



Malpas Young Persons Project

Registered Charity No : 1078000

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29th JUNE 2023

ANNUAL REPORT : APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

MYPP is a registered charity which was established as the result of community drive to provide the young people of Malpas and the surrounding area with a youth service which would give them the opportunity to thrive and aspire to be the best that they could be. This service was felt to be particularly important given the rurally isolated nature of Malpas and the lack of accessibility to such facilities for our young people.

The project began in 1997 with the creation of a Young Persons Council and following considerable hard work, fundraising and a contribution from the Big Lottery Fund the Centre opened its doors in 2003.

The Centre continues to offer a service to local young people and is run by our Board of Trustees and Executive Committee members who are all volunteers.

At our previous AGM held on 10th May 2022 four new trustees were elected:

- Lisa Binfield**
- Kyle Hill-Chamber**
- Kate Lacourse**
- Sarah-Jane Dickinson**

Kate remained a trustee until March 2023 when sadly she had to resign due to increasing work commitments. During her time as a trustee Kate helpfully reviewed a number of the project's policies. There is now a need for the Committee to consider these draft documents and agree implementation.

Sarah-Jane remained as a trustee until her move to the project's Youth worker post in October 2022.

Abi Clayton responded to our advert for a trustee/treasurer at the

end of September 2022 but unfortunately concluded that she could not work with the charity and resigned in early December 2022.

MYPF Trustees are therefore currently as follows:

- John Pierson
- Sally Sharp
- Kyle Hill-Chamber
- Lisa Binfield
- Norah O'Donnell
- Margo Webb

Following the election of trustees our AGM subsequently elected the following officers:

**Chairperson - Margo Webb
Treasurer/Booking Clerk - Sally Sharp
Secretary - John Pierson**

These decisions were unanimously agreed by all trustees.

Since our new Board of Trustees has been established we have taken forward the following actions agreed at our previous AGM and organised the following:

- Continued to pursue the recruitment of trustees/volunteers, however this has proved difficult and certainly remains an ongoing task
- We have not reviewed our rental charges given the current economic climate and difficulties for community groups in finding additional funding.
- Fundraising opportunities have been pursued proactively and some success achieved. This will clearly remain an ongoing task for the charity.
- MYPF website and Facebook pages have been reviewed and updated.
- Given the changes in youth worker over the past year the task to establish a plan to attract new youth group members remains outstanding.
- Our CCTV system has now been reviewed and updated as agreed.
- Our bench seating has been partially recovered.
- A "Big Tidy Up" of the Centre took place in August 2022
- A visioning session for trustees took place in February 2023
- A Centre Open Day took place in March 2023

The Centre could not operate without the commitment, hard work and time of our staff, trustees and volunteers and this should not be underestimated.

I would wish to record formally in this Annual Report my thanks to each and

every one of our staff members, trustees and volunteers for their contribution to the work of the Centre.

2. STAFFING

This year has been one of considerable change in terms of the project's staffing situation. Recruitment has taken up much time for trustees in terms of advertising, interviews, DBS checks, reference follow up, induction etc.

Our long-standing youth worker, Lucy Postle and youth support worker, Louise Gough, who worked with our Wednesday senior youth group resigned at the end of term in July 2022. Both workers had been employed by MYPP for several years and decided that it was an appropriate time to move on.

Our youth support worker, Sonja Taylor, who took responsibility for our Friday junior youth group in January 2021 resigned and finished her employment with MYPP in October 2022. Sonja who also ran her own business, Kid Space, from within the centre moved with her business to the Richard Alport primary school following the school wishing to expand their breakfast and after school facilities and offering accommodation free of charge.

Following these changes recruitment processes began for both a new youth worker and youth support worker.

Sarah-Jane Dickinson subsequently was appointed to our youth worker role in October 2022 and brought considerable experience as a qualified youth worker with Cheshire Young Carers.

Sadly it proved more difficult to fill our youth support worker post and this impacted on our ability to deliver the junior youth sessions for a short period of time.

Emilia Stys-Parry was appointed at the beginning of January 2023 to the youth support worker role and continues in post.

Our senior youth sessions continued with Sarah-Jane's appointment and the assistance of three volunteers, Beth Ruscoe, Chloe Rimmer and Tyra Finlan.

Unfortunately the workload within Sarah-Jane's full time post increased significantly and she no longer felt able to continue with MYPP. Sarah-Jane resigned on 29th March 2023 and the recruitment process for a new youth worker commenced once again.

3. YOUTH GROUP SESSIONS

MYPP provide a centre based programme of activities for the young people of Malpas and its surrounding area, who are between school years 4 and the age of 16 years. We took a decision to reduce our age range from 18 years in January 2023 following considerable behaviour difficulties with an older group of young men. Cheshire Police were involved in the final incident. The behaviour difficulties included threatening behaviour towards staff and volunteers, non compliance with the project's rules, total disrespectful behaviour towards staff and volunteers and a failure to engage in working towards changing attitudes and behaviours.

In addition the behaviour was impacting on the attendance of our 11 - 16 year olds.

We currently offer two sessions per week during term time and moved both sessions to Wednesday evenings in October 2022. The Junior group 6 - 7.30pm and the Senior group 7.30 - 9pm.

The Junior group is usually well attended, numbers ranging between 15 - 25 each week. The Senior group is currently poorly attended and there is a job to be completed by our new staff in increasing the numbers attending.

We see the Centre as a place where young people can meet, socialise, be safe and engage in activities outside of school and home. At the same time we encourage the acquisition of social skills and participation in group activities.

In the course of this work our youth workers and volunteers have the well-being and long term maturation of young people as their main focus. We do this through developing relationships with the members, engaging in joint activities and encouraging young people's involvement in the local community wherever possible.

We aim to help young people in this rural area to offset the problems of isolation, lack of facilities and lack of transport to urban areas.

At all times we recognise the importance of keeping children safe and maintain communication with other professionals and statutory bodies when necessary.

There are a wide range of activities available. These include sport, art, cookery, indoor and outdoor games, computer games and much more.

Snacks are also provided at a small cost.

Outside space is also extremely important for sessions, allowing young people to run around and burn off energy. We are fortunate in being able to securely shut off the Fire Services car park and to the additional lighting provided by them when required. This allows for football and other outside games to be undertaken safely.

Our junior group sessions are also at times assisted by the helpful input of a number of young volunteers who have come to us via the Duke of Edinburgh award or who have grown up with the centre and return to help out.

4. FUNDING

As stated in the introduction the Centre was established through much hard work, fundraising and Big Lottery funding. The building itself is now 20 years old and as such requires considerable input in terms of upkeep and repair.

Costs include maintaining the building and surrounding grounds through cleaning, heating, lighting, gardening, appropriate insurance, repairing the fabric of the building when necessary etc.....

Our top costs in terms of funding the service during 2022/23 are:

- Maintenance approx £3.8k
- Payroll approx £5.5k
- Utility bills approx £3.6k
- Insurance approx £2.4k
- Equipment approx £2.4k

All costs are very necessary in providing a safe environment for our young people, and our Trustees/Committee members work hard to ensure that we are able to do so.

It is important to note that the Centre receives NO funding from our local authority, Cheshire West & Chester, Young People's Grant Programme and has received NO liaison or support regarding the work of the Centre during the last year. Despite various applications over recent years we have failed to meet their priorities for funding given the needs of more urban areas and the national reduction in Youth Services budget.

In terms of our funding efforts for 2022/23 it is helpful to record the

following information:

- **Malpas Parish Council Grant £1,500**
- **Richard Alport foundation Grant £1,500**
- **Co-op Community Fund £1,713**
- **Sporting Bears Motor Club £1,000**
- **Personal donations of £445 have been gratefully received including the servicing of our boiler courtesy of Ed Clegg very kindly, free of charge.**
- **Malpas Christmas Fair activities returned £393**
- **Open Day raffle £76**
- **Each young person is charged £1 entrance fee on Wednesdays. In addition there is a small profit from our snack bar.**
- **We have promoted the use of our building in order to enhance our funds. We continue to charge £15 per hour and have a wide range of groups using our building. These include Minerva Arts, Friday Friends, Children's Speech Therapy Service, Malpas Community Minibus training and childrens birthday parties.**
Sadly, Kid Space moved to Richard Alport Primary School in October 2022 ending their rental agreement with MYPP. This has significantly reduced our rental income.

Room Hire has returned £10.7k to the Centre's income in 22/23.

- **It is worth noting that we have once again been successful in our funding application to the Co-op Community Fund. This scheme runs for one year through to October 2023.**
- **Through Cheshire Connect we made links with Sykes Holiday Company. Staff through there allocated charity days assisted with some internal decoration and gardening. We also made links with Michelle Pickering, Eco Lab who will make herself available to work with our young people using her art skills in the forthcoming year.**
- **We have also registered with Benevity Causes Portal which may also provide some benefits in kind.**
- **We have good links with Cheshire Youth Federation and Cheshire West Voluntary Action who regularly advise of funding streams. We are currently**

awaiting the outcomes of two funding applications Magic Little Grants, £500 and the Screwfix Foundation, £4k.

- We have also renegotiated our utilities contracts through Utilities Aid however the energy crisis has still impacted greatly on our bills.

5. DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2023/24

- **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT PLAN**
- **RECRUITMENT OF CENTRE COORDINATOR**
- **FUNDRAISING PLAN WHICH INCLUDES INCREASING BUILDING RENTAL INCOME FOR THE CHARITY**
- **PLAN DEVISED TO ATTRACT NEW YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS PARTICULARLY SENIOR GROUP**
- **COMPLETION OF POLICY REVIEWS**
- **ESTABLISH CO-OP FOODSHARE PROJECT**

Margo Webb
Chairperson
Malpas Young Persons Project