



Centre Supervisor Report AGM Meeting July 2017

I commenced my role as the Centre Supervisor at the Cotswold Centre in November 2016. I have worked for Hop, Skip and Jump since May 2012 supporting our young people to the best of my ability.

Since stepping into the office I have been supported well by the head office team and I look forward to seeing the Cotswold centre progress further over the next year.

Staff / Training

Quite recently there has been an increase in new staff working at the centre. We have also had many students supporting the centre while on placement over the last year from a couple of the local schools, colleges and university.

Recruitment is currently taking place for more play workers to support the centre enabling us to provide respite to more families in the surrounding areas. We are also interviewing for maintenance person to support the evolving needs of the centre.

The centre continues to have support from volunteers from the surrounding areas. Over recent months we have been supporting volunteers who are going through the adoption process with the local authorities and have been able to provide them with experience of supporting children and young people with additional needs, which in return will assist them with the adoption process.

Regular training continues to develop the staff team, we have been provided training from the local authority around Positive Behavioural Support and Positive Behaviour Management as well as Safeguarding training and Paediatric First Aid, complimented by Epilepsy training, as we have a high number of service users who require emergency epilepsy medication. Our staff have also recently received manual handling and moving and positioning of people training courtesy of Gloucestershire College. At the start of the year we also received some safeguarding and domestic violence training from Terry and Lyndsey, which has informed myself and Bernadette about the impact of abuse.

Fundraising and Special Events and Awareness Raising.

Again we have had a busy year with lots of valued support from organisations supporting the centre with volunteer days / projects. Some of the organisations that have been involved with the centre are:

SHS– Staff from SHS visited the centre for a ‘day to make a difference’ where they cleaned and repainted the Octagon building, removed all the stinging nettles and cut the grass around the centre.

Lloyds Banking Group – We have been supported by many different teams from Lloyds banking. They have supported us with our outdoor maintenance, transforming our sensory garden, and deep cleaning the centre.

Gloucestershire College – Students with SEN have continued to support the centre again through the school terms with creating sensory based themed displays for the children and also assisting with carrying out cleaning and light maintenance work.

Gloucester NCS – We are currently in talks with NCS to come and visit the centre to support us with some volunteering and project work.

Cheltenham College – Students volunteer with hands on work with the children.

The Conservation Volunteers – I have recently had a meeting with their project officer about some outdoor maintenance works. This will hopefully commence soon.

Belmont School – We are currently supporting students with a mild to moderate learning difficulty with work experience opportunities to develop their skills in a work setting, this is due to commence very soon.

Building and Maintenance

We have been very fortunate to have strong links with the local colleges and children's organisations, who regularly provide support to the centre in offering volunteer days. During these visits the groups are involved in creating displays for the young people that attend as well as painting when required.

Over the next month or so we will hopefully have in place a new maintenance person who will be based at Cotswolds. This will be a very welcome addition to the team.

Additional comments

As a well-established centre, we naturally support many families across the Gloucester/Cheltenham and Stroud areas and will continue to increase the level of support. With the help of the staff team our next focus will be to increase the number of children attending the centre as part of our Alternative Education scheme developing strong links with the local authority and surrounding schools.

We recently had our Family Fun day at the centre and we managed to raise £174.89. I would like to thank Lavinia Verney for organising the event and all the staff who gave their time to support us with this.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Trustees, Foundation staff and all staff from the Swindon, South West and Wigan Centres for their ongoing support and trust in taking care of the Cotswold Centre. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Play work team at HSJ for their hard work and compassion for the work we do.

