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SHIPS Project Annual Report March 2018

The area covered this year stretches from Cornwall to Gloucester, Dorset to Gwent. Support has been provided for 35 pupils from 9 local authorities. This is a slight reduction on the previous year, but the youngsters this year have needed a greater level of support. However we have not been formally able to help 3 young people as their schools have declared that they cannot afford the membership. In two cases we have been able to find a way around this.

We have provided awareness training to three Y5 classes and run three training courses in Warmley. We have also been into two schools to run shorter sessions. We again held our conference in The Vassals Centre Fishponds, on 13 July this year. It was attended by 59 people, 10 of whom turned up on the day without having booked a place. We were grateful for our parent-helpers who managed the situation brilliantly with a visit to the local Co-op! We all learned much from our three speakers, Ingram Wright, Penny Weekes and Jackie Winter and appreciated the insights from TAs Sarah Cummisky and Gina Green in their interviews about the support they provide for different age groups. We also introduced table discussions, led by Siân, and separate groups for parents and school staff.

Take up for the conference was disappointing to start and Royds Withy King, our sponsors, agreed to offer some places at half price. Several schools benefitted from a two-for-one offer, when otherwise they would not have sent anyone. This meant that they could share insights and support each other when they started to teach the young person in September.



This year 5 young people have used The Lifeboat Programme. One young person has graduated from the Lifeboat for Reading, and is now working on the Lifeboat for Number. We are also being asked for more Social Stories in order to teach social understanding to pupils with an ABI and we are building a bank of resources which may be individualised as needed.

The Transition Programme, with CBIT South West, funded by Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, was followed for just three pupils moving to KS3 and one pupil who moving from infant to junior school. In the end only one school was able to provide TA support and the other pupils were supported by Nikki Winslow, the then CBIT Rep, and Siân. For these pupils the programme was very successful and we have had excellent feedback from both schools and families.

We are again grateful to Boyd Withy King who have kindly continued their sponsorship of the website. We have also been posting onto facebook, and while this has been patchy, we have a growing number of followers.

The Parents' Group at The Talbot group has grown in numbers this year, which has provided mutual support and insights into family life with a youngster with ABI. They have been very active in suggesting topics for the conference.



This year Nikki Winslow stepped down from her job with CBIT and Helen Spriggs has been appointed in her place. We look forward to getting to know her. Unfortunately Penny Weekes has lost her contract with the NHS in Torbay. Siân met with her to discuss possible ways to collaborate, and to make sure young people in the area get the support they need.

In September Siân was invited to join a Workshop on Working Memory run by the Psychology Department at Exeter University. This proved fruitful in terms of potential collaborations and was followed up by emails and a Skype meeting. Siân was also asked to be part of a panel who met in London to produce a paper MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM to be presented to the newly formed All Party Parliamentary Group on Acquired Brain Injury. The South West Acquired Neurological Network (SWANN) has additionally been set up to allow for training and networking and Siân represented SHIPS at the inaugural meeting in June and has been invited again for the meeting in May.

Financials: Fundraising this year has been rather difficult, despite the assistance of Above & Beyond, and we have not received any major grants. However we have been grateful for the on-going support of various relatives of families in the project.

We raised £7382 in the financial year and used £8662, keeping around £10000 in the account at all times as funds go in and out. Nominally we expect to use £10 000 each year, but expenditure this year is in line with the last three years of operation.

Income by category:

Donations & Fundraising £3969
Schools: £4215
Training: £805
Conference: £1380
Gift Aid: £17.53

Expenditure by category:

Observations & reports: £1516
Training: £935
Support, inc transition support: £1410
Lifeboats & other tuition: £1320
Stationery, website & equipment: £314
Conference: £643
Travel: £2004

Fundraising for this academic year is on target to replace what we have spent, currently 85% has been collected, which is exactly the same as the proportion this time last year. However we have less to collect in this year, so we will need to look to raise more funds before the end of the academic year.

Report prepared by Dr Siân Rees, PhD, MA (Ed), B Mus (Hons), AdvDip (Special Needs), PGCE