

2019

ASPIRE2

ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Chair

I am pleased to be reporting on another successful year's support of activities and opportunities for the young people of South Reading. This year we have seen an increase in the range of activities and an increase in the number of participants in most of our traditional activities including an overall increase in the numbers attending Ufton Adventure and our annual poetry competition at the University of Reading

Our work now extends to include the Avenue Special School which has joined the Whitley Excellence Cluster (WEC). Other changes include the use of some of the facilities of Pangbourne College and support for the first WEC Olympics at Palmer Park Stadium which we hope will become an annual event. Also, we have received a boost to our capacity to fund extra-curricular outdoor activities by absorbing South Reading Educational Trust (SRET) into Aspire2.

This year we have said a final farewell to Sheila Tibbenham who for many years has been an outstanding clerk to Aspire 2 both in a substantive role and more recently in an interim role. However, I'm pleased to say that we have appointed a new clerk Laura Birch who comes to us from a commercial background and with experience in project management.

We continue to be grateful for the support of our partners listed in the report and I'm pleased to say Holly Brook Associates have again chosen us as their charity of the year.

Looking forward, we will continue to build on the findings of the research undertaken by the Whitley for Real project, continue to develop our annual arts event and work closely with WEC schools to identify more ways in which we can support extra-curricular opportunities across all key stages as fundraising allows. One of the areas with which WEC schools have asked for help is music and as a direct result of this appeal I'm pleased to say we are now working with a group of local musicians/ tutors- Readipop to plan an exciting programme.

Lastly, I'm pleased to say our website has been re-designed and invigorated please take a look at www.aspire2whitley.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Charlie Clare



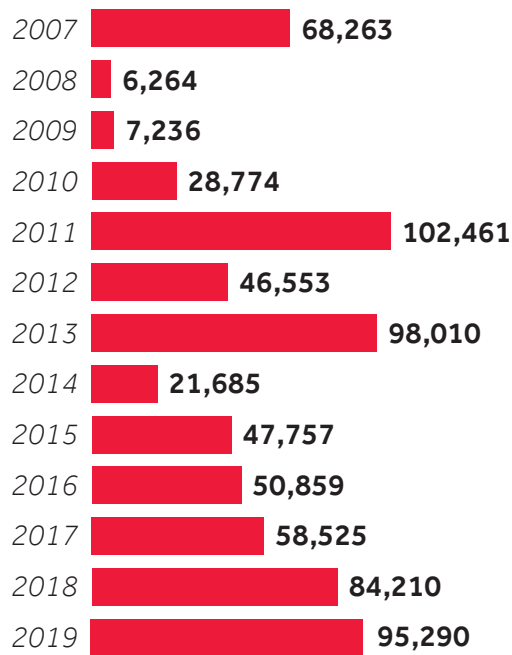
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Finance Report

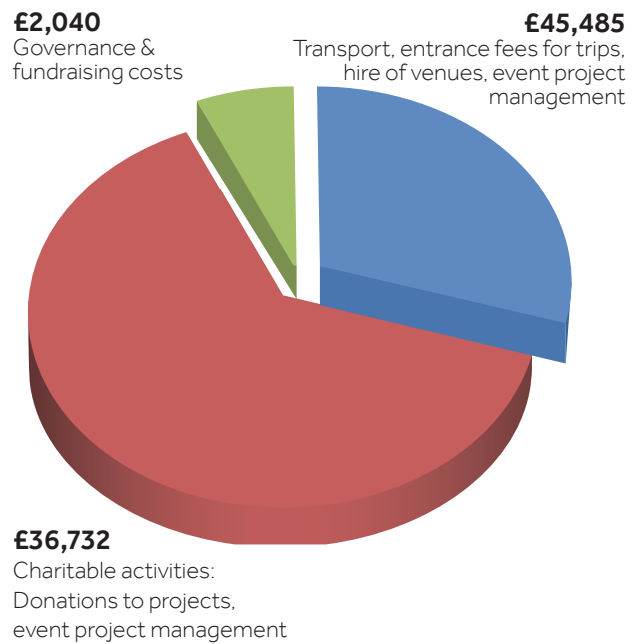
Over the 13 years the Charity has been active, we have generated a significant £715,000 income.

2019 has been another successful year, with income increasing 13% year on year.

Aspire2 - Income History



Expenditure March 2018 – Feb 2019

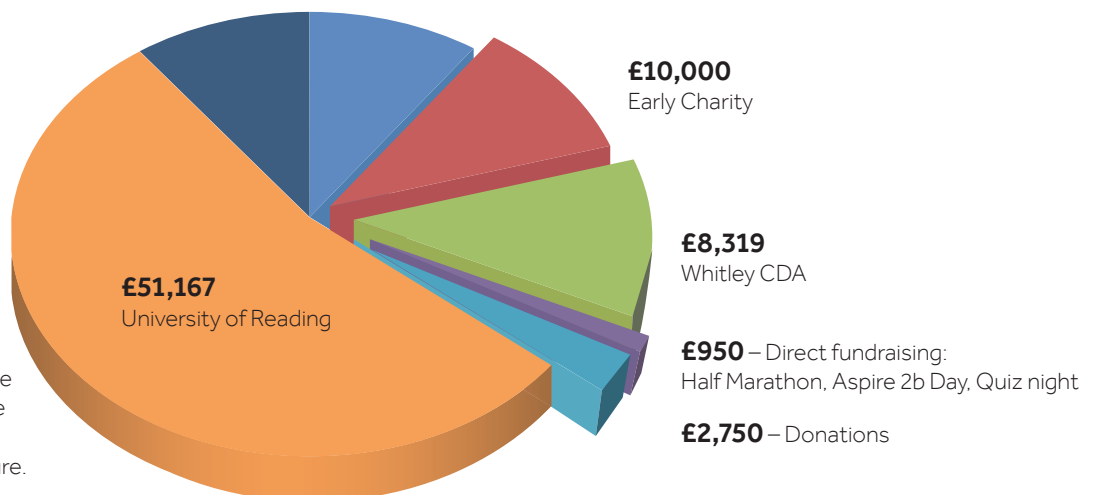


Income analysis 2017-18

£10,000
Charles Stanley
Investment drawdown

£11,800 – Parental contributions to trips

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

Between Family trips, Ufton Adventure and events run within the WEC (Whitley Excellence Cluster) schools, Aspire2 have enjoyed another busy year! Over 4,800 WEC children have attended an Aspire2/WEC event this year!

We enjoyed an incredibly successful family trip to Brighton in the summer holidays, filling 3 coaches with families.

What follows are some highlights of the 2018 – 2019 calendar.

Aspire2/WEC University Day – 14.09.18

200 Year 5 pupils, along with their teachers, visited Reading University for a taster of 'Uni life'. Pupils attended a lecture on either 'Science of the Brain' or 'Volcanoes' followed by a campus tour.

"Thank you, we really enjoyed the visit and it has inspired so many of our children to think about University as an option"

Teachers

"This is amazing! I want to go to University now!" **Pupils**

We plan to make this an annual event. We've already enjoyed another successful visit in September 2019!

Aspire2 & WEC Public Speaking Competition - 12.12.18

Pupils from across the WEC schools took part in the final of the Public Speaking competition, which was held in the lovely Henley Business School at the University.

The theme was 'My Community'. It was a fantastic event!

The winners from each Key Stage were:

Key Stage 2: Geoffrey Field Junior School

Key Stage 3: Reading Girls

Key Stage 4: JMA

Family Easter workshops – Easter Holidays 2019

During the Easter holidays, Aspire2/WEC, with the help of Reading Girls student volunteers, ran family activities in the WCDA community cafe. Over the 2 weeks approximately 45 children and their parents attended. The attendees consisted of regulars to the café as well as some completely new faces.

It was a wonderful community event, with even the PCSO's, carrying out bike marking at the café, joining in with the activities too. Definitely something we'd love to repeat in the future!

'Great event and loved every minute' **Parent**

WEC Sports events – June

Aspire2 have supported WEC in paying for coach transport to two major events this year – the Orienteering competition at Pangbourne College (60 pupils attended) and the WEC Olympics at Palmer Park (144 pupils participated).

The WEC 'Olympics' were a huge success. Aspire2 facilitated the hiring of Palmer Park. This enabled children to race on real athletics track and compete at long jump into a sandpit, facilities they wouldn't have access to at school.

The Olympics were won by Palmer Academy, who were very gracious in victory.

"Without the sponsorship of Aspire 2, we would have been unable to engage anywhere near as many children over the course of the year." **Attending teachers**

"The WEC sports calendar for 2019/20 is already in motion, with an aim to increase participation by a further 50%. An aspirational target but one we can achieve through the hard work and determination of WEC school staff and the continued involvement of Aspire2." **Deputy HT GFJ**

"The children were amazed at the venue and loved experiencing what some had seen when watching the Olympics. It really demonstrated to them that they could do it too". **Frances Lancaster, teacher and Aspire2 Partner, GFJ**

Visit to Parliament – 08.07.18

Aspire2 funded coach costs for 60 WEC pupils and school staff to visit the Houses of Parliament, attending 2 sessions in their Education Centre. The sessions were Campaigning and laws and Debating.

Pupils from JMA, Reading Girls school, Palmer Academy, New Christ Church, Christ the King, Whitley Park Primary, The Ridgeway Primary and Geoffrey Field Jnr School attended.

This was not only a learning opportunity for the students, but also a wonderful visit to the historical buildings of Westminster.

Poetry Competition – July 2019

Nearly 300 children, from 9 WEC schools, participated in the annual competition. This was a huge increase on the previous years.



The event was held at the Henley Business school at the University of Reading.

Paul Lyalls once again acted as judge and compare for the event. He also ran two workshops in JMA and Geoffrey Field Jnr school – winners of the 2018 competition.

Special Needs Summer schools – August 2019

This summer a hugely successful SEND summer school was run at Christ the King and The Avenue school. Under the 'Awards for All' programme, we were the recipient of £8,600 National Lottery funds.

The activities were managed and run by the Reading Football Club community team, with help from school staff.

20 places were available for children each day the camp ran.

We have already been in discussions with RFC to discuss how we can replicate this model again going forward.

'The sessions have been an enormous success! I have had a wealth of positive feedback from the Avenue staff involved. All staff report that they have loved every minute. From the periphery I have seen how the pupils have developed in confidence, improved their communication and built relationships with their peers. It has also been great to see the RFC staff developed in confidence and build a rapport with the pupils.' **Headteacher, The Avenue**

The list above is just a taster of the wonderful events we've enjoyed this year. There's been the Aspire2B day, Pantomime trip, Whitfest, just to mention a few. For a complete report of all the 2018 – 2019 trips and events, please visit our website; www.aspire2whitley.com

Ufton Adventure

As well as those events detailed, we've continued our long standing, and greatly valued, relationship with Ufton Educational trust, sending thousands of Whitley children on either day trips or residential over the past 12 months.

As well as the term time visits Whitley children make to Ufton, there are several events scheduled in the school holidays. The 2018 – 2019 holiday events started with the Family day in the October half term, which was attended by 48 children and their parents. It was a great success. This event was repeated in the February half term. Ufton Adventure leaders led 38 children and their families through forest skill lessons and team cookery sessions.

One of Ufton's objectives when working with schools is to offer parents opportunities to engage with their children's education in their unique outdoor setting. The family days involve outdoor activities that promote teamwork and empathy and are led by Ufton's team.

Ufton's outdoor education is enhanced by their amazing facilities. Children can work together to navigate through the Blind Trail, cook in the outdoor kitchen or challenge themselves on the extensive low ropes course. Children are encouraged to take on new challenges and grow as activities are made progressively harder, this makes the children develop new and important life skills.

The May half term camps went extremely well. They were based on a program where the campers were put into 2 or 3 separate teams and had to take part in various activities earning their team points. Some of the activities included 'Welly Wanging, Parachute games, Frisbee golf and a game of rounders in the evening.

The year at Ufton is rounded off by several residential trips throughout July and August. These trips can accommodate 30 children each. These start with years 3&4, then 5, and then finally a year 6 transition trip.

These trips are all managed by Jake White, WEC project worker. The transport is funded by the University of Reading, additional staffing from WEC schools (funded via parental contributions to Aspire2) and Ufton offer accommodation, staffing and food free, as part of the ongoing agreement with Aspire2.

The table below shows the number of places filled this year.

Whitley Children attending programmes at Ufton

Day	Day	Residential	Total
Early Years	657	0	657
Primary	508	559	1,067
Secondary	583	122	705
Family	195	0	195
Special Needs	286	24	310
Holiday Groups	80	163	243
TOTAL	2,309	868	3,177

Aspire2 Partnerships

Aspire2 are very fortunate to partner with a number of fantastic institutions, charities and business.

Ufton Adventure

The programmes offered by Ufton Adventure help children develop the skills, behaviours and attitudes that they need to succeed, to help children deal with the challenges they face in life. We use our Ufton Ladders of Success to show children how to break down complex concepts into manageable steps. These focus on raising self-esteem, development of friendship skills, tenacity, empathy and the management of personal wellbeing. We develop understanding of the behaviours of successful learners through the Ufton 4R's, which we believe lay a foundation for success in school and beyond.

The University of Reading

WEC & Aspire2 are generously supported through a financial donation, which includes the funding all coach trips to Ufton Court and by providing rooms on site for activities – such as the Public Speaking event and the annual Poetry competition.

This Partnership is greatly valued. Aspire2 continue to work closely with the University and the Whitley for Real team, the research findings from which are driving our planning for future years.

Earley Charity

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

Reading Voluntary Action

This year Aspire2 & WEC worked closely with Reading Voluntary Action. RVA worked with us to undertake a review of our governance structure and to offer advice on making our systems more robust.

We also developed a partnership around joint funding bids, and specifically the introduction of drop in sessions across WEC schools. These sessions were open to families support for issues around housing/debt etc. could be easily accessible.

The sessions were led by Sarah Timmins DeGregory. 28 sessions were hosted in a number of WEC schools between October 2018 – April 2019.

Sessions were attended by 47 individual parents, with 15 parents attending multiple sessions. As a result of the coffee mornings, RVA are now working closely with around 12 parents on multiple supports/referrals.

Some organizations that have co-hosted include: Parenting Special Children, New Directions, Smart Works Reading, Communicare, Frontline Debt, Alana House.

WCDA

We are also grateful to the Whitley Community Development Association (CDA) who through a 3-year funding programme, have supported coach costs 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.

Holy Brook Associates

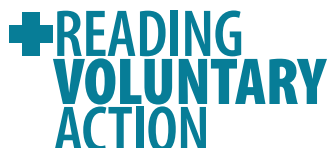
We are delighted that Holy Brook Associates have agreed to continue their sponsorship to Aspire2 as their Charity of the Year (www.holybrook-associates.co.uk). On 25th June 2019, Rachel Eden, CEO, facilitated a planning session for Aspire2 Trustees and Partners, to review the development of our Business Strategy and Strategic Plan. This professional support and the corporate knowledge provided by Holy Brook, provides a real source of expertise and energy

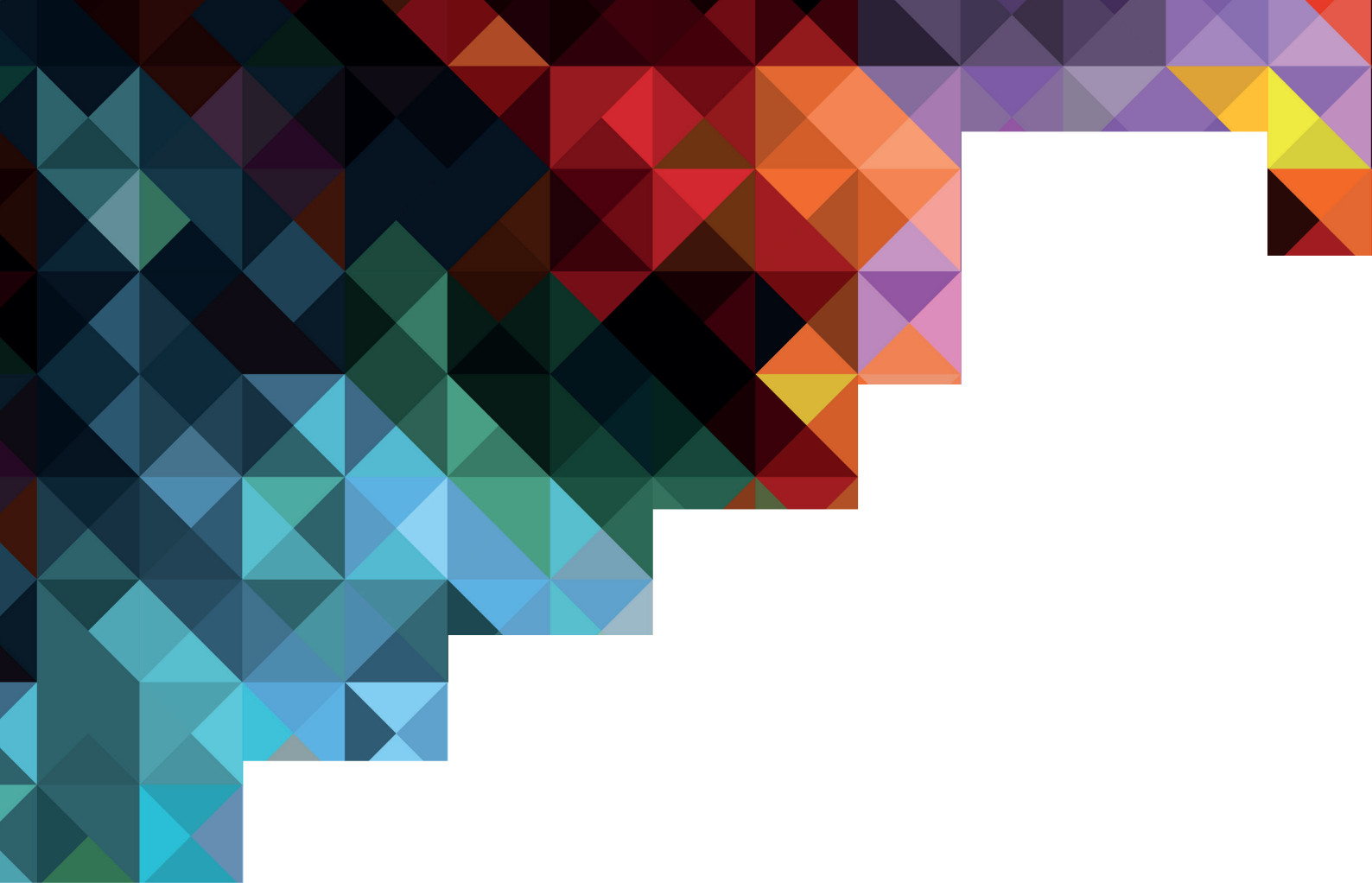
Pangbourne College

In February 2019 the WEC Orienteering competition was hosted by the college. This provided access to their lovely grounds at the college, which offered an interesting and challenging venue to our pupils.

Bradfield College

Bradfield College have supported Aspire2 once again by providing transport and tickets for 50 nursery children to see 'Little Bee' at the College on 21st June.





Aspire2
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Exbourne Road
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