

Annual Report

2019–2020



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Foreword from our Chair

I am writing this message in very strange times, where we are all socially distanced and visits to the homes of family and friends are no longer possible. Up until March 2020 Sheffield Mencap and Gateway had experienced another busy and successful year.

The adults who use our services had achieved so much through all our educational, development and social activities, as well as our fitness, sports and health programmes.

Our children with learning disabilities and autism made great progress through our Soundbites and Communicate projects, drama and performance clubs, as well as our Friday night club for children, siblings and parents.

In addition, our National Lottery funded carers project was going from strength to strength, with new groups being set up and existing groups of carers developing friendships and regularly taking part in activities together.

However, when lockdown came we were told to close our services at Norfolk Lodge overnight. It was clearly a shock for all of us, but very quickly we began to deliver online activities to keep people engaged, connected and supported. We have always stayed in touch with people through telephone and Facebook, but during lockdown these connections really came into their own, helping to tackle loneliness, anxiety and isolation.

Norfolk Lodge opened its doors once again in August 2020 for face-to-face activities and since then most of our services have slowly returned, but as I write this, we have just entered a second national lockdown.

Fortunately, the hard work that our team put in over summer to implement social distancing, hand sanitising, temperature checks and the use of PPE, has meant that our Activity & Learning Hub is able to stay open, whereas other services are 'on pause' for the time being.

Many charities face uncertain times, indeed some have closed their doors for good, but through the excellent leadership of our managers and the dedication of our loyal and hardworking staff team, we remain a thriving organisation. Finally, our committed Board of Trustees will ensure that our organisation is financially sound and continues to provide a friendly and welcoming space, both physically and online, for people with learning disabilities and their families.

**Many thanks to everyone,
Chris Booth-Mayblin**

“ We continue to provide a friendly and welcoming space, both physically and online, for people with learning disabilities and their families.

A year in numbers

In the last financial year, we...

Raised
£4,000 at the
Christmas
Fair

Reached 400
carers with our
support
services

Our Tuesday community
group raised over £100
doing a bag
pack at a local
supermarket, and told
lost of people about our
organisation!

Successfully raised
enough money to fit
new toilets and
Changing Places
facilities, reaching a
fundraising total of
£47,250 for the project!

Benefitted from
12,094 volunteer
hours, at an
equivalent
monetary worth of
£136,058

Cooked up 70 meals
per week at Mencafe,
prepared and served
by our students.
That's a total of 3000
for the year!

Delivered 255 AQA units
across a range of diverse
subjects like film making,
home economics, drama
performances and prop-
making, wood work and
indoor climbing.

Welcomed
130 new
volunteers

Supported 80
children
across seven
different
services.

21cm were lost from
children's waists
during our Shine
healthy lifestyle
programme

19 podcasts were
researched and
recorded by
children on our
Soundbites project.

Carried out 74
home visits to
elderly and
vulnerable
carers



Responding to COVID-19

Towards the end of the 2019-20 financial year, the COVID-19 pandemic brought about change that we could not have expected or planned for. At 5pm on Wednesday 18 March, we closed our services at Norfolk Lodge. However, this did not mean that we stopped delivering services or lost touch with members during this time.

Within two weeks, we rolled out a plan that would see our staff and volunteers producing over 100 engaging, fun and varied videos that featured guided workouts, art activities, singing lessons, drama workouts, step-by-step recipes, garden scavenger hunts, poetry competitions and much, much more. We published the videos on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel and we also delivered live Gateway events over Facebook, and a live Saturday night gig performed by one of our very talented volunteers.

Staff from Activity & Learning Hub (ALH) made regular calls to students to check in and to remind them about the online resource that we were making available. We also produced printed activity packs which were posted out to members, and we delivered some ALH sessions over Zoom.

On Thursday evenings, when Kids Fitness and Fitness Fanatics would normally take place, the team produced a different workout – which they filmed together on Zoom – every week for our members to follow. This meant that the adults and children who come to fitness sessions still had a workout at the same time in their routine, plus they were able to see the familiar faces of our group leaders, who were motivating them all the way.



"My Sheffield Wednesday Poem"

I miss being at Hillsborough on a Saturday afternoon
Hearing the noise of the crowd when the match is ready to start
And both teams are out of the tunnel.
I miss hearing the chanting from the Wednesday fans
And the Hi Ho Silver Lining song cheering the team on.
I miss the noise from our fans when we score, whenever it is
In the first half before half time or the second half
Or the last minute which the Wednesday fans love.
It sends Hillsborough stadium rocking
And I miss the shouting at the referee if he's been an idiot
When he makes the wrong choices!
Shiree Varley
Summer 2020

Our Carers Team continued to deliver services virtually and over the phone. This included weekly meet-ups on Zoom hosted by the Carers Outreach Project team (COPE) and our Sharing Caring team continued to support our older carers to access important information, to access their pensions and benefits, and to support future planning.

COPE organised weekly bingo mornings, quizzes and 'digital doodling' sessions to keep carers and their cared-for relatives connected and to prevent them from becoming isolated during lockdown. One of our carers said about these services:

"It's nice that everybody can keep in contact so they aren't isolated in their own bubbles. It is good to connect with other parents and members."

Accounts

SHEFFIELD MENCAP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	Notes	YEAR END 31 MAR 20 RESTRICTED £	YEAR END 31 MAR 20 UNRESTRICTED £	YEAR END 31 MAR 20 TOTAL £	YEAR END 31 MAR 19 TOTAL £
Income from:					
Donations, legacies & similar income	2	59,646	64,314	123,960	154,638
Charitable activities	3	161,342	601,462	762,804	601,629
Other trading activities	4	-	10,980	10,980	9,930
Total Income		<u>220,988</u>	<u>676,756</u>	<u>897,744</u>	<u>766,197</u>
Expenditure on:					
Fund-raising		-	46,822	46,822	36,398
Charitable activities:					
Social activities & projects		41,568	151,907	193,475	181,533
Training & support projects		104,190	537,113	641,303	543,888
Governance		-	13,468	13,468	13,401
Total expenditure	5	<u>145,758</u>	<u>749,310</u>	<u>895,068</u>	<u>775,220</u>
Net Income / (expenditure) for the year	6	75,230	(72,554)	2,676	(9,023)
Transfer between funds		<u>(33,151)</u>	<u>33,151</u>	-	-
Net movement in funds		42,079	(39,403)	2,676	(9,023)
Total funds brought forward		<u>64,058</u>	<u>482,339</u>	<u>546,397</u>	<u>555,420</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>106,137</u>	<u>442,936</u>	<u>549,073</u>	<u>546,397</u>

SHEFFIELD MENCAP
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

	Notes	31 MAR 20		31 MAR 19
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	9		180,539	191,169
Investments	10		<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
			180,789	191,419
Current Assets				
Stock	11	689		727
Debtors and prepayments	12	84,143		89,022
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>328,126</u>		<u>292,712</u>
		412,958		382,461
Creditors:				
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>44,674</u>		<u>27,483</u>
Net current assets			<u>368,284</u>	<u>354,978</u>
Net assets	14		<u>549,073</u>	<u>546,397</u>
Funds				
Restricted income funds			106,137	<u>64,058</u>
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds		203,816		234,812
Designated funds		<u>239,120</u>		<u>247,527</u>
			442,936	482,339
Total funds	15		<u>549,073</u>	<u>546,397</u>

Thank you to our supporters

Arts Council England
 Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust
 Awards For All
 The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund
 Barbara A Shuttleworth Memorial Trust
 The Barnabas Charitable Trust (High Peak)
 Blakemore Foundation
 Beatrice Laing Trust
 Bernard Sunley Foundations
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 The Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust
 Children in Need
 The Clothworkers' Foundation
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 Sheffield Town Trust
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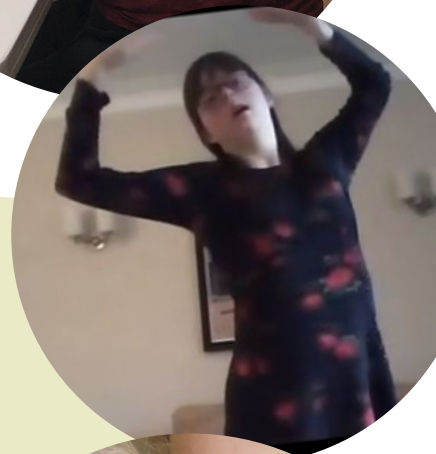


A few of our highlights

Sandra joined our Community Group this year, on Activity & Learning Hub. She is always helping out and going the extra mile by making things for our projects at home. Sandra's confidence has grown in the groups, she was the first student to ask questions to the general public when we went out to do our survey about Sheffield, and she was even interviewed about Sheffield Mencap & Gateway by Radio Sheffield, when they came to speak to us about re-opening in August.



Jessica is a graduate of our 'Shine Out' programme. During lockdown in summer 2020 she collaborated with Katie, a dance practitioner who is also part of our Carers team, to create a dance duet about feelings in lockdown and connecting with others. 'Friendship in Lockdown' acknowledges that you can still flourish and shine in a crisis, keep connected and also make new friends and stay positive. The performance was watched by more than 2000 people on our Facebook page. Jessica said: 'I enjoy dance and feel skillful when I am dancing'.



We were proud to see eight of our amazing volunteers accepted onto university courses, and a further eight applying for and securing new jobs, after deciding to pursue new careers during lockdown.



We had some very interesting animals come in to visit our nature group, including spiders and lizards! The group really enjoyed it, as you can see from the photos, and learnt about a lot of new species.



Sule is an asylum seeker from Turkey, who was introduced to Sheffield Mencap & Gateway through the New Beginnings project. Sule is a qualified teacher and she was interested in finding a volunteering opportunity where she could use these skills. She has volunteered on our Activity & Learning Hub, helping students in cooking, drama and sewing groups. She says,

"I cannot even describe the happiness of doing something voluntary as an asylum seeker. But we felt on top of the world when we met Mencap."

Volunteering with us has helped Sule to better understand learning disabilities and autism, she explains, "I realised that we put walls between us and people with special needs. They are no different from us. They are a part of our society."

Closing word

“

I hope you've enjoyed reading about the great work that Sheffield Mencap & Gateway has continued to deliver during 2019/20 and how we've responded positively to the pandemic during this year. This has all been possible because of the incredible team of staff, trustees and volunteers. Their care, commitment and hard work has meant that everyone gets the best quality service, in spite of the huge obstacles we have faced.

We don't know what the future holds but with a vaccine on the horizon, we are feeling much more optimistic for next year and looking forward to a time when our services can return to normal.

Our organisation was founded almost 70 years ago because parents wanted to give their children greater opportunity and a better life. We have to continue to develop, expand and improve what we offer to reflect what present-day members and their families want and need. This will continue to be our focus over the next 12 months as we celebrate our 70th (Platinum) Anniversary Year. To find out more about our organisation or to get involved, please check out our social media or get in touch with me.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported us in any way this year – we couldn't do any of our work without you!

Janet Sullivan
Chief Executive

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