

Stoke and North Staffordshire Deaf Children's Society

Annual General Meeting Report 2017 – 2018

18th April 2018
Super Play Factory Stoke on Trent

Introduction

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) is the national charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people. Under the umbrella of the NDCS there are a number of local groups that operate around the country that are affiliated to the NDCS. These groups are independent charities in their own right but agree to common guidelines and principles laid down by NDCS to enable them to be recognised as affiliated.

All local groups are run by a committee of volunteers. These are usually parents and grand-parents of deaf children, working with local professionals to support other families in their area. They put in a lot of energy, time and hard work into running a group and do it all for free.

Although NDCS works closely with local groups, each group is independent. This allows them the choice to run activities and events depending on the needs and interests of local families.

SNSDCS (Stoke and North Staffordshire Deaf Children's Society) is one of these groups.

Background

SNSDCS was originally formed in 1975 and has a long history of helping local deaf children and their families.

The current incarnation of the society has been running for 7 years. The society was re-launched with a handful of families and has now grown substantially with many families from across the North Staffordshire area.

The society organise fun activities, regular events and days out and we also aim to provide equipment and deaf learning support and resources. Our aim is to be a society that is “inspiring and supporting deaf children, young people and their families”.

We are doing this through:

- Providing fun and informal way for society members to meet each other.
- Allowing youngsters with HI to socialise and have fun together, build confidence and develop their social skills.
- Provide activities which allow siblings and extended family to socialise with other HI affected families and share their experiences.
- Provide platforms for parents to socialise and share issues, experiences knowledge and ideas to benefit all members.
- Ensuring members have a way to relate to others affected by the same issues.
- Promoting a positive image of deaf children in the local communities.

As a committee we are looking to grow and develop our services and support for members and families, building on all the hard work and dedication provided by our amazing volunteers.

The Committee

Chairperson:

Heathcote

Vice- Chairperson and DBS Safeguarding Officer

Tony Dennis

Treasurer:

Katy Goetzee

Secretary:

Becky Hegarty

Justine

CHSWG Representative and event organiser:

Leah Herbert

Event Organiser:

Khadisha Saadi

Event Organiser & Interpreter:

Louise Jones

Local Authority Representative and event organiser:

Michelle Lane

(Teacher of the Deaf – Staffordshire)

Volunteers and Fund Raisers

The committee and society is extremely grateful to everyone that has helped through giving their time, skills, passion, help and money to the society throughout 2017 and 2018.

Without your amazing support, what we have achieved would not be possible.

Thank you so much.

Looking to the future...

Thanks to funding from The CO-OP we are launching a pilot project offering parent counselling, the Staffordshire TOD's have had some initial training from Counsellor Jan Summerfield and the team of counsellors are to have some deaf awareness training. Watch this space as we are very excited

If anyone has idea's or suggestions as to what we can offer our members in the future please share your ideas with the Committee or if you'd like to become more involved as a Committee Member or Volunteer you'd be made very welcome.

Celebrating another successful Year

Regular Clubs - SNSDCS Youth Club

Another busy year for the Youth Club, good regular numbers with new members attending. Over the year the youth club has been able to run numerous monthly events such as Tenpin Bowling, Lazer Quest, Pizza Hut Christmas Party and a visit to see Treasure Island at the Theatre.

Regular Clubs – Family Fun Club

A busy year for Fun Club which is aimed at our younger children – ages 4-7, although all ages are welcome. The club has been meeting at the Superplay Factory in Hanley with lots of fun been had by the children, whilst parents have had the opportunity to meet with Teachers of the Deaf and NDCS Family Liaison Officer and share advice/support with other parents. A highlight of the year was the Christmas Party meeting Santa.

Special Events – Day trip to Drayton Manor

In July we hosted a trip to Drayton Manor, the sun shone and lots of lovely memories were created. There was also lots of lovely photo's shared of the day and some lovely quotes...

“We've all had a great day!! Thanks to all for the hard work that went into organising it“

“Had a lovely time thank u, kids enjoyed loved it”

“Thoroughly enjoyed our first trip as a family to Drayton manor today! Surprised at how tall the kids have grown!! We have had a super day thank you so much for letting us share this trip! Once again well done team and a big thank u”

Share your special memories with us on facebook as we love seeing our members having fun at our events and sharing them with our other members.

Special Events Fancy Dress Party

A fantastic time had by our members dressing up as various superheroes, playing party games and dancing.

Special Events Fun Club Christmas Party

A great time was had by all, the children enjoyed visiting Santa and his elf in the grotto.

Special Event – Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk @ Daneside Theatre

A fantastic time was had at the panto watching Jack and the Beanstalk, whilst our very own Louise Jones signed and danced her way through the performance. Lots of fun was had and we will be back next year to watch Louise in action again. Special thanks to Congleton Panto Team who kindly let us do a bucket collection.

Other Special Events

A weekend away for our Staffs children meeting other children from around the locality, lots of fun and friendships made.

Special Thanks to:

All the members of the SNSDCS.

The Committee members of the SNSDCS – a great group of individuals who work so hard to ensure the society flourishes and continues to grow and develop.

Tony Dennis for been co-chair, his hard work and dedication through the last year dealing with the DBS and safeguarding policies

Katy Goetzee for all her support, hard work and dedication for the group as Treasurer

Becky Hegarty for all her support, hard work and dedication for the group as Secretary.

Leah Herbert for representing SNSDCS at CHSWG and her hard work and dedication helping co-ordinate events through the last year.

Khadisha Saadi for all her support, hard work and dedication organising events.

Michelle Lane for all her support, hard work and dedication to the group and for sharing all our information with both the Staffordshire and Stoke TOD's & CSW's

Louise Jones for all her support, hard work and commitment to the group providing her interpreting skills and ensuring lots of fun is always had.

The TODs and CSW's especially Michelle Lane, Louise Jones, Sarah Sayburn, Jacqui Guthrie, Ruth Andrew, Victoria Finn and Sarah Gidman for their input, dedication and support of the committee as well as helping with our events. Angie Edwards Families Liaison Officer from the NDCS who attends Fun Club offering advice and support to parents.

All our volunteers and interpreters who ensure everyone feels welcome at our events.
All the organisations that have provided venues for our events.
To all fund raisers and donators both individuals and organisations including:-

Sandyford Community Fire Station & Angela Brian
The CO-OP
Congleton Pantomine
Super Play Factory Hanley
Red Street Community Centre
Sainbury's Stoke for car parking

Thank You.

On behalf of the Stoke & North Staffordshire Deaf Children's Society.