

BBC Children in Need - Fun and Friendship Programme

Fun and Friendship is a new, £3 million grant programme from BBC Children in Need, which is additional to our other grant programmes. It is supporting organisations working with disabled young people between 12 and 18 years. The purpose of the programme is to help projects to create and enhance opportunities for disabled young people to meet friends and have a good time, as independently as possible.

Below, you can find a summary of the ten organisations taking part and a short description of the projects which we are supporting.

AUTISTIC SOCIETY OF GREATER MANCHESTER

Organisation Background

Autistic Society of Greater Manchester Area's purpose is to provide support services to people with autism, as well as their families, and carers across Greater Manchester. Projects run include:

- Aspirations Project
- Autism Life skills and Social Intervention
- Support groups
- Information and Family Support
- 1-2-1 Support Packages

Staff work with service users, supporting them in practical tasks such as attending a medical appointment, holding down a job, being able to attend college or a learning experience, using public transport, cooking a meal, money management, accessing services and living independently.

Summary of Project

Regular social and learning activities coupled with independence support and access to holiday activities with a focus on young people aged 12-18.

The project will offer young people from anywhere in Greater Manchester, the opportunity to take part in social activities, not just those whose local authority will financially support them.

Young people will access a number of social and leisure activities outside our centre, including:

- Cinema
- 10 Pin Bowling

- Laser quest
- Meals out with friends

The young people themselves will decide on a programme of events they want to do several weeks in advance so there are no surprises for our Autistic client group.

Other activities will include:

- The development of person centred plans to address issues in all areas of their lives
- 1-2-1 support, including support to remain in education
- Independent Travel Training
- Independent Living Skills, Life Skills and Social Skills Classes
- Foundation level other classes, including healthy living, art, drama, computers, sport
- Girls Groups
- Discussion Groups
- School Holiday Activities, including things like Alton Towers and a day at the science museum
- Short Break Holidays
- Youth Clubs at our Resource Centre

CHESTNUT TREE HOUSE, West Sussex and South East

Organisation Background

Chestnut Tree House (operated by St Barnabas Hospices (Sussex) Ltd) is the only children's hospice in West and East Sussex and provides specialist palliative care, respite care, end of life care, sibling support and emotional and bereavement support to life-limited children and their families from across Sussex.

Chestnut Tree House opened in 2003 and provides a "home from home" atmosphere where life-limited children can live life to the full enjoying everyday opportunities and experiences normally only associated with healthy children, helping to create happy memories for the family to cherish.

This is combined with physical and emotional care and support which is offered both at Chestnut Tree House and in the community.

Whilst at Chestnut Tree House the children and young people will be able to socialise with and form strong friendships with others using the service. Unlike meeting their peers in the community where they may feel different and awkward because of their body image, when mixing with other similar children at Chestnut Tree House they all become equal.

There is no charge for any of their services.

Project Summary

Chestnut Tree Hospice will provide a holistic package of support for young people with life limiting and life threatening conditions aged 12-18, designed to help them build independence, have fun and live as normal a life as possible.

The young people are severely disabled and rely on their families and professionals to take part in most activities. With support from a young volunteer buddy system and care support worker, the young people will be supported to access mainstream social activities as independently as possible.

Approximately 70 young people with life limiting and life threatening conditions aged 12-18 will benefit each year, giving a total number of users as approximately 130.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY, York

Organisation Background

The Children's Society is a national children's charity, driven by the belief that every child has a right to a good childhood. They work in particular with refugee children, young runaways at risk on the streets, disabled children and young people and children in trouble with the law, enabling them to voice their needs and define solutions to the issues affecting them. Their direct work with children and young people is delivered through local projects across England, supporting over 50,000 children every year, providing the basis for national programmes of research, policy and campaigning which aim to ensure that all children enjoy a good childhood. Safeguarding, diversity and the participation of children and young people are key principles in all areas of our work as an organisation.

Project Summary

The project aims to improve the self confidence and skills of dyp to enable them to more fully access the friends and activities which they identify. The project also aims to try to influence the statutory review process to ensure dyp are more involved and the 'circle of friends' approach is incorporated to ensure a more person centred process. In addition they aim to train 200 local leisure staff and professionals to increase their understanding and confidence of working with dyp.

COMPASS ADVOCACY NETWORK LTD, Northern Ireland

Organisation Background

Compass supports personal choice and decision making and develops positive citizenship, participation and social inclusion for adults and children with learning disability in the Causeway area.

Projects include:

- Can Can Recycling - training 25 people with Id to develop skills and confidence necessary to progress to further employment ;
- Can Can Bazaar - charity shop. Provides members with the opportunity to experience working in the local community with the support of volunteers;
- Drop In Centre (The Base) -providing opportunities for adults with Id in to meet and develop friendships and participate in community based leisure activities;
- Shadow Council for people with Id in the Causeway area. - a fully

elected group of people with learning disabilities campaigning for change in attitudes and perceptions at all level; Can Can Bubbles - a new social enterprise, training 6 x people with learning disabilities and varied medical needs to develop skills and confidence whilst providing a service to the public and local businesses.

In addition, they offer social and arts programmes to members including Health & Well-being, a drama project and Reminiscence programme all of which aim to improve confidence and self esteem, health and emotional well-being. All of our current activities operate on a can do ethos and we aim to provide our members with the best and most appropriate level of support to enable them to reach their full potential.

Project Summary

The project will empower the young people to access mainstream youth, community, sports and leisure provision and activities based on the development of person centred plans to meet expressed needs. The young people will be supported by volunteers or other people they identify from their 'circles of support' to enable them to access mainstream provision on a long-term basis.

INTERCHANGE TRUST (WAC), London

Organisation Background

InterChange Trust is a social enterprise charity and resource centre, based at Hampstead Town Hall Centre, including education for disadvantaged young people , facilities for disabled people, legal advice and training to charities, facilities for community groups and accommodation for 13 London charities.

WAC Performing Arts and Media College, founded in 1978, provides a range of programmes for 5 - 25 year olds. We aim to reach those who are excluded from accessing mainstream provision; in particular those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, those at risk of educational failure and social exclusion and those identified as being at risk. We provide a well structured and supportive programme which uses the arts and media to develop transferrable skills in communication, problem solving, team building, developing confidence and raising self esteem.

Wonder WAC, offers performing arts and media workshops for young people with learning difficulties on two evenings each week during term time, and intensive daytime projects during school holidays. The evening workshops provide young people 11 to 18 years with the opportunity to experiment, experience, enjoy and participate in the performing and media arts. Members have the opportunity to socialise with their peers and, through group discussions, explore relevant social issues .

Project Summary

The project will work with groups of up to 20 young people (150 in total)aged 12-18 years with learning disabilities and / or autistic spectrum disorders to manage and run the WAC Wonder Web. Funding will provide a programme of workshops led by specialist tutors and industry professionals to build the skill sets of young people to enable them to produce the

content for and run an interactive web site, radio show and e magazine.

MENCAP, Wales

Organisation Background

Mencap is the leading UK charity working with people with a learning disability, their families and carers. Our vision is of a world where people with a learning disability are valued equally, listened to, and included. We want everyone to have the opportunity to achieve the things they want out of life.

We currently support around 80,000 children and adults with a learning disability, their families and carers, throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland, through a range of activities and services, including:

Education and employment - support for people with a learning disability to fulfil their potential by improving their skills and increasing their chances of gaining employment;
Leisure, sports and art opportunities for children and adults - offering opportunities to have fun, develop skills and build friendships;

Support to live as independently as possible - whether in their own homes, supported living or registered care homes;

Campaigns and policy - working for change by lobbying government on issues affecting people with a learning disability; raising awareness of the challenges faced by people with a learning disability and ensuring that their voices are heard;

Information and advice for people with a learning disability and their carers (e.g. on healthcare, benefits)

Project Summary

The project's overarching aim is to empower young people with a learning disability to create sustainable opportunities for independent leisure and socialising. It will operate by supporting young people from different schools to form groups and build close friendships through collaborating in stimulating and exciting activities to remove barriers to socialising in their communities.

Activities:

Information/training sessions leading to election of young people with a learning disability by their fellow students to act as ambassadors for whole school.

Ambassadors canvass schoolmates' opinions on preferred leisure/social activities and barriers to these

Introductory weekend residentials

Evening activities -- visiting leisure/social facilities; participating in activities offered; assessing inclusiveness

Weekend activities -- planning; collecting evidence; developing communication tools to present barriers and solutions (e.g., DVD, digital stories, drama)

Weekend/evening activities -- support ambassadors to campaign for change -- targeting their local authorities and other relevant figures as identified

Residential self-evaluation weekends

Annual conference

Throughout - support ambassadors to feed back to fellow students and take their comments on board.

Details of actual activities will be determined by young people's choices -- the leisure opportunities and barriers they want to address, and the methods they choose to use.

SCOTTISH SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION, Glasgow

Organisation Background

The Scottish Spina Bifida Association seeks to increase public awareness and understanding of individuals who are affected by spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus and allied disorders. It aims to support all those affected to identify their needs and to empower them to make informed choices and decisions whilst living the highest quality of life possible.

There is a lo-call advice line that ensures there is a specialist Family Support Worker available to all.

The common areas that we assist with include:

Medical management of the conditions; housing and adaptations; aids and equipment; carers' support; benefits and financial advice; independent living; holidays and leisure; respite care; emotional development; advice during pregnancy; healthy living; public policy and education; support to schools, colleges and nurseries; bereavement support.

Project Summary

The project will provide one to one support from an individual support worker for 70 young people aged 12-18 disadvantaged by spina bifida and hydrocephalus. This support will enable the young people to access social and sporting activities of their choice. Additionally it will develop group activities based in the organisation's premises. The project aims to break down the barriers to participation in a social life outside of the home faced by young people affected by spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Equally it will promote their independence by ensuring the support required is provided by someone other than the young person's parent/carer.

THEATRE RESOURCE, Essex and South East

Organisation Background

Theatre Resource is a professional arts and educational organisation working year round with groups and individuals through quality, relevant arts. They specialise in the cultural/artistic representation of disabled and disadvantaged people, so that groups may contribute to and participate in the cultural, economic and social future of society, through participatory arts projects, training, employment opportunities, and dissemination/networking initiatives.

They recognise the importance of ensuring that young people's voices are heard, by creating records of the work, building self esteem and confidence, increasing communication skills, developing imagination, providing good access (physical, emotional and intellectual), working

with adults and young people who have direct experience of disability and disadvantage as positive role models - working flexibly to be inclusive.

Project Summary

This is a youth inspired regional project that will support a minimum of 160 DYP, aged 12 – 18 years, over 3 years. During 2010-2013 there will be 45 one-day events of various art forms, 12 (2 day) weekend courses, 12 week-long (5 day) courses (Easter, Half-Term and Summer). DYP will also enjoy relevant visits to museums, galleries, theatres, recording studios, and other venues and will meet professionals in the arts/media world to inspire and inform their work. There will be a protected online networking website for participants so that they can keep in touch with other participants' work and exchange ideas.

WHIZZ KIDZ

Organisation Background

Whizz Kidz is a UK-based charity supporting children and young people with mobility impairments. It provides them and their families with:

- * Mobility equipment
- * Wheelchair skills Training (WST)
- * Advice and Information
- * Life skills

Whizz-Kidz' Vision:

All disabled children's lives are full of fun, friendship and hope for an independent future. Just like any other kids.

Whizz Kidz' Mission:

To ensure every child with a mobility impairment in every community has timely access to mobility equipment appropriate to their needs and opportunities to meet, have fun, develop skills for adult life and have a voice.

Project Summary

This is a new project to extend the network of Ambassador Clubs for young wheelchair users in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In the first year there is a target of between 100 and 150 beneficiaries between the ages of 12 and 18. There is a target of between 30 and 45 new beneficiaries in year 2. Therefore the total of separate individuals over the whole project is between 130 and 195. There may be a few older disabled young people recruited mainly as helpers. The clubs cater only for wheelchair users but non disabled siblings will be able to attend. Parents or carers will only be present in exceptional circumstances. Each club will meet in an appropriate venue such as a Leisure Centre or Community Centre 6 days each year during school holidays for a range of activities determined by the beneficiaries. 2 young disabled people will be elected by their peers as leader and assistant leader of each club, facilitated by the Development Officer. Training will be provided.

THE YARD ADVENTURE CENTRE, Edinburgh

Organisation Background

The Yard is the only purpose built indoor and outdoor adventure play facility for disabled children and their families in the east of Scotland. The Yard offers three family sessions, three youth clubs, a pre school playgroup for autistic children, schools sessions and a siblings club. The Yard is open 6 days a week and throughout the school holidays offering a safe and accessible play environment daily for disabled children and their families. In 2008 The Yard had 10,500 visits from disabled children and young people in Scotland. The Yard team also offers training in inclusive play to schools, after school clubs and active school coordinators and has worked across Scotland.

The Yard also delivers a number of contracts for Edinburgh city council including the provision of a respite club for disabled children aged 11-16 and a training service on disability for the city's 84 after school clubs. Through their work they aim to support disabled children and young people to develop confidence, self esteem and life skills in order to reach their full potential.

Project Summary

Funding is sought to provide opportunities for 70 young people with a range of physical and learning disabilities to participate in social and sporting activities with their peers. This participation will extend their life experiences, enhance their development of social skills and promote self confidence and independence. The funding will support the provision of 3 clubs for young people between 12 and 18 years.