



## SUMMER EVALUATION 2024

This year of Pegasus Playscheme has brought us to 38 years of providing a safe and happy place for children, young adults and volunteers to create memories a summer of fun! We have faced many challenges to reach our target to ensure the scheme can run, but once again, we have had a very successful scheme full of laughter and lasting memories. We were also very lucky this year to have been nominated for Kent Charity of the year under the category 'Children's charity of the year'. We were very lucky to be in the top four of our category!

Pegasus Playscheme is a registered charity (no 299301) and therefore we operate based on fundraising, grants and donations to ensure the three weeks can run every summer. Being a Playscheme for individuals with learning difficulties, we take the children and young adults from a range of local areas to ensure we can support as many individuals as we can to have a summer they will not forget! The scheme also supports these individuals to engage with new people, overcome their own challenges, and have new experiences in their local community and offering valuable respite to those closest to them.

Our values are at the centre of everything we do. The way in which we work with each other, our Children / Parents / Carers / Funders and these are laid out through our scheme outcomes, although we are a small charity, we aim high with our outcomes and feel we succeed in meeting these, year on year. The impact we as a small independent scheme are able to evidence is huge, not just for our children but for our staff, volunteers and the local community. One parent summed us up in her feedback this year with the following statement:

"It means enjoyment, inclusion, acceptance, love, no judgement, fun, being carefree, belonging and happiness. Like for once we are part of a community who understand"

## **Our outcomes for 2024**

To provide 1-1 support to children and young adults with severe and complex needs and enable strong relationships to be formed with peers. To open eyes to the varying needs and reduce social stigma.

To use a wide variety of safely managed, fun and engaging activities which in turn provide social integration, the creation of long-lasting memories and a healthy day out.

To inspire teenagers, and enable them through training to support young people with disabilities and to achieve their own summer to remember.

To make the local children and local families using our service happier and healthier whilst at the same time forging and building positive relationships.

To provide a safe haven that parents/carers can take reassurance in and find respite in during the long summer break and as a side effect reducing anxiety within the family unit.

To alleviate pressure on social care and provide spaces for children in the social care system.

To encourage independence when possible and support the older children through to transition to our Youth Forum.

To ensure that disabled children and young people are supported to optimise their physical and emotional wellbeing by having fun in a safe, supportive environment, whilst having opportunities to increase and support new skills to reach their optimum level of independence and participating in activities within their local community.

To promote the understanding that mental health matters. Disabled children and young adults can face challenges from birth and we aim to ensure a supportive role in their emotional needs along with those of the staff and volunteers.

## **Clients and Venue**

The scheme was welcomed back once again to our usual venue at Astor School in Dover – this is a central venue for most of our clients who come from the local towns.

Children taken this year have come from the following areas:

Dover	Deal	Herne Bay	Folkestone
16	12	2	5
Hythe	Canterbury	Dymchurch	Whitstable
1	7	1	1

Whilst historically we have largely been a scheme with children and young people attending from Dover and Deal, we have found that due to the lack of alternative provision in the local area that we are now taking people from a much wider area as per the break down above.

Due to volunteer and child ratios, we aim for between 10 and 12 children in each group each day – however not all children attend for every day – their varying needs are such that for some, everyday attendance can be too over stimulating so instead, the child coordinator attempts to fill every space so we can take over the 10/12, for example:

Group 1: 8-13 age bracket saw a total of 17 children attending across the course of the scheme

Group 2: 14-17 age bracket saw a total of 15 children attending across the course of the scheme

Group 3: 17-21 age bracket saw a total of 13 children attending across the course of the scheme

Therefore, a total of 45 children benefitted from attendance on the scheme this summer.

We had to sadly turn away 6 children this year due to numbers and space in groups. We also had 1 request prior to the scheme beginning for a space from a child under 8 who we also had to turn away. During the three weeks of the scheme running, we had two phone calls for spaces, however both of these children were 6 years old so we were unable to accept them.

This year we have been a support for a range of different family situations with three individuals who are looked after children, three children with a special guardianship and one adopted child. Our funding for a range of children has been received from different areas such as two referrals from social services and school payments for two children. The scheme has also utilised the government gateway system for payments. After speaking with parents, we have been asked to explore the opportunity for parents to use the HAF (holiday activity fund) scheme to assist with payments.

All children's spaces are paid for prior to the start of scheme as this supports the payments of activities etc. – we do not offer refunds in the case of illness as unfortunately their activities/space on the bus etc. are already paid for and as a charity we cannot incur this cost. This is in line with social services guidelines and other play scheme providers.

What is evident is that many parents believe we are completely KCC funded and are surprised to hear that this is not the case.

Parents/Carers complete detailed forms for the application of their child to the scheme, however it is hard to know from a piece of paper the true extent of their needs. After a discussion last year, a new question was added onto the application form to include behaviour triggers and the best strategies to support these behaviours. This has been effective to prepare the staff for the different behaviours that may be shown during the scheme and with the parents being honest and providing the support, this has been invaluable for the scheme to run smoothly. All new children start the scheme on a three-day trial for the staff team to ensure the scheme is best suited for them, and can operate on a 1-1 basis with a volunteer.

All children received a photo memento of their time on the scheme – after implementing a folder for their mementos last year, we have been able to send home their photos to be added to this to remember their summer of memories.

## **Transport**

Once again Transport was provided through Regent Coaches – transport is the largest expense for the play scheme (£17,220) but also one of our most vital expenses as without the consistency and reliability of the coaches we would not be able to transport the children to the various venues for their activities.



The coaches we had this

year were two 29 seaters and a 39 seater – this does have some impact on numbers and the child coordinator has to carefully plan such that we are then able to fit all children, volunteers and staff on the buses each day. All drivers are

issued a timetable prior to the scheme so that they can plan their routes, parking and pick up and drop off points. We are always very lucky in that our drivers become fully embedded into the scheme – they build relationships with the staff, volunteers and children and this consistency supports the children and the ease of running. On the odd occasion we do have a bus break down, these are easily rectified and new buses sent to replace. We have used Regent Coaches for many years now and there is a good relationship between the scheme and the company.



## **Staffing**

This year we employed 10 staff – including one trainee.

We employed 8 staff from the previous year, 1 staff member who has made the transition from volunteer to staff and 1 new staff member.

All staff are interviewed, references sought and DBS checked prior to the scheme start. The staff also attend a training day where they receive safeguarding training, familiarise themselves with the children's files and go through the running of the scheme with their team to begin looking at the activities and finer details, in preparation for the first day!



We also employed approx. 38 1:1 volunteers – some of whom were new to the scheme this year and others who are returning volunteers. These volunteers were great at stepping up to the challenges of the scheme, being flexible to support all of the groups and providing the child they were looking after for the day with last happy memories!

Total Volunteer hours 9.30-3.30 daily – 6 hours daily

Week 1: 984 volunteer hours

Week 2: 966 volunteer hours

Week 3: 1084 volunteer hours

**Total volunteer hours across the scheme: 3034**

### **Activities:**

As always we had a full schedule of activities timetabled across the 3 weeks – everything in the timetable is pre-booked and paid for prior to the scheme starting; staff call to check daily that bookings are made and to clarify numbers. After many recommendations last year from staff and volunteers, Quex Park was booked as a main activity for all three groups as it was enjoyable. This was a great success, providing all with many happy opportunities to feed the animals and go on the tractor ride!

With feedback, swimming has been increased to twice during the scheme and other activities that were less favoured have been taken out to bring the excitement for another year.

The timings of some activities have been revised, meaning the children could have their lunch at a scheduled time to ensure the continuous structure and routine.

After feedback from the teams, all groups were given free days to select their own activities that would suit their groups. Coincidentally, all groups opted to visit Rare Breeds centre, so this could be an activity for consideration when planning ahead to next year.



We added onto the children's forms for this year to check if the children's information could be passed on to a third party to assist with filling out documents when reaching the activities.





Monday 29th July	First Day Fun	First Day Fun	First Day Fun
Tuesday 30th July	Marsh Maze 1030	Bowling 1100	Clip and Climb 1020
Wednesday 31st July	Swimming DOY 1030 - 1130	Wingham Wildlife Park	Brockhill Farm 1000 - 1400
Thursday 1st August	Brockhill Farm 1000 - 1400	Free day	Wet wheels 1030 & 1200
Friday 2nd August	Quex Park 1030 - 1430	Canoeing 1045 - 1245	Swimming DOY 1030 - 1130
Monday 5th August	Wet wheels 1030 & 1200	Marsh Maze 1030	Quex Park 1030 - 1430
Tuesday 6th August	Wingham Wildlife Park	Brockhill Farm 1000 - 1400	Bowling 1100
Wednesday 7th August	Canoeing 1045 - 1245	Quex Park 1030 - 1430	Wingham Wildlife Park
Thursday 8th August	Lazer Tag Folkestone 1030	Wet wheels 1030 & 1200	Canoeing 1045 - 1245
Friday 9th August	Clip and Climb 1020	Swimming DOY 1030 - 1130	Lazer Tag Folkestone 1030
Monday 12th August	Bowling 1100	Swimming DOY 1030 - 1130	Marsh Maze 1030
Tuesday 13th August	Swimming DOY 1030 - 1130	Free day	Free Day
Wednesday 14th August	Free day	Clip and Climb 1020	Swimming DOY 1030 - 1130
Thursday 15th August	Free day	Lazer Tag Folkestone 1030	Free Day
Friday 16th August	Cinema 1030 & Dover Beach	Cinema 1030 & Dover Beach	Cinema 1030 & Dover Beach











## Funding:

As for many charities funding is becoming increasingly more testing and sourcing the £70,000 needed to operate is a real challenge. Every possible grant and funding application is applied for but sadly we are often not successful as the call on funds from charities is so high.

Due to the rising prices of all activities and resources needed to run, we have had to increase the price per day for the children attending to £40 each. In reality, the price per individual to attend is £104 per day. This amount appears to be a reasonable cost to ensure the running of the scheme which equated to £73, 349.13.

## Who is involved?

Once again, Pegasus continues to run and be led by a Committee. Each member of the committee has a specific role to undertake which in turn ensures that the scheme runs smoothly and all tasks are completed. The committee are as follows:  
 Sue Clark MBE – Chairperson and fundraiser, supplies coordinator  
 Sarah Slingsby – Vice Chairperson, Scheme receptionist, child coordinator and photo coordinator, supplies coordinator  
 Natasha Gilmurray – Staff Coordinator, supplies coordinator and scheme manager during the 3 weeks.  
 Scott Clark – Secretary, Volunteer co-ordinator and activities coordinator.

 	
what	it costs ...
 £1044 swimming	 £907 canoeing
 £498 lazer tag	 £285 Quex park
 £900 Wingham	 £342 bowling
 £540 clip and climb	  £150 marsh Maze

Scarlett Clark – Social Media, volunteer and activities co-ordinator and DSL.

Katrina Gravenor – Treasurer

Lyle Bax and Alec Hall – Youth Forum

We are also lucky enough to have a small core group of parents who also offer additional support and advice during the scheme and we are very grateful for their support.

This year saw the resignation of our child coordinator after many years of dedication to the scheme. From beginning as a volunteer and working her way up to child coordinator, we want to wish Sarah the best of luck as she embarks on her new adventures!

**Parent Feedback:**

All parents/carers are given a questionnaire to complete to ask their views of the scheme – this is order that we can make necessary changes and/or adjustments and also to support validity in moving forward year on year!

We received 23/45 questionnaires back this year

**Where did you hear about Pegasus?**

Previously attended – 4

Parent had volunteered – 2

Friend – 8

Social worker – 2

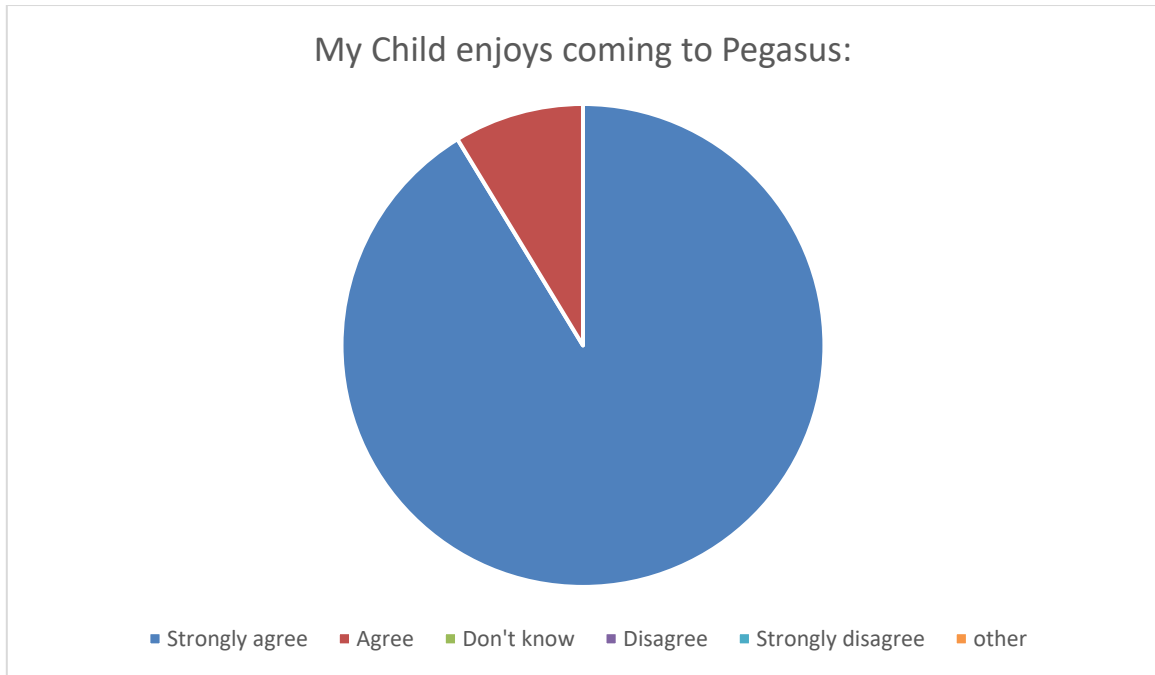
Sibling – 2

School – 2

**My child enjoys coming to Pegasus:**

<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Other</b>
91.3%	8.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%

My Child enjoys coming to Pegasus:



**Additional comments:**

“He loves the socialisation aspect.”

“She loves it”

“He is excited and happy prior and after”

“---- loves it”

“---- runs in each day with a huge smile”

“He adores Pegasus!”

“Loves the variety”

“He has loved coming and wants to do more days next year”

“It's the most favourite part of their year!”

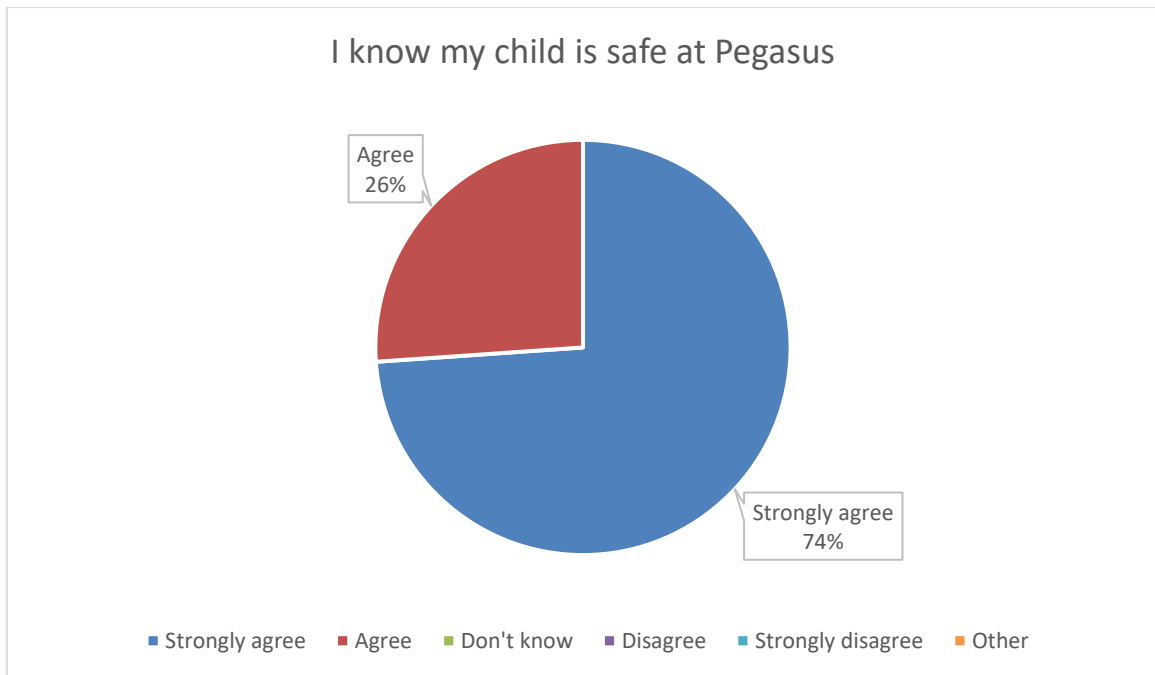
“She's up very early and eager to come.”

“I'm so thrilled that --- was confident enough to try Pegasus and he has thoroughly enjoyed it”

**I know my child is safe at Pegasus:**

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
73.9%	26.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%





**Additional comments:**

“Definitely safe with competent staff available within every group”

“Very confident with this”

“Great levels of supervision and care for each child”

“We always find ---- volunteer for the day and know he is well looked after”

“Have never worried for a simple second about their safety in your care”

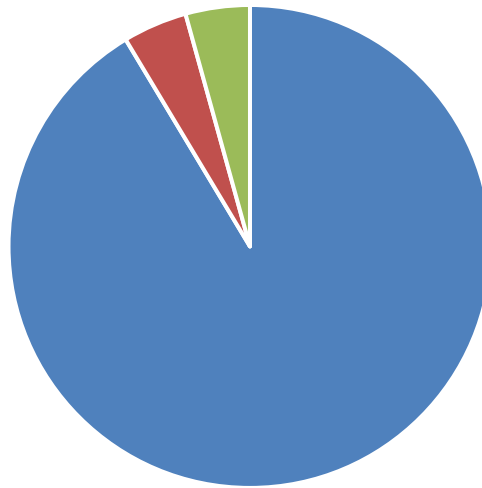
“Well looked after by everyone”

“I feel --- is safe and looked after”

**I am happy with the range of activities offered:**

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
91.3%	4.3%	4.3%	0%	0%	0%

I am happy with the range of activities offered:



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Don't know ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Other

**Additional comments:**

“He loves the variety”

“Fantastic experiences for her”

“Every day is different”

“Amazing activities”

“A good mix, --- enjoys reading what's on for the next day”

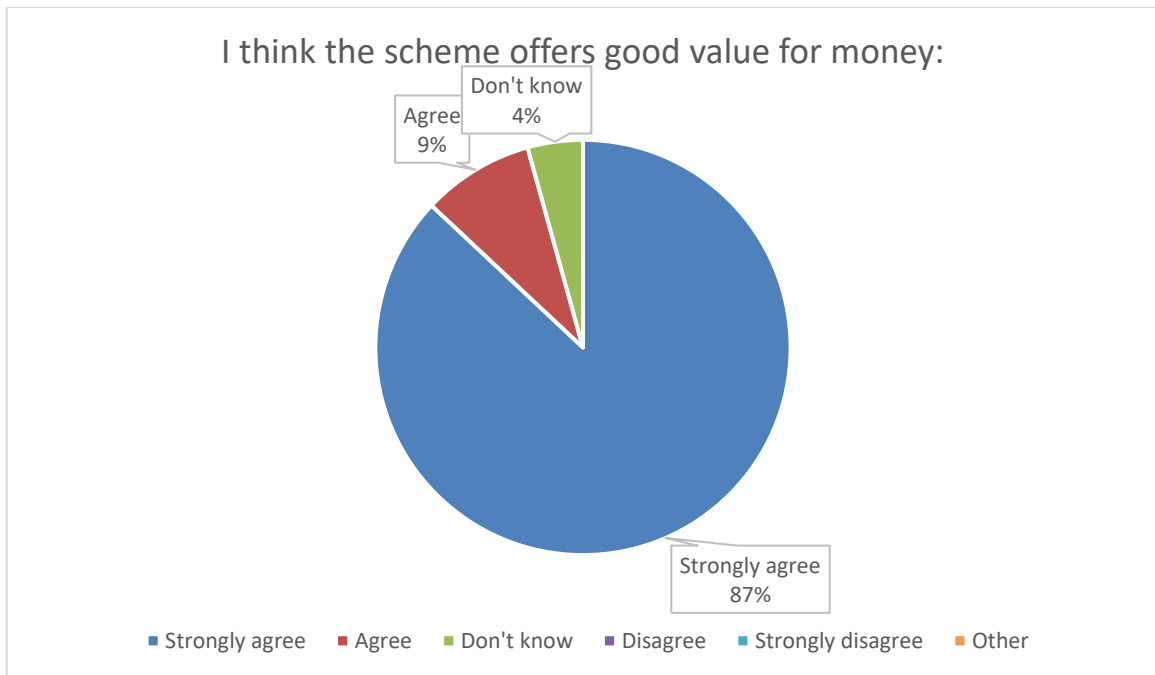
“The kids get to do so many things that I as a single mum of two SEN kids wouldn't be able to do”

“She is loving every activity and taking part without any problems”

“There are so many different activities to choose from”

**I think the scheme offers good value for money:**

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
86.9%	8.7%	4.3%	0%	0%	0%



**Additional comments:**

“Very reasonable for what the children get out of it and allows respite during the summer”

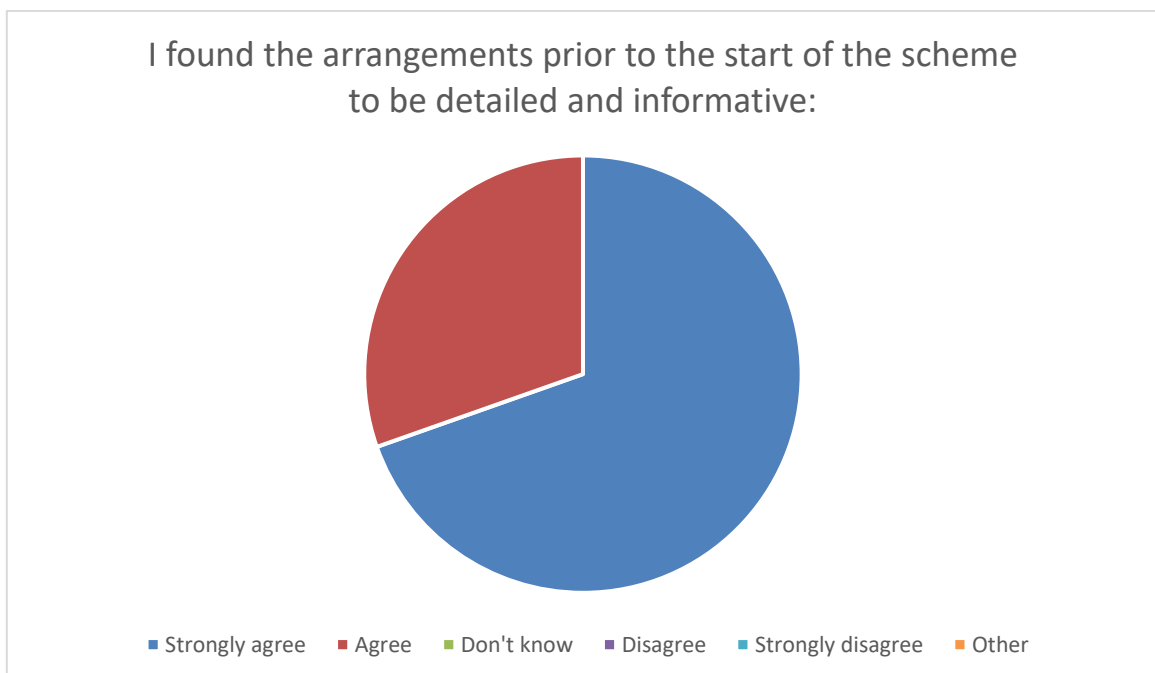
“Fantastic value”

“Extremely good value”

“I am happy to pay the amount of money and know --- is happy, safe, socialising and learning”

**I found the arrangements prior to the start of the scheme to be detailed and informative:**

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
69.6%	30.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%



**Additional comments:**

“All medical advice and training is ensured prior to the first session”

“Always in detail and informative but also with the personal touch which is most appreciated”

“Great communication”

“Wonderful communication all the way through”

“Sarah sent lots of information via email and answered all my questions”

**I have confidence in the staff on the play scheme and am happy to leave my child in their care:**

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
82.6%	17.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%



**Additional comments:**

“I wouldn't leave him if not”

“Team leaders are brilliant. The experience for others is great”

“All friendly and helpful”

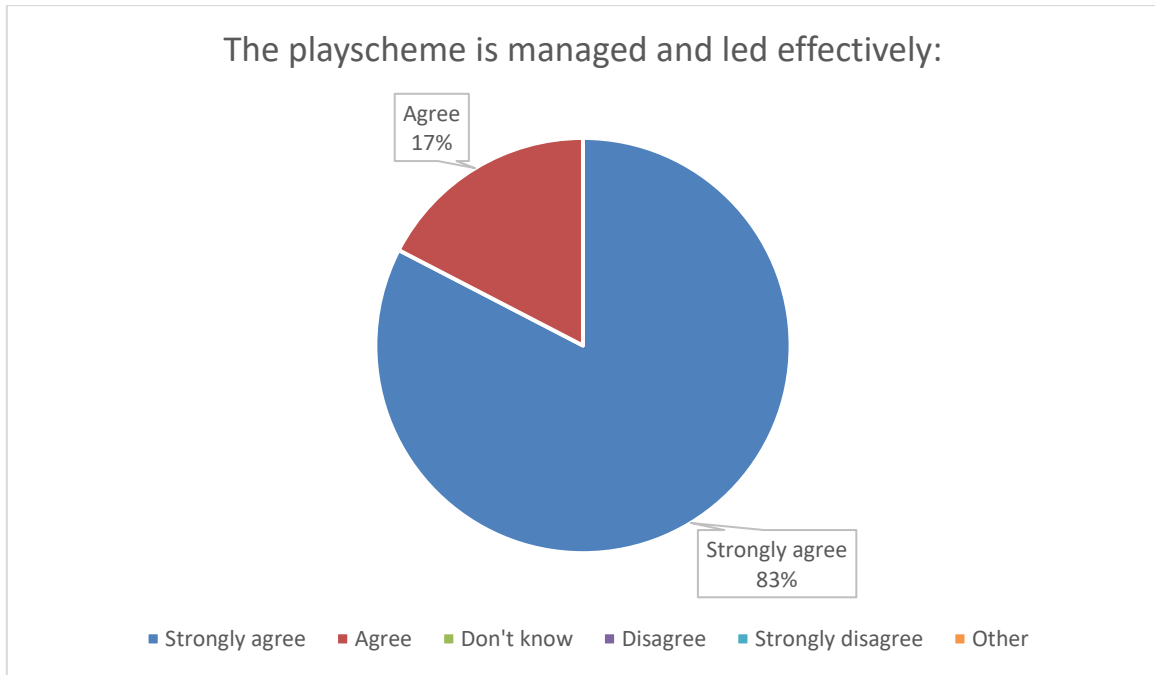
“Amazing groups of youngsters and adults who I feel fully confident in”

“I am very happy she is in safe hands”

“The staff have all appeared to be very friendly and helpful”

**The play scheme is managed and led effectively:**

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
82.6%	17.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%



**Additional comments:**

“Management team always have the children's best interests at heart even in more complex issues”

“You are all incredible!”

“The team work very hard to make this the best play scheme around for children with additional needs”

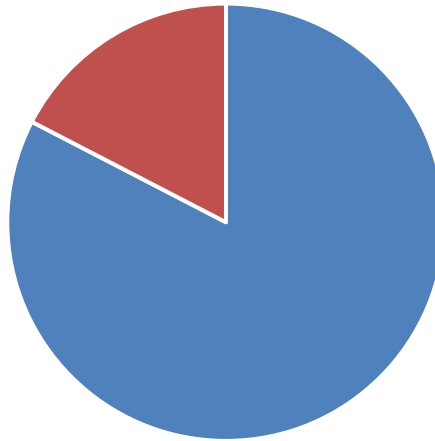
“Very much so. Leaders and volunteers are very organised”

“Pegasus seems to be very well organised”

**I am confident that the scheme deals effectively with any problems and responds well to any concerns raised.**

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
82.6%	17.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%

I am confident that the scheme deals effectively with any problems and responds well to any concerns raised.



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Don't know ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Other

**Additional comments:**

"They rise to the challenge and find a solution, liaising with carers throughout"

"Believe they all do their best always"

"I'm sure they do. I personally haven't had any problems"

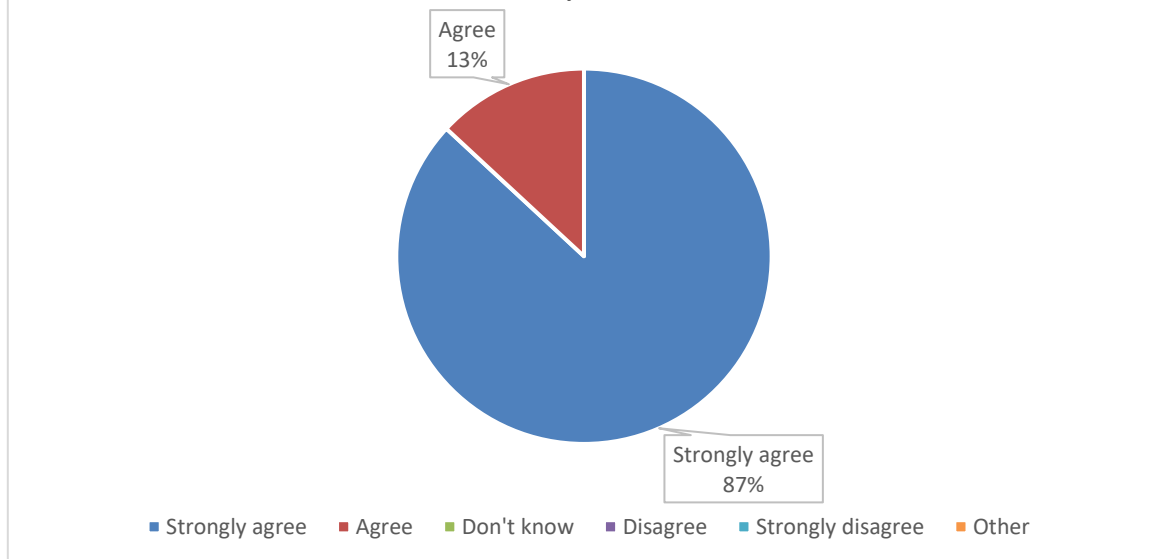
"I believe this would be the case, however I haven't had any issues"

**I like that the play scheme offers a buddy volunteer system and feel this benefits my child's social interaction:**

Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Other
86.9%	13.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%



I like that the playscheme offers a buddy volunteer system and feel this benefits my child's social interaction:



### Additional comments:

"My son benefits from this and feels he has constant support from someone considered a friend"

"Brilliant for my child and experience for volunteers"

"He has become much more social recently and the buddy allows him to continue safety and interaction"

"Most definitely, all of her buddies have been worth their weight in gold. She has had lots of fun with them all"

"I have seen --- interacting with volunteers which is lovely to see as he can find socialising tricky!"

### If possible, could you write a short statement explaining what Pegasus means to your child/family

Pegasus gives my child space to grow and explore different activities/challenges outside of our family circle.

Not only is it respite for the family but allows me to focus on other members of the household. Knowing he is safe and having fun within the community, teaching him independence for myself and working on friendships.

Its good for him to be with his peers and enjoy lots of different activities. He seems to enjoy being sociable.

It has become a greatly anticipated part of the summer. Everyday she looks forward to what she will be doing and just as much who she would be with that day.

Pegasus is a godsend for our child and family. I know he loves going there and for us as a family it brings a chance to recharge and get organised over the long summer holidays.

Pegasus is a fantastic charity. It gives children a chance to have fun days out, while you can have peace of mind that they are being cared for on a one to one basis and parents/carers can recharge their batteries.

Pegasus is safe and enjoyable place for --- who loves the staff and activities. Thank you.

Great to have a scheme dedicated to children and young people who may not be suited to a mainstream setting. My son loves coming – Thank you for all you do!

It's so brilliant knowing --- will be safe and that he will be doing lots of fun activities. Pegasus has increased his confidence and given him lots of new experiences.

Pegasus has been a god send to us. We have 3 children overall and not only does it allow us to have time with --- still and our other children too so --- has so much fun. It is an amazing place.

Pegasus has allowed my child to make friends and given her a social life in the holidays.

Without Pegasus summer holidays would be impossible to manage. The structure and variety supports us to maintain a level of normality and balanced behaviour out of school but its fun!

This is --- first year and he absolutely loves all the days out, especially the ones outdoors. The best holiday clue ever!

It keeps the same routine throughout the holidays and offers social interaction with other children. --- has loved coming and has been so happy and excited which we love.

It allows --- to socialise in a safe environment, he feels safe having a buddy. He can enjoy some independence, allows respite for the rest of the family. It provides structure and routines in the summer holidays.

To have a safe, fun environment where all of the children smile. Lovely! Priceless.

Pegasus is a real-life saver and life changer for my family. The children look forward to the scheme every year and it's such a valuable resource providing experiences they love and will never forget. Thank you all so very much.

Pegasus means --- gets to spend time with other children of various ages. She gets to try new experiences and to see so much more than I can offer due to my age and health issues. --- can be a 9-year-old child without constantly worrying about caring for me. Thank you to everyone who spend so much time organising it. Roll on next year!

This is the first year – has tried Pegasus. He has really enjoyed it and has been gaining valuable social skills. The six weeks holiday can be a very tough time for --- so these few days have really helped. IT has given his younger brother a break too.

The Playscheme offers our family essential respite during what is, our most challenging time - six weeks away from the structure and routine of school. --- condition really means he requires 1-1 attention continuously so the buddy system is particularly beneficial for him.

**Do you have any suggestions of improvements you would like to see next year?**

Maybe a section on the form where we can list friends that may volunteer for the scheme for the children in mainstream setting/have mainstream friends or peers that are linked to parent friendships that's filled out discreetly prior to hiring the volunteers.

Everything is great. Just hope that every year you can keep giving so much to these young people.

An extra week would be amazing! --- is so happy for the time she's with you all.

Thankyou!! More of the same next year please. Well done to all the staff and volunteers.

This is our first year, but I think the variety of days offered is fantastic! --- is looking forward to next year!

More days through the summer.

Nope! You are perfect in every way.

Not at all. Pegasus has run very smoothly and effectively. Keep up the good work. PLEASE.

It may be helpful to our family to know the timetable/activities before we book the dates, just because – is so particular about what he wants to join in with. Thank you very much – hopefully see you next year!

This was --- first year so no real suggestions from us ... we just hope it continues next year. Thank you!