
The logo for Kids Kabin features the text "Kids Kabin" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a vibrant blue background that resembles a splatter or a burst of paint, with various shades of blue and white speckles. The logo is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page, partially overlapping a thin horizontal line that spans the width of the page.

Kids Kabin

Trustees' and Chief Executive's Report

1st July 2019 - 30th June 2020



Introduction from the Trustees

It has been a very difficult year for Kids Kabin which saw the organisation, along with the rest of society, struggle with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kids Kabin suspended face to face sessions, and this had a significant impact on both our regular participants and staff alike. The pandemic challenged Kids Kabin to find new and innovative ways to serve and help alleviate complex problems for some of the most vulnerable in society.

It is a tribute to the staff, volunteers and trustees that Kids Kabin adapted its approaches to, at least in part, maintain its service delivery.

On-line video communication and the creation of practical arts and craft kits delivered to homes were a huge success in keeping young people engaged and entertained during lockdown restrictions. This is a real credit to all those involved.

Another key element of our response was to focus on working closer with other local organisations, identifying need and delivering practical solutions, including food parcels.

Although in-person delivery has returned at all of our locations, we are very aware of the extra hygiene and social distancing requirements and are better prepared if distance-delivery is again necessary.

We were proud to celebrate our 25th anniversary during the year under review - a significant milestone and achievement.

The trustees are very grateful for the continuing help and forbearance of all members of our communities as well as the fantastic endorsement from all our funders and supporters over the past quarter of a century!

Chief Executive's Report

Summary

The last year has been one of extremes. Kids Kabin has celebrated its 25th Anniversary, opened a new Kids Kabin base in Middlesbrough, been awarded North East Small Charity of the Year Award and engaged over 1150 children in creative workshops. However, since March 2020, we have been faced with the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. This has had a significant impact on the scale and scope of Kids Kabin's work. However, the team has responded, initially providing emergency support alongside local partners and then adapting services to continue to enable children and young people to be creative and active. More than ever, COVID-19 has reinforced a number of key principles in the charity's work – long-term support for disadvantaged communities, local knowledge and relationships with families, and strong community partnerships.

Overview

Reflecting over the last year, it is very easy for the focus to be overtaken by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on services and communities. This will, of course, play an important part in reporting on the period from 1st July 2019 - 30th June 2020. However, it is also important to note that 8 months of this year in review was pre COVID-19. During this period there were a number of significant achievements for Kids Kabin:

- In July 2019, Kids Kabin celebrated its 25th Anniversary, bringing together more than 200 friends, supporters, current and previous kids and families to remember creativity, fun and friendship.
- July 2019 also saw the appointment of our Middlesbrough manager, Sue McBride, and a programme of summer workshops in Grove Hill, Thorntree and Easterside and, in November, the opening of Kids Kabin Middlesbrough at 36 Laurel Avenue, Grove Hill.
- October 2019 saw Kids Kabin being awarded Small Charity of the Year Award at the North East Charity Awards. At the same time, Noor Amer, a long term volunteer from Cowgate, won Young Volunteer Champion Award at the same event.
- The 8.5 months to the middle of March 2020 also saw the running of 424 workshops in Newcastle with 4001 attendances at these (705 unique individuals). Over the same period, 121 workshops were run in Middlesbrough, attracting 1456 attendances (438 unique individuals).

Then, in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reached the United Kingdom, lockdown started and Kids Kabin had to work fast to respond and adapt. The first response was to work with local partners in Newcastle to adapt services to support people with the highest needs. This involved referral of people to food banks and the delivery of food support to self-isolating, vulnerable people. Then the priority moved on to providing positive activities for children stuck at home, in the form of online workshops and home creativity kits. This was, of course, a very challenging time but it also led to new partnerships and new ways of working to meet the needs of children and families. The end of the year under review then saw the return of Kids Kabin outdoor workshops, with a focus on re-engaging and reassuring, on providing safe and positive workshops and on the wellbeing of children, families and the Kids Kabin teams.

This report will review the full year, including the months before COVID-19. The review will be structured around the four key themes in our 2019-2022 organisational plans – People, Places, Partnerships and Processes. We will then present Kids Kabin's plans for 2020-2021 and beyond - building on learnings from this challenging year and making the most of the 'new normal'. Exciting future developments include the introduction of the renovated kitchen and café space at the Walker centre and planning for explorations into a third city during 2021.

The finances of the charity remain in a strong position. During the financial year the charity obtained funding of £249,832 (2019 - £247,252) with an overall surplus of £49,573 (2019 - £88,558). Reserves at 30 June 2020 were £505,604 (2019 - £456,031) of which £340,733 (2019 - £312,608) related to restricted funds. Expenditure has increased, principally with the additional costs of Kids Kabin Middlesbrough. This increase in expenditure has been matched with an increase in income from funders and supporters. A number of trusts and foundations have provided additional support through Covid-19. However, we will have to remain alert to challenges ahead. Demand for services and support is increasing as a result of Covid-19 and its social and economic impact. Furthermore, trusts and foundations are warning of increased competition for funding, at a time when they may see a decrease in investment income.



People

2019-2022 objectives

- > Continue to involve parents and the community in supporting and delivering our street workshops with us
- > Empower young volunteers to take more responsibility and find new and varied roles for them

What has happened this year?

- 1173 individual children and young people have taken part in Kids Kabin workshops in 2019-20
- Kids Kabin teams in Newcastle and Middlesbrough have planned and delivered 677 workshops, with 6490 attendances at these sessions
- We have appointed a new Middlesbrough team - Sue McBride and Vicky Kay. Working alongside project workers, trustees and international volunteers, Sue and Vicky have set up the Kids Kabin Middlesbrough base in Grove Hill and introduced a programme of workshops in South and East Middlesbrough
- Young volunteers continue to support our delivery – welcoming their peers to Kids Kabin and introducing activities, tools and materials
- Parents, who have usually been most actively involved in supporting our street workshops, haven't been involved in this aspect as a result of COVID-19. Instead, they have become more involved in supporting their children's creativity at home, supporting the use of Kids Kabin home creativity kits.

Future Plans

- Build on the stronger links with parents to further promote creativity at home
- Continue to develop the role of young volunteers during COVID-19, especially in supporting their younger siblings

Case study: Cowgate Young Volunteers



Case Study

Kids Kabin restarted 'in person', outdoor workshops in July after lockdown restrictions eased. We ran workshops in community gardens and other safe, outdoor spaces. Cowgate young volunteers played a crucial role in creating a COVID-safe space in a community allotment - clearing brambles and nettles, cutting the grass and building work benches to enable social distanced creative activity.

Places

2019-2022 objectives

- > Continue to commit to our Newcastle communities
- > Build Kids Kabin Middlesbrough
- > Explore new opportunities in a third city

What has happened this year?

- Kids Kabin Middlesbrough has grown significantly through the year, with the appointment of a Middlesbrough based project team and the establishment of the Kids Kabin base at 36 Laurel Avenue, Grove Hill.
- A redevelopment of the main Newcastle Centre at Church Walk has been planned and successfully fundraised for – building work is starting to create a larger open plan kitchen and café space
- Kids Kabin Newcastle teams continue to work with and support communities in our 4 satellites – Cowgate, Pottery Bank, Daisy Hill and Byker.
- As a result of COVID-19, activities have been adapted to take place in outdoor spaces. This has led to the use of new spaces – including community gardens in Byker and Cowgate.

Future Plans

- Start regular use of the redeveloped kitchen and café space by April 2021
- Work with local partners in Middlesbrough to bring a community building in Thorntree back into regular use
- Research the location of a third Kids Kabin in a new town or city, contacting partners and developing a programme of pilot workshops in summer 2021

Case study: Kids Kabin, Middlesbrough



Case Study

Kids Kabin Middlesbrough – 36 Laurel Avenue. In October 2019, Thirteen Housing Group kindly gave us use of a ground floor flat in the heart of our Grove Hill community. The Kids Kabin team have worked with local children to make the place their own – including building their own woodwork benches. The Prince's Trust have also worked with the kids to plan the colour scheme of each room and build a garden summerhouse to use to plant seeds and grow.

Partnerships

2019-2022 objectives

- > Share practice and innovation with other organisations, learning from them and helping them develop – for example, helping them become mobile and meet more people on the streets
- > Work with both the voluntary and community sector and businesses and find mutual benefits in these partnerships

What has happened this year?

- Kids Kabin has worked with a number of businesses – with Thirteen Housing Group in Middlesbrough to support children and families in Grove Hill, and with Gardiner Richardson, Newcastle Building Society, ASDA and NHS Business Services Authority in Newcastle – introducing new projects and creating new opportunities for children and young people.
- Kids Kabin is working with a group of Neighbourhood Youth Projects from across Newcastle, promoting the value of locality-based work in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Walker and Byker Community Partnerships have played an important role in supporting communities through COVID-19. Kids Kabin is working with primary schools to provide additional support for families in need.
- A number of funders have provided additional resources in response to current challenges. For example, funders supported the creation of over 1000 activity packs and 250 home creativity kits, distributed during lockdown.

Future Plans

- Continue to work with the Walker and Byker Community Partnerships, and the Neighbourhood Youth Projects, to support the improvement and impact of local services.
- Explore the potential for collaborative work in Cowgate.
- Further develop links with schools to support children and families with higher needs.
- Resume the innovation sharing project with local partners in Byker (based around street workshops) in summer 2021, after street delivery was curtailed in 2020.

Working from home : Creativity kits in action



Processes

2019-2022 objectives

- > Innovate and develop new street workshops and exciting new activities for children and young people
- > Develop the use of data, technology and systems within the organisation to learn more about the impact of our work and how to make the most of what we are doing

What has happened this year?

- Much of our normal delivery, including street workshops, was restricted during summer 2020. However, the team have adapted to create COVID-safe workshops. The use of community gardens and outdoor spaces has also enabled new activities – such as ‘bushcraft’ and ‘city camping’.
- In January 2020, Stephanie Beckman was appointed as Business Support Manager, to help develop new systems across Kids Kabin Newcastle and Middlesbrough. Stephanie is leading improvements in finance, service review and improvement, data collection and IT capacity.
- Kids Kabin international volunteers have worked with the staff and external agencies to develop our PR and social media presence.
- New areas of training and team development have been introduced - focusing on self-reflective teams and awareness of complementary working styles.

Adapting activities



Future Plans

- Continue to develop and introduce new COVID-safe workshops - including a ‘dial a repair’ mobile bike maintenance programme.
- Increase the focus on protecting and promoting the well-being of staff and volunteers, as well as children and families.
- Introducing a review methodology to promote improvement and consistency cross Kids Kabin centres and satellites.

Case Study

The Kids Kabin team (staff, volunteers and trustees) have spent many hours adapting activities, creating risk assessments and changing practice to create safe opportunities for children and young people during COVID-19. This process has consisted of the following stages:

- Designing activity packs and home creativity kits to be delivered to children and families during the first lockdown – requiring careful hygiene and safety considerations during packing and delivery.
- Adapting and risk assessing outdoor workshops, focusing on hygiene routines, temperature and symptom checks, social distancing and individual tools and materials.
- Creating COVID-safe indoor workshops – with additional ventilation protocols and the use of face coverings for staff and volunteers.

Case study: Adapting activities - outdoor pottery

