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SHIPS Project Annual Report March 2019

More than 50 young people have been provided with some kind of support this year - this may have been a single phone call for advice from school or parents, or full membership of the project with observations, reports, phone calls and meetings. Again we have supported pupils in Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Buckinghamshire, as well as BANES, South Gloucestershire and Bristol. It is noticeable that certain local authorities, and certain schools within authorities, seem unable to afford the membership fee of around £200 and, again this year, we have had to find ways around this.



We have offered six Training Days, and provided training sessions for two schools. The website, sponsored by Royds Withy King has again been well used, and gained a number of new articles. Our conference, titled Moving On and Moving Up was held on 12 July 2018. Lack of funding meant that schools felt they could not afford the fees and to release staff despite generous sponsorship from Royd Withy King and only 38 people booked in. Feedback showed that those who came appreciated the informative talks from Megan Eve, Cath Bate and Kitty Eve, who brought along a young lady, Alice, who had been through the system with an ABI and spoke most powerfully about her experiences. Helen Bales who had a daughter in Y7 was also interviewed about the transition process.

Five youngsters have used our Lifeboat for Number and six are using the Lifeboat for Reading. They are all making excellent progress. We have purchased a new set of books, Dandelion Readers, specifically for two youngsters to use. We offered the Transition Programme to six youngsters, out of which only one took up the offer of the programme, sponsored by Irwin Mitchell. Although the primary school was very proactive in her preparation, the secondary school did not take up the offer of free places at the conference and have not responded to enquiries this year.



Social story writing has continued as needed; we have not felt able to make a charge to schools for this service due to the economic climate, and costs have had to be met from general funds.



Facebook has been used more this year, both to remind parents about events and for parents to contact the office when issues arise. We also have a presence on LinkedIn which is accessed more by professionals. Through this two graduates from The SHIPS Project have been in touch, and been able to pass on their experiences of life after school, which is invaluable. Numbers attending Parents' Group at The Talbot have fluctuated this year, but conversation is always lively and interesting with a chance for parents to garner advice from others.

Financials: One day in the Summer I was overjoyed when opening the post to find an unsolicited donation of £1000 from the Clara E Burgess Foundation. Then in December I was given an account statement showing that Helen Bales work colleagues from Kendall



Kingscott Ltd had raised over £2000. Jon Coe who completed 11 Tough Mudder runs deserves a special mention for his contribution to our funds.

In house fundraising this year has been focussed around the London Marathon which Matthew Rees has offered to run in aid of The SHIPS Project, sponsored by his company Great Western Recycling Ltd. At this point he is a quarter of the way to his target of £2000. To help this the Parents' Group is holding a Cake Sale in the BRI in April. One parent persuaded her child's school to allow pupils to wear purple on Epilepsy Awareness Day in exchange for a donation to The SHIPS Project - we are yet to find out how much this raised. Jean Scantlebury who has previously supported SHIPS with collections and a coffee morning, asked that donations at her funeral should be given to The SHIPS Project. This raised £177.40.



We raised £11835 in the financial year and used £12477, keeping around £10000 in the account at all times as funds go in and out. Our expenditure this year exceeded the last three years of operation, but so did our income; there seems to be more need to be met at the moment. However we used more than we raised.

Income by category:

- Donations & Fundraising £4747
- Schools membership: £4375
- Training: £1015
- Conference: £1310
- Gift Aid: £22

Expenditure by category:

- Observations & reports: £3229
- Training: £1188
- Support, inc transition support: £1410
- Lifeboats & other tuition: £2096
- Stationery, website & equipment: £539
- Conference: £725
- Travel: £3000

Fundraising for this academic year is on target to replace what we have spent, but as last year had a shortfall we need to try to replace around £1962, before we can start on fundraising for next year.

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