**Holiday Club – for young people in college**

The need for an in house holiday club for young adults with a learning disability arose from students either returning home at break times from residential colleges, or local colleges, who required services that were provided by a number of private agencies.

At this time the young students were not yet known to mainstream staff within our adult day services traditionally provided within social services.

We have used resources well, we have staffed the holiday club with our own experienced staff within our services and budget, some service users have assorted additional needs where the staff ratio has been assessed as 1 to 1 and we have also managed to provide this.

We wanted to provide a new and exciting service that was age appropriate and engage with the students with a learning disability, to support them in a way they wanted to be supported, by doing activities they liked to do, and also help them continue with the skills they are learning within the colleges, this helps them keep skills for when they return.

We listened to the young service users when they said they wanted a different type of service for the future, they told us they wanted a service where they can be with people of their own age and who like doing the same things, like sport, counting, cooking, music, quiz, art, film, dance and exercise.

We approached Ysgol Gogarth to request the use of their fantastic facilities to use when the school was closed, this has worked very well, and we have the use of a kitchen/diner, sports halls, outside gym and sensory room.

The service users have all made themselves at home at the school and some of the service users who have attended the school in the past are happy in familiar surroundings, they have also been able to spend time with their peers, make new friends and contacts, and relationships that will continue outside of the club.

The holiday club has wellbeing benefits for the service users, including being able to enjoy the activities they want to do, when they want to do them, they can move from one activity to another whenever they wish, this flexible approach works extremely well with service users who may have short attention spans, keeping them stimulated and busy throughout the day. The benefits of the club for parents and carers are that some parents are able to continue to work or able to have a well earned respite break during the holidays in the knowledge their son or daughter is receiving a service tailored to their individual need.

Since our first holiday club in October 2014 where we had up to 10 service users attending each day, the service has become very popular and received good feedback from service users, parents and carers. We now have up to 15 service users attending each session and have also started a waiting list.