



Support, Help & Integration in Perthshire
for young people with additional support needs

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020

WELCOME



Welcome to the winter newsletter. We cannot believe it is October! We have all had a very strange year due to the coronavirus pandemic, but not even COVID-19 could stop our young people from having fun! After services were suspended we have adapted and changed the way in which we support you and your young people whilst also safeguarding the young people as much as possible from the virus. From sending out activity ideas and, videos to the young people to virtual groups and as restrictions lifted we were able to run a small simplified version of our holiday club. To do this we made the very difficult decision to not use our volunteers, to limit the amount of people the young people attending would come into contact with. We scoured all the government guidance, spoke with other providers and took advice from the care inspectorate, put in place policies and procedures including enhanced cleaning measures, increased hand washing, physical distancing for adults, staggered start times, risk assessments, protocols completed additional staff training- we were ready to go! Summer proved to be very successful and the feedback from you was amazing - the children clearly enjoyed their time and came at the right time. We were all on a high - then term time came and it was very disappointing to find out that we still couldn't support you face to face as we were unable to access the buildings. We continued with our virtual youth groups and introduced stay and play sessions at the local parks developing into a play session due to the rule of 6 implementation. We are now at the end of October and have successfully completed another holiday club but we are still unable to use PKC buildings however we are currently in talks with other venues to try and begin some services once. Thank you to all of you that completed our surveys and questionnaires these really do help us shape what we do.

Services Update



We have been successful in being awarded funding from the Scottish Governments Access to Childcare Fund so that we can extend our after school club from 2 days a week to 5. As we are still unable to access PKC buildings in their attempt to manage COVID transmission we have managed to secure a temporary booking at Lethem St Marks church so that we can start this up as soon as possible. We have submitted a variation of service to the care inspectorate and once it is approved we will be good to go. Its so exciting that we can soon be supporting the young people face to face again. Thank you to those who have already sent us your note of interest and to which days you would be looking at booking. The price for these spaces remain unchanged at £12.00 per session. If you are interested in this service please click [here](#) and submit your preferences to us. As soon as we have the ok from the care inspectorate we will be in touch to confirm these spaces with you, so please bare with us.

Whilst getting back to service has been a priority for us we have also had to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of the young people attending and put in measures to manage the transmission of COVID-19. If you attended our holiday club then procedures will be much the same as that. As a reminder, here are some of the measures SHIP has put in place.

- Parents and carers will not be permitted inside the venue- sign in and sign out will take place outside.
- Temperatures will be taken and hand gel applied on entry
- Increased hand hygiene will be in place through out the sessions
- Increased cleaning will be carried out
- Parent and staff declarations will be completed and signed.
- Children and staff bubbles will be as small as reasonably practicable and these will not change throughout the terms.
- Individual risk assessments for children and staff have been completed including risk of Covid-19 transmission

Click [here](#) are the links to COVID policies and procedures that we have put in place.

We would also like to welcome our new Out of School Supervisor Karen Hebdon to the team. She is currently studying her HNC in childhood practice and has gained extensive experience whilst working with children in Kuwait

Our face to face youth groups and Saturday Clubs unfortunately remain suspended at present however we will continue to work towards getting these services available to you when current restrictions are lifted. Our virtual youth groups remain available to everyone registered with us whether you normally attended the group or not.

Volunteering



1 - We are delighted to welcome Brooke Stewart to the team as our new volunteer coordinator. She has a vast array of experience working with children and young people and is very excited to join us.

" Hello I'm Brooke. I grew up in Perth, spent time teaching in Spain, then moved to the Lake District to teach Outdoor Adventure, and environmental studies. Followed by more time working in and coordinating camps in Spain and back home in Scotland. So I am very excited to be back in Perth and working with such a fantastic group. I had the pleasure of meeting a few of our service users at October holiday club and I can't wait to get to know everyone and help be part of the team that makes SHIP so magical"

It has been really sad not to have our volunteers working along side us for such a long time we are desperate to have them back. However thank you for your continued support and dedication to S.H.I.P. and the young people. We saw some of you come along to the stay and play sessions and we love to see you at the virtual groups. Feedback from the young people is that they very much miss

seeing you so never forget how valuable you are and if you haven't popped along yet to a virtual club why not come and say hello we'd love to see you there.

Our latest volunteers of the month have been awarded to:

JULY -Abbie Scrimgeour received £20 Primark voucher - "personally I think Abbie Scrimgeour deserves it, she always works so hard to please the kids and puts in so much effort. She's an all round lovely person and tries her best always."

AUGUST - Lewis Kilpatrick received £20 amazon voucher - " It totally amazes me the dedication of Lewis, he is always ready and happy to help with anything and gives valuable help to other volunteers and children"

SEPTEMBER - Cameron Judge received £20 Costa voucher - "was amazing with one of the young people, at the start of the session he was in a very bad mood and telling mum he was going to run away - but by the end he was so happy and joyful all thanks to her"

We would also like to congratulate 4 of our volunteers who prior to October holiday club were promoted to Staff. Well done Ewen Kilpatrick, Lewis Kilpatrick, Job Davies and Scott Lennox - it was lovely seeing you in red in the holidays and you all did an amazing job.



2 - WE ASKED, YOU SPOKE, WE LISTENED!

Is there any other service you feel that SHIP could offer to support your child and family?

"I feel we have lots of support"

"No service is great"

"The clubs are fab. Hard to get support for challenging times as these are hard times with restrictions etc which are unfair to disabled people."

"Nothing not out with the current restrictions"

"Youth clubs and after school clubs and Saturdays again please"

"The support offered, both with the holiday club and virtual youth clubs were invaluable to X and the family. There is no doubt that he would have found the situation much more challenging were it not for access to these."

It is wonderful to hear that you feel that we have supported you in the best way that we can given the circumstances. We have been working hard to get our after school club back up and running and this will happen as soon as the care inspectorate agrees our change of venue

Due to the current guidance indoor youth groups and Saturday clubs are unable to resume until restrictions are lifted, however we have everything in place to resume this as soon as guidance allows

We asked the young people if there was anything they wished they could do when they were at SHIP

"Go to the Park more"

"go on more trips"

Due to the restrictions in place we were unable to go on our usual trips swimming, active kids etc however we gave the opportunity to do to the park on each session every day, and also introduced some community walks and scavenger hunts, pool stick races etc to give the children opportunity to be out with the venue.

We also asked if you were happy with the measures put in place to safeguard your child and your family from the transmission of COVID to which was a 100% yes!

Here are some quotes from our families about what the service means to them:

"It meant a lot to me as it meant my child had his time with his friends and I had my time to catch up on things"

"It meant that we got to spend time with another son & daughter without having to give all our time to X. We managed to treat the other children to lunch out, day away, etc."

"The world! My girl loves it so much. Its great to see her smiling and so excited about going. The kids and staff have such a beautiful connection."

"It gave my child a fun start to the holidays and a routine every morning so it meant our whole family was more relaxed and less stressed during the holidays."

"We were still working so this made the time much more productive without having to look after her"

"It provided valuable social interaction for our son, and critical respite for us as parents during this difficult period."

"While my child is attending sessions it give me time to catch up on things, eg housework, shopping."

"It allows us to do 'normal' things around the house that other people would take for granted, such as gardening."

We asked if you had any comments you'd like to share with us

"A big thank you to everyone who helps run the holiday club, it helps us out a great deal. The other children really appreciate it to."

"The Club kept our son focused and the family unit benefited from this as he was calmer"

"Just thank you for the amazing service you provide and for making my son feel happy and secure"

We are so grateful for all your feedback and wonderful comments it warms our hearts to know that you know you really are at the centre of all we do!



3 - I hope you are all prepared for what I am about to write...63 days till Christmas! As the great ELF once said "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear" with this in mind we are calling on all of you wonderful and talented individuals to help us. We are on a mission to create a SHIP Christmas video and need all of you to help. Any Grinches out there will be transformed. We want to use this song as the foundation for our video ([Every bit of Christmas](#)), but rewrite the lyrics so they're a little more 'SHIP' and magical. Send us your lyric ideas and lets spread a little SHIP magic.

During lockdown there was a lot of videos doing a pass the toilet roll and such other things we are going to do a SHIP version of this very soon as pass the parcel so staytuned for updates.

A reminder that our annual AGM meeting will be held on 19th November- virtually, we will be sending out the link to you all to access the meeting should you wish to do so. We hope to see you there.



Thank you all for your support and continued input to our services through out this difficult year. We at S.H.I.P couldn't do it without you. From everyone here at S.H.I.P. we wish you a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Next issue January 2021