



Providing opportunities for adults and children with a learning disability in East Kent

**IMPACT REPORT
FOR 2017-18**



CEO'S STATEMENT

It has been a challenging year but one that has offered some exciting opportunities for people with a learning disability. My report only serves as a brief summary of some of the highlights with others being covered throughout the annual review. The charity has continued to invest heavily in our properties and has begun the process of replacing housing stock which no longer suits the aspirations of our tenants. We were previously challenged by members as to why we did not provide ongoing housing options for older people with learning disabilities. I am very proud that the new service has proven to be a huge success for our tenants. We are close to acquiring Foresters Hall in Ramsgate which will offer greater opportunities for the local community and better facilities for our growing Administration team. We worked closely with Kent County Council to lead the support of a new service in Deal and, in doing so, formed a new partnership with Southern Housing. Our Swale team has worked tirelessly to develop local services and we look forward to reporting some exciting news in the near future. Linked to our Valuing People Now project, pupils at Foreland Fields School have been speaking out about their ideas and aspirations through Pupils Voice. We share their excitement in plans to present to the Kent Partnership Board in 2019. The lottery funded GOLD project has had another strong year and we expect that new opportunities will emerge when the funding ends next year. The pace of change has been extraordinary and I am proud that we, our East Kent Mencap members and employees, have met new challenges in such positive and innovative ways.



JASON GERLACK
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



LIVING AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE

In the last 12 months we have invested in improved facilities for people with a learning disability to increase independence through:

We have supported

99

people to have fun whilst out and about in the community on

25

different trips

Delivering free taster sessions of wellbeing activities in Herne Bay



Taking on Trinity Road as the hub for our Resource Service in Sheerness



Purchasing Clarence House for older people with higher support needs.



Acquiring Foresters Hall in Ramsgate for our Resource Services.



Creating a changing space, quiet area and sensory room at our Cliftonville premises.



Transforming William House into transitional housing for younger people.



'Having the fully adapted toilet and changing facilities lets my son and other users keep their dignity and privacy. We as a family could not ask for more knowing he is going to be well cared for in a very well adapted resource centre as there just isn't anything around for complex needs.'

GAINING CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS

We have a voice



We've hosted speaking up events across East Kent for people with a learning disability to talk about things that matter to them.

20

'I enjoy photography because it makes you go into another world where you can blank everything else out. If I ever feel stressed or worried, photography will take it away. I've learned how to use a camera and I can share my skills with other people which is quite nice.'

We are proud

From photography exhibitions to variety shows, we've showcased our work at 15 exhibitions and information stalls at various events reaching hundreds of people.



FEELING SOCIALLY ACTIVE, INCLUDED AND INVOLVED

**We promoted even more low cost
and free social activities**

In
2017-2018,
we
held

351

events and
groups
reaching
over

280

people



Our social clubs allow people with a learning disability to try new things, whilst reducing social isolation.

From bowling to drama, our clubs are activity-led and suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities and they support people with a learning disability to build relationships with others.

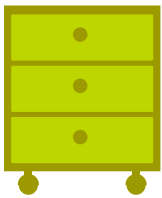
'I have made a lot of friends at GOLD. There are activities to do, so I am not stuck at home doing nothing. I am less lonely now.'



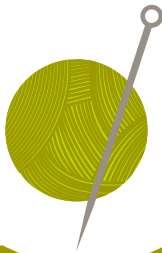
IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We want to do things differently

We developed projects that demonstrate our creativity and commitment to community.



We saved materials from landfill to create upcycled products including furniture and gifts.



We 'yarnbombed' our head office to celebrate International Women's Day.



We developed an Easy Read leaflet on domestic abuse.



We opened a drop-in centre through our GOLD Project.



We went carol singing at the local shopping centre.



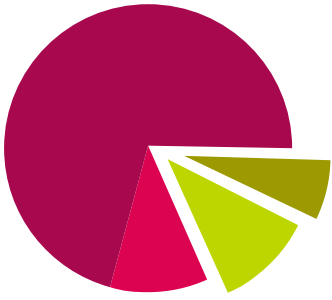
We held an art workshop to create the window display at our new GOLD office.

'Easy Read makes a big difference because it makes topics like domestic abuse easier for people to understand.'



The Women's Group were asked by Oasis, the domestic abuse charity, to produce an Easy Read leaflet to help people who have had something bad happen to them. The group discussed what abuse was and shared experiences. When the leaflet was complete, the group secured funding to have it printed so they could distribute it with the aim to raise awareness so that everyone knows how to get help. The Women's Group delivered copies of the leaflet to the local library, police station and Sure Start centres. The leaflets are not only a great resource for people with a learning disability as they are in Easy Read, but the group hopes they will help anyone who experiences domestic abuse to know where they can go to get help.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Of the £2,091,524, (£2,092,296 : 2017) East Kent Mencap received from Charitable Activities, the largest part of our income, just under 70% (88% : 2017) is made up of receipts for the provision of direct service delivery, and includes income from local government.



The overall surplus for the year was £6,847 (2017: £201,669). This reduction was a result of the Trustees' decision to utilise some of the Charity's cash reserves for the benefit of the Members by investing in our properties and purchasing another property. The charity also invested in maintaining and developing experienced, trained staff.

Thank you



We continue to build relationships with businesses and services in the local community so that organisations connect with people with a learning disability

Our Vision

A world where people with a learning disability are valued and treated equally.

Our Values

- Being people centered.
- Empowering, including and respecting all people.
 - Transforming lives.
- Being brave and developing new ideas.
- Challenging wrong ways of thinking about learning disability.

Our Mission

To provide opportunities for adults and children with a learning disability in East Kent, enabling them to achieve the things they want out of life.

Contact us



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