

2018

# ASPIRE2

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Message from the Chair

*At the end of my first year as Chair of Aspire 2, I am pleased to report that the charity's capacity to provide activities and opportunities for pupils and families in Whitley continues to grow.*

*I am delighted by how our relationship with Reading University has developed. Not only do they make a significant financial contribution to Aspire2, but they have also hosted our annual Public Speaking and Poetry Competitions, and most recently a visit for 200 pupils in Year 5, who attended a lecture and toured the campus.*

*We have welcomed the support from other Partners too, more details can be found on page 4. They all bring significant expertise and opportunity to our community. Our external partners work alongside the dedicated Trustees & Partners of Aspire2, without whom our charity could not function.*

*This year has seen some changes in our membership, Sarah Mitchell has resigned due to other voluntary commitments, but I'm pleased to say we have gained Jan Gavin an ex-educational advisor with Reading Borough Council and Dr Carol Fuller from the University of Reading who has long been committed to work in the area. Paul Allen from JMA will also be joining us building on his work with the Whitley Researchers.*

*We have also lost the services of our clerk Christina Pepper who has gained a full-time post at a local school, however Sheila Tibbenham has taken on the role of clerk alongside her role as Development Manager of the WEC schools.*

*Our thanks go to both Sarah and Christina for their huge commitment to Aspire2.*

*Looking forward we will be building on the findings of the research undertaken by the Whitley for Real project and we are looking to re-design our annual Arts event – Whitfest. We are also looking at the extra-curricular opportunities we offer our children and will be working closely with schools to target specific projects and events over the year – visit our website: [www.aspire2whitley.com](http://www.aspire2whitley.com) for more information.*

*Thank you for your continued support*

*Charlie Clare*

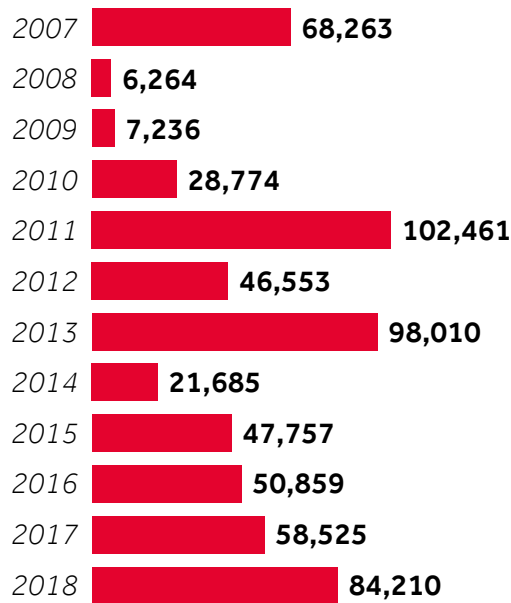


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# Finance Report

Over the 12 years of the Charity we have generated an impressive £620,000 income. This year has seen another good year, which we are pleased to say has been allocated to ensure reserves are kept within limits and the majority goes to support local children and families.

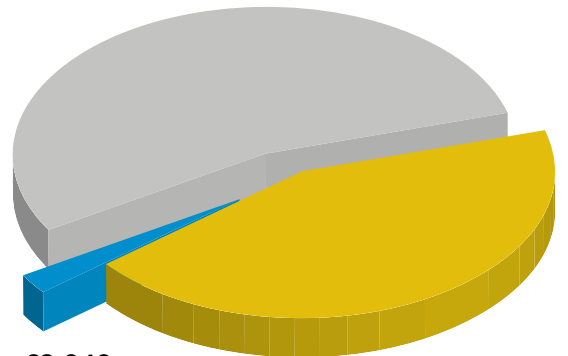
## Aspire2 - Income History



## Expenditure March 2017 - Feb 2018

**£45,485**

Transport, entrance fees for trips, hire of venues, event project management



**£2,040**

Governance & fundraising costs

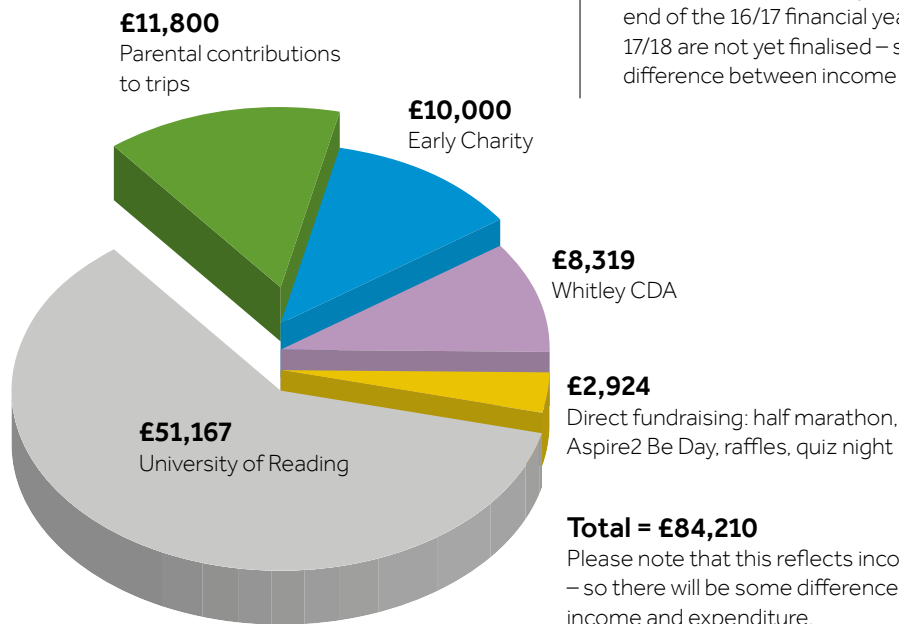
**£36,732**

Charitable activities: Donations to projects, event project management

**Total = £84,257**

Please note that this reflects the accounts submitted to the Charity Commission for the end of the 16/17 financial year – the accounts for 17/18 are not yet finalised – so there will be some difference between income and expenditure.

## Income analysis 2017-18



**Total = £84,210**

Please note that this reflects income to date – so there will be some difference between income and expenditure.

# Core Activities/Projects Supported by Aspire2

From the survey undertaken in the Spring we know that

- 59% of children and families from Whitley have attended one of our family day trips
- 52% of WEC children have been to one of our residential camps at Ufton Court

However, we are now taking the opportunity to review the type of family trips we run, to make sure that we are offering the right sort of activities.

Please see our Chairman's letter on page 1.

The purpose of these trips is to allow families quality time together away from home. Transport is provided for the trips outside of Reading. Those that go on the trips have a great time and quotes from families support this – 'the best day ever' Bournemouth July 18 .... 'the best show I've ever been to' Dinosaur live – June 18.

The family days allow parents to experience Ufton Adventure, and know what their children can expect when they go on a WEC trip. Each children's trip is themed for the appropriate year group, for example Y2 children have activities based around 'The Stick Man', Years 3 & 4 have their residential trip based on Robin Hood, which included making bread over an open fire.

The purpose of these events is to offer pupils the opportunity to work together across the Cluster. The Public Speaking and Poetry Competitions are open for all pupils from Nursery to Key Stage 4 – and Reading University kindly host the events in the Henley Business School on the Whiteknights Campus – a truly prestigious location.

The WEC Pupil Council allows children and young people to raise concerns, have a voice, about what is happening in their community. With the most recent research undertaken by the Whitley for Real team, the work of this group will continue to grow.

Family Trips	Date	Numbers
Pantomime - Aladdin	December 17	320
Windsor	April 18	34
Dinosaur Live	June 18	87
Bournemouth	July 18	42
<b>Total</b>		<b>483</b>

Ufton Adventure	Date	Numbers
Family Trip	October 17	20
Family Trip	February	45
Y3/4, Y2 day visit	Easter 18	57
Y5	May 18	38
Y3, 4, 5, 6	July & August 18	63
<b>Total</b>		<b>223</b>

Events	Date
Public Speaking competition – Reading University	November 17
WEC Pupil Council visit to Mayors Chamber	November 17
WEC Pupil Council visit to the Houses of Parliament and meeting with Alok Sharma MP	June 18
WEC Pupil Council meeting with Matt Rhoda MP at JMA	June 18
Poetry Competition – Reading University	July 18



## Bid Successes and Partnerships

Reading University generously support the work of our Cluster through financial donation, which includes funding all coach trips to Ufton Court and by offering rooms on site for activities – such as the Public Speaking event and the annual Poetry competition. This Partnership is greatly valued and most recently Aspire2 have worked closely with the Whitley for Real team, the research findings from which will drive our planning in the future.

Earley Charity continue to be valued supporters of Aspire2. Their on going donations to support enrichment across our schools is greatly appreciated.

We are also grateful to the Whitley Community Development Association (CDA) who have funded coaches for our children to go to the theatre, seaside and other places of interest. Their support means that children can go for free, or for a much lower cost.

### Charity of the Year!

We are delighted to have been successful in our bid to Holy Brook Associates ([www.holybrook-associates.co.uk](http://www.holybrook-associates.co.uk)) to be their nominated Charity of the Year for 2018

### WEC Poetry Competition 2018 - Successful bid to Pangbourne College

Following a visit by Aspire2 Trustees to the College, we were invited to make a bid to their charitable trust, and have received a cheque for £1,200 to support this year's Poetry Competition (please see below for more details), was successful.

### Bradfield College

Bradfield College have provided transport and tickets for 50 nursery children to see 'Little Bee' at the College on 21st June.

We are delighted to have made these new partnerships, and we never forget the huge contribution that Reading University and the Earley Charity make to our work, without which we would not be able to operate.



**University of  
Reading**