

St Peter's Summer Project

Summer 2021 – Report



St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group

Registered charity number 1182872

Introduction

This is the third year of our summer project. Our project caters for Year 5 and 6 children aged 9-11, with the occasional younger sibling, who come from the four primary schools in St Peter's Ward, Islington. After a successful project during the first summer of the Covid-19 pandemic we had gained the confidence to run one again, using all the mitigations required to keep children and adults infection-free. It was very clear that, as last summer, the children had suffered from the closure of their schools or disruption to their classes - the self-confidence, mental health and educational attainment of many children were under strain. Once more we were meeting a very pressing need. The 2021 project had high levels of attendance and was judged by children, parents and teachers to be very successful, perhaps the best one yet.



Kayaking lesson at Islington Boat Club

St Peter's Ward and the background to the project

Children in our primary schools come from vastly different backgrounds in terms of wealth and advantage. The huge disparity in Islington, and especially in the project's local area, led to the establishment of the St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group as a charity in 2019. The charity runs the St Peter's Summer Project for 4 weeks in August at the ARC Centre in St Paul Street.



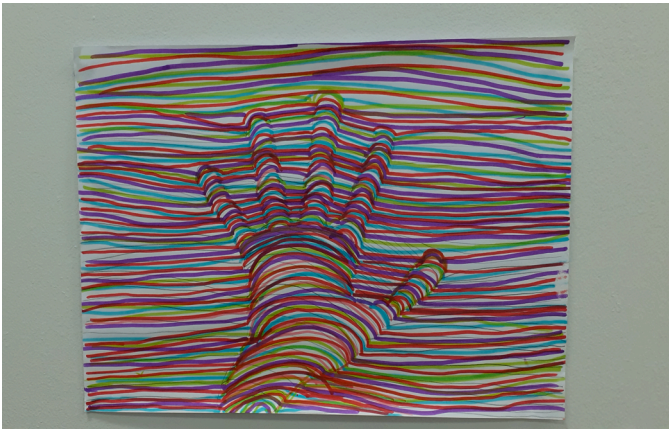
Making butter

In 2021 child poverty continued to increase across the UK and in London. The percentage is now 20%, considerably higher than the national average. A combination of factors, including high housing costs, the impact of years of austerity on family incomes and the additional pressures arising from the pandemic, has meant that demand has grown for food banks and holiday projects such as ours. In Islington, 36% of primary school children are eligible for free school meals - in England only Blackpool has a higher percentage of eligible children.

The primary schools with which we work all have a higher percentage of children eligible for free school meals than even the average in Islington. Indeed, two schools are the highest and third highest in the borough on this measure, with over 50% of children qualifying for free school meals. Due to the forthcoming boundary changes, St Peter's Ward will

cease to exist in its current form but we will continue to take children from the local area.

Islington Council was a pioneer in introducing free school meals for all primary school children and for its holiday hunger schemes. We try to offer a greater range of activities for the children who take part in our project. By definition they are children in need, nominated by their schools as amongst the pupils who most warrant a scheme that offers stimulating learning opportunities, skills to help



Art sessions in the Arc Centre

crafts, literacy, numeracy and speaking skills. And we hoped to build their self-confidence to enable them to fulfil their potential. We want them to start the new school year without the fall-off in basic skills that can occur when children don't have the chance to reinforce them over the long summer break, let alone with the impact of Covid-19 shutdowns. These are big ambitions and we are only able to report the judgements of all of those involved, rather than in-depth measurement of educational attainment over the longer term.

The programme

Fortunately, we were able to benefit from the experience of our teaching staff, all but two of whom had worked with us previously, and from the use once again of the ARC Centre, with its numerous amenities and excellent location near parks, ball courts and garden squares. We decided to apply for the new Department for Education funding for holiday activities and food for those entitled to free school meals or with additional needs, channelled through Islington Council. The priorities aligned closely with ours: engaging the most vulnerable children and providing a programme underpinned by the provision of healthy food, with at least an hour's exercise every day.



The programme of varied activities replicated many of the strengths of the first two years but with an even greater emphasis on outdoor activities. Tag rugby was added to the list of sports played and more use was made of Arlington Square gardens, in a Green Man project and in the making of dream catchers. Again, cookery, arts and crafts, mindfulness and team-building exercises were key features of the project. These were enhanced by a Black Lives Matter theme linked to the Olympics, yoga and basic Spanish taught by one of our new teachers, herself a native speaker.

This year, too, we increased our stock of reading books for the children so that they had a wider choice. It had the effect of a greater uptake of books over the four weeks, with more children electing to take a book home at the end of the project. Our focus on literacy and oracy was enhanced

socialisation and enjoyment, nourishing food and a caring environment. We employ qualified and experienced teachers from our local primary schools as well as volunteers.

This year, as in previous years, our cohort included children with special needs and children in receipt of free school meals, as well as children where family circumstances meant that a holiday project was likely to be particularly helpful. We aim to make them feel valued, to have fun and to learn, especially in the core programme of sport, cookery, arts and

by a second year of creative writing sessions led by local author Elise Valmorbida. And so that the children did not forget basic numeracy over the holiday period, there were lots of maths puzzles and quizzes, devised by one of our new teachers.

The children's evaluation of the project overall was the most positive to date, despite the impact of Covid on restricting off-site activities. A large majority had enjoyed the programme and many would have liked longer hours. The

most popular activity was kayaking – we give every child the opportunity to have a day's training at the Islington Boat Club - with learning Spanish, cookery and the Green Man project sharing second place. When asked which aspect of the project was most important to them, 'having something different to do each day' and 'making new friends' were equal first with 'learning new skills' next on the list.



Yoga memory game

Our cohort

Our final tally was 39 children overall, an increase of 38% from last year. We attracted 19 Year 6s and 20 siblings and friends from Years 3-5, with a good gender balance of 20 boys to 19 girls, and again we split them into two age-related groups. While most educationists and parents approved of the idea of summer catch-up classes and holiday induction sessions for Year 6s transitioning to secondary schools, the arrangements for these were not made clear until long after our project dates had been confirmed.



Delicious Lunches

This meant that quite a few Year 6 children missed the final week. In addition, and with greater freedom from Covid regulations to travel this year than last, more families had booked holidays. Nonetheless the attendance, with authorisation for these children's absences, was 82%.

We managed to attract a wonderfully diverse range of children again, with backgrounds from almost every continent of the globe, from Colombia and the Caribbean to Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia, via Bangladesh, India, the Horn of Africa, Turkey, Russia and Chechnya.

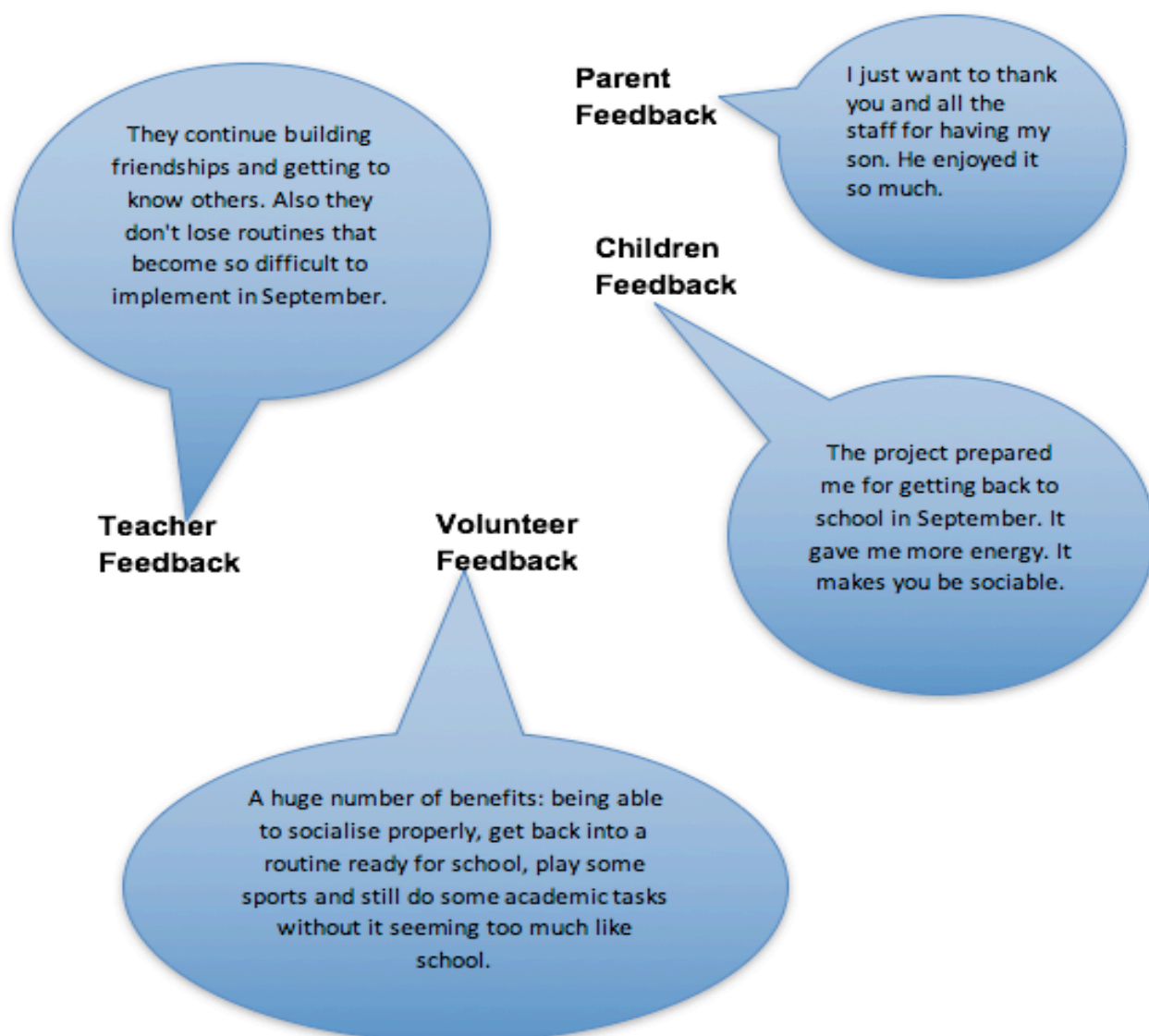
Black African, Black Caribbean and White British were the largest groups with seven children each, but Asian and Mixed Heritage were of only slightly smaller size.

Our thanks

We are enormously grateful to all of those organisations who helped us, financially and in kind: Islington Council for their Community Chest, Holiday Activities & Food Programme and Local Initiative Fund; the Angel Association, the Charles French Trust, the John Murray Foundation, Trusthouse Forte, the staff of the ARC Centre, the heads of the primary schools based in St Peter's Ward, Ellis David for insurance, Popham's for treats during the morning breaks, the Felix Project which supplied us with food for lunches, and the many individuals who donated so generously.

Many thanks, too, to our many brilliant volunteers: Elise Valmorbida, Janice Thirkettle, Jennie Milward, Claire Zammit, Laura Raphael, Chris Houseley, Hannah Gibbon, Annie Thomas, Olivia O'Connell, Krystyna Lazaro and Tessa Smith. We also greatly appreciate the three sets of parents who are part of our advisory group. It makes such a difference to know how supported we are by the local community.

Feedback



Who we are

The Trustees

- Prof Sue Richards, Chair. Sue was an academic in the field of public policy and management and latterly a senior civil servant in the Cabinet Office.
- Helen Schofield, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Helen is a retired community administrator and adult tutor with wide experience in Camden and Islington boroughs.
- Linda Shaughnessy, Trustee. Linda worked as a literary agent until she retired in 2016. Since then she has worked in the voluntary sector on a part-time basis.
- Kathy Bundred, Trustee. Kathy has worked in children's services, in local government as a social worker and has managed the Children's Fund, a programme for children in need.

Senior Education Adviser

- Vivien Cutler is the Senior Education Adviser. She has worked as a teacher and headteacher, in Director of Schools roles and as a local councillor in the ward.

Finance / donations

Our costs for the 2021 project come to just over £22,200. We do have some reserves for the 2022 project but hope to be able to invite more children to take part and that will increase our costs, so we still have a need for further funds. All new donations will be very gratefully received. These can be by cheque made payable to St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group and sent to 4 Union Square, London N1 7DH, or via BACS into our account, as follows:

- Sort code: 23-05-80
- Account number: 33070251
- Account name: SPAG (short version of St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group)
- Reference: your surname

Please then send an email to our Treasurer Helen Schofield (stpeterscayg@gmail.com) and she will send you a Gift Aid form to sign, which will enable us to claim a further 25% from public funds.

Thank you!

	St Peter's Children & Young People's Activities Group	
	Financial Summary YE 31 Jan 2022	£
	Receipts:	
	Local Authority Initiative Fund	10,600.00
	Grants	18,000.00
	Donations	8,950.00
	Fundraising	0.00
	Other	0.00
	Total Receipts	37,550.00
	Payments:	
	Admin & setting up costs	238.88
	Hire of premises	6,000.00
	Staffing	12,830.00
	Project costs	2,550.00
	Additional materials	361.48
	Insurance	0.00
	Other - Additional Food	228.07
	Total Payments	22,208.43
	Net of Receipts/(Payments)	15,341.57
	Cash Balance B/F	17,070.28
	Change in Year	15,341.57
	Cash Balance C/F	32,411.85
	Balance per Bank Statement	32,411.86
	Represented by:	
	Reserve for future years	17,000.00
	Available for 2022-23 project	15,411.86
		32,411.86



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

St Peter's Children and Young Peoples Activity Group

On accounts for the year
ended

31 January 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1182872

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/01/2022**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent
examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

12/3/22

Name:

Ian Sparham-Souter

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

15 Clock Tower Mews

London

N1 7BB

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.