



Annual Report 2017

39 Bath Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 5TS.
office@dropzonecafe.org.uk or 01229 812888
www.drop-zone.uk

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Chairman's Report

The New year started with some optimism that we would be able to move into new premises. However, discussions with Cumbria County Council were protracted mainly because of Council cuts impacting on necessary works that required to be done to the building to make it fit for purpose. Negotiations proved difficult and time consuming however we were in a position to move into the building just after the Easter Break. This was successful due to the Drop Zone progressing the works that should have been completed by the Landlord by a mixture of external contractors and staff stepping up to do a lot of the works, led as usual by Sue Johnson and Cath Corkill who continually exceed expectations.

Our Sphere Project was a winner on the Peoples Project which was more than welcome and has helped to push the youth services along, coupled with some lesser wins has been a great help to finances. Education seems to be a bit of a roller coaster however the works that is done in this area brings in some good revenue and allows us to continue to survive in this harsh financial climate. The latter part of the year has provided some great initiatives the ongoing discussions with the Ormsgill Youth and Community Association will bring some excellent synergies and benefits to both organisations and hopefully a resolution early in the coming year. Discussions with Multi Cultural Centre are also ongoing with a trial period for them to use our facilities on a trial basis which seemed to have been successful.

We welcomed new Trustees Karen Hanks and Les Hall, and lost the services of John McGill and Val Robinson and thanked them for their inputs during their term with the Drop Zone. Meanwhile Rob O'Connor and Sue Borland joined the trustees but unfortunately Sue was unable to continue due to personal reasons. I feel that we have a particularly strong board now and hopefully we will also have Bill McEwan joining us at the AGM to complete the team.

As the year closes I am confident that 2018 is going to be a good year for us, in particular the building is now fit for purpose although as would be expected that there will some changes here and there but a special thank you to all the Staff who have worked through the sometimes difficult conditions and have progressed to its current condition. I look forward to the various initiatives that should help put the Drop Zone on a stable footing.

Mike Cumming
Chairman

Finances (accounts)

Education, Skills and Training Manager Report

Through 2017 referrals from local secondary schools and the local authority were still quite low which does have an impact financially on the organisation. We were lucky enough, however, to secure just under £10,000 to work with young people aged 14-19 years who needed support with transitions into future provision. This has enable us to open our doors to young people who are not on role, whether it be through exclusions or elective home schooling. We have supported our post 16 students with resits in Maths and English and been able to support them successfully making the transition into college and training. We also secured £1000 from ASDAN which has enabled our staff and young people plan the refurbishment of our outside space to make it more young people friendly.



With the move to the new building, one of our main priorities was forging positive links with the two local schools and the community we moved into. This has had its difficulties due to challenging behaviour and society's perception of 'teenagers.



We are continually working to promote positive aspects of what we do, and this was highlighted when we opened our doors in October, so people could come along and find out more about our work. This was a positive experience with the infant school visiting to see the police dogs and snakes. The building has been adapted to suit our needs and over the summer management spent their own time renovating the education room so young people have a conducive learning environment.



Our two new members of staff have undergone training in education, teaching and assessing and passed with flying colours. They continue to work tirelessly to support our young people and have facilitated GCSE's and Functional Skills assessments, so our young people gain accredited outcomes, preparing them for post 16 provision.

Drop Zone strives to provide learning experiences not only for young people but also for adults. We have worked closely over the year with the police to provide training for their PCSO's and officers. This has been a hugely beneficial process where young people have seen the police in a different context and vice versa. This has broken down barriers and we hope to continue this in the future.

We continue to offer volunteering positions and offer student training placements and apprenticeships from Furness College.

As managers we continue to work tirelessly to sustain our project and are constantly looking at ways to diversify to attract big pots of funding. We are currently in the process of taking Ormsgill Youth Project under our umbrella and are working closely with Furness Multi Cultural Forum. These partnerships will benefit all organisations and will hopefully strengthen funding bids in the future.

As managers we are promoting our service continually and are being asked to attend important meetings and events which gives us opportunities to forge new partnerships and links with other agencies and organisations. As funding becomes more difficult to obtain we are very appreciative of continued support from schools, the local authority and parents which enables us to continue the work we do. Young people have always and will always be the centre of what we do and for that we are eternally grateful.



Cath Corkill
Education, Skills and Training Manager

Youth & Community Development Manager Report



The year started with a bang with Winter Pride at the Forum, the first of its kind in Barrow. Furness LGBT youth group supported the event which was a huge success and empowered the group to engage in further activities including attending Priscilla Queen of the Desert at the venue.

Around this time, we were told we had been shortlisted for Granada's Peoples Project. I headed off to Media City in Salford to train in marketing and media. Filming took place in February at our Cornwallis St Centre and we aired on Granada TV in March and our campaign to spread the word of what we do and to gain votes began. We have many people in the town to thank for their support of our campaign including, Barrow library, Barrow Market, Barrow AFC, Barrow Raiders, The Forum, Hindpool Community Centre, Dalton Community Centre, Askam & Dalton Co-op and countless others who took voting cards and spread the word to help us. Our campaign was successful, and we



were awarded £38,000 for the SPHERE project (A project devised to improve the health and well being of young people)



In May we moved from our home at Cornwallis Street to our new home at The Annexe in Hindpool which required extensive renovations this was managed over the coming months alongside summer holiday provision when young people took part in various activities to help them relax, have fun and socialise.

To continue our valuable work we have many people to thank including funders, trustees, staff, volunteers and of course young people who continue to inspire us everyday.



Finally, our fantastic volunteer Kenny received recognition from Help for Heroes with a press release about the work he does with Drop Zone supporting the SPHERE project.

“Cumbrian veteran emerges from “a very dark place” to mentor youngsters” Dalton-in-Furness man, who suffers from mental and physical illness as a result of his military career, has found purpose and solace through working with young people at the Drop Zone.



Sue Johnson
Youth and Community Development Manager

Education Report

The past year has been a great one for the education provision. We have been busy working on Maths and English with many of our young people sitting exams, both GCSE and Functional Skills, with great success. In the summer our year 11's sat their exams and showed great maturity in the way they conducted themselves and they did themselves and Drop Zone proud. Our year 11's left us in May and have now all moved on to further education and are thriving in their chosen paths. We have been focusing on following the NCFE curriculum in Maths and English working towards Functional Skills levels 1 and 2. In Maths we have covered many subjects such as; fractions, decimals, percentages, arithmetic, angles, shapes, algebra and pi. In English we have covered fiction, non-fiction, annotating text, spelling, comprehension and speaking and listening. All the young people have shown real skill in all these subjects and are progressing well.

At the Cope moderation we had 6 young people who had created portfolios pass their qualification. Three young people passed at level 2, one at level 1 and two young people passed their Aope. Well done to all the young people who gained the qualification you all produced wonderful portfolios. Young people have also gained short course qualifications in subjects such as Geography, Sport and History.



For an end of term treat we took the young people to Dalton Zoo for the day. We had a wonderful day looking at the animals and even getting involved in feeding the giraffes and lemurs! Other outings have include going to Green Heart Den a community garden where we have a planter and visiting the Owls in Barrow Market. We have also been out and about doing sporting activities such as rugby, football, badminton, table tennis and running.

We had Tony from the Red Cross come in and deliver First Aid training to the young people. They learnt practical hands-on first aid, including skills like using the defibrillator and how to deal with cuts and burns.



We have a great sense of community between the young people and staff here at drop zone everyone is made to feel important and valued for their individual achievements.

“Everyone at Drop Zone are very nice and have good banter. There is no discrimination on who you are making Drop Zone very relaxed compared to school. The workers at Drop Zone always help if you are stuck on any activity.” – Ellora Morgan.

Over all we have had a very busy 2017 in the education provision and the young people have achieved many brilliant things and will continue to do so in to 2018!

Victoria Shuttleworth
Senior Education Worker

Emily Stirzaker
Education Worker

Youth Work Report (Askam, Dalton, Barrow & Furness LGBT)

Dalton Youthy

This year Dalton Youthy has been changed to a Friday night with study session, 4-5, and Youth Club, 5-7.

We have taken part in local fundraising events ie: Carnivals and we've spent a day at 'The Fun Palace' which involved us having a craft table making masks.



Dalton Youthy have had the pleasure of meeting Norman Barnard. Norman has at least 5 snakes which he brought in for all the young people to meet. We did this session to help our young people overcome their fears, one young person even said it was 'therapeutic'.

We have also been discussing leadership and encouraging the young people to become mentors by recruiting younger members of the community to join youthy.



MANGA CLUB

The Manga Club moved with us to Bath Street in 2017 attending every Wednesday 5pm-7pm. The club is on the way to being self sufficient and utilises another community building nearby other nights of the week. Staff have encouraged members to input into delivery and from this we have learned some Japanese, how to crochet and preparing food for the club.



Manga continues to be well attended and lots of new members, some from our LGBT group, are accessing the club now. The group attended Sunnycon in 2017. To do this they collected weekly

subs, booked their own transport and hotel, and made their own costumes. They plan for 2018 to go bigger and better and as always, we look forward to their fabulous creations and outfits.



The group have taken part in a focus group with Nat from Brathay around provision in the area for young people.



Chris, as always, has great plans for the club and has attended training courses organised by ourselves to enable him to move the group forward.

Askam Youth Club.

Askam has seen a decline in numbers over the past 12 months however young people have still engaged in community activities, sport sessions and SPHERE sessions which encourage young people to make informed choices around healthier lifestyles. Through this programme Askam was visited by the local NHS sexual health services as part of an initiative to bring services into local communities. The project is supported by Askam and Ireleth Parish Council and takes place at the Rankin Hall Tuesdays 5-7. In 2018 We hope to develop our links with local schools and other community projects to engage more young people in Askam in positive activities.

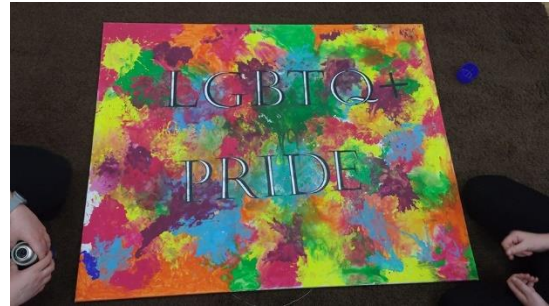


LGBT YOUTH GROUP

The LGBT youth group have been busy this year engaging in community events to promote the club. Including running a stall at Barrow Winter Pride, supporting Idaho day and attending events such as



Drop Zone Open Day. In the summer the group visited Manchester



Peoples Museum to attend the LGBT rights exhibition.

Recently the group were awarded funds from The Heritage Lottery to attend URPotential Youth Festival in Blackpool to kick off LGBT history month.



Funders and Supporters



LOTTERY FUNDED



Sir John Fisher Foundation



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