas and Kira, both of whom used to be Scarf members.

*"Scarf is a large family, everyone supports each other at events and activities are always warm and welcoming. Attending activities where you know no one is judging you is just wonderful."*

**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 were able to offer 9 brilliant activities this year including climbing, motorboats at Tucton Bridge, the New Forest Bus with a stop-over for pizzas, skittles and the legendary Scarf 2 Christmas party! For a second time we enjoyed the incredible Wetwheels Experience, which was amazing. All activities involved eating together socially (either a picnic or a meal) as well as the activity.

**Parent/Carer Activities/Get-togethers** During 2024, with the help of Linda Cohu, a Scarf member, we organised 5 different events for just parents/carers to attend. Most of these were weekday coffee mornings, but we also put on our extremely popular Christmas Wreath making activity in December—we had a record number of 25 parents attending. Thank you to Paula Williams and Michelle Harbut who organised and led this, as well as picking all the foliage. If you have ideas for this group for 2025 let us know!

### Fundraising in 2024

None of Scarf's activities would be possible without the very generous support of individuals, families, companies, charities and trusts who have given their time and funds to us! We are so grateful for every donation we receive. We can't name them all but thank you to...

- Hampshire CC Short Breaks Funding
- Lymington and Pennington Town Council
- Scott Bailey Solicitors LLP
- Burry Charitable Trust
- HIWCF (Get Active, Get Involved)
- Lion's Club of New Milton (Marwell Zoo Tickets)
- Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation
- Make a Difference Locally (Nisa Ashley Store)
- 3 Wishes Card Shop, Lymington
- Kings Arms Lymington
- Charles Burnett Memorial Fund
- Miranda Mayhem Fundraising Event
- Katy Bailey's abseil down Spinnaker Tower
- Hays Travel New Milton (sponsored walk)
- Lymington Waitrose Community Christmas Fund
- Simul Group
- Goodall's Strawberry Farm Honesty Box

**Our fundraising total in 2024 was almost £42,000**



**Membership** During 2024 we reached a total membership of 118 families, which is significantly more families than last year (106) and another record year for Scarf. We were delighted to welcome 24 new families to Scarf this year. Many came via word of mouth from current members - please keep spreading the word.

Due to high membership numbers we continue to only accept new families who live in the New Forest District Council area and have a child (aged up to 25 years) with additional needs. We also have a concessions fund for any family to access who may be struggling financially.



### Thank You's

Thank you to the incredible and dedicated team of people who support Scarf's work either in a paid or voluntary capacity. Big thanks especially to Jen Hood and Susie Jacob, without whom our Youth and Multi Sports Clubs would not be possible.

### Scarf Staff

**Katy Bailey** (Scarf 2, Designated Safeguarding Lead), **Faye Brace** (Multi Sports, Meet & Greet, Admin Cover) **Janine Chebli** (Youth Club), **Lucinda Dowson** (Programme Coordinator), **Grace Finnegan** (Multi Sports/Youth Club), **Casey Flaxman** (Youth Club), **Sue Flaxman** (Youth Club), **Josie Heavey** (Multi Sports/Youth Club), **Thomas Hind** (Youth Club, Multi Sports, Drama), **Jennifer Hood** (Youth Club & Multi Sports Coordinator), **Susie Jacobs** (Youth Club & Multi Sports Deputy), **Maria Minarikova** (Multi Sports), **Cerys Williams** (Youth Club)

### Volunteers

**Niamh Bayliss** (Youth Club), **Karen Brace** (Multi Sports Parent Rep), **Kamron Flaxman** (Youth Club), **Gaylene Grant-Barnes** (Youth Club), **Kira Procter** (Drama), **Paul Reeves** (Youth Club), **Tyler Williams** (Multi Sports DofE).

*"The scarf 2 activities are always a firm favourite as it gives our young person a chance to be fully included and safe whilst trying something new."*

# View from Scarf Trustees and Committee

As with every year fundraising is a priority for the committee. This year has seen a significant increase in our costs, which has sadly resulted in a shortfall in our funds of £6,853.00. This short fall has come from our reserves, which is not ideal, but we aim to rebuild our reserves to ensure Scarfs continued success.

The Trustee's and committee wrote to families in January to outline this issue and what we proposed to do to help resolve this issue.

- **Fundraising Coordinator:** Our first step is to try to appoint a fundraising coordinator role to the committee. This role is not the sole person responsible for fundraising, but it will be the person who will coordinate and monitor our fundraising activities. This role will also assist with grant applications and will investigate grant options and help identify new donors for Scarf. Whilst this is not a paid role, it is a vital part of the committee and key to our success going forward. If you would like further details about this role then please contact Lucinda.
- **Funding Activities:** Currently we aim to cover the cost of between 40 and 60% of an activity or club. Going forward we will look at every activity or club that we operate and decide on what level of funding we can offer before we publish the information to you. Where we can, we will always aim to help fund these activities but in some cases our funding may be limited to the time spent organising an activity or the cost of our support workers who operate a session.
- **Multi-sport/Drama Sessions:** Generally, these are 5 or 6 sessions per half term. When we publish these sessions, we will need to be paid in full for all sessions to secure the place for your child or young person, even if they are not able to attend all sessions. I hope you can appreciate that Scarf still has a cost to bear even if your child or young person is unable to attend one of these sessions.

The committees fundraising efforts primarily led by Paula Williams and Lucinda Dowson have been amazing in 2024, but we do need your help. Due to rising costs and our need to re-build our surplus, the fundraising target we have set for ourselves for 2025 is £50,000.

There have been some great examples of parent led fundraising in 2024. In 2025 you can help us even more. Remember every penny counts for Scarf so whether it's a coffee morning, cake sale or running a marathon, you can have a big impact on the opportunities that we can deliver for our children, young people and families. Maybe you work for a company who have a charity of the year, or you hear of an organisation whose looking for a great charity to donate to, think about nominating Scarf. Whatever you can do, big or small will be appreciated by everyone within Scarf.

