



Managers' Report

Our second year as a registered charity marks another busy year in the life of The Shed. In this past year, we have seen new services developed and demand on existing services have only increased.

The Well and The Ark continue to serve those in recovery from substance use and each have approximately forty-three individuals overall making regular use of the services provided. The Ark made the journey to Inverclyde to the Recovery Walk in September last year. Both services have enjoyed trips out with The Shed building, fishing trips and outings to the Woodlands centre, Christmas festivities were celebrated with meals in the County and The Ark had a special meal within the Shed to celebrate the season. The Recovery and Development Coordinator is supporting five individuals using Outcome Star, a tool that provides a benchmark for where an individual is at and from there a plan of support is developed and undergoes regular review.

The Shed Cafe opened in December last year and since its opening has maintained a steady customer base with 25-30 people coming through the door each Tuesday and Thursday. The preparation for the provision of the The Shed Café took up considerable project management time; working with Environmental Health to ensure that we are compliant, working with contractors to adapt our space to ensure we had a suitable space from which to work from and the procurement of all the necessary equipment and working with our volunteers for Food Hygiene certification. We officially opened in December last year and were delighted to welcome our stakeholders and supporters of The Shed and it was great to see that the provision of The Shed Café was welcomed by those who attended, and the event gathered a lot of press activity and engagement. The Shed Cafe has been blessed by our volunteers who have shown a real commitment to the Cafe, and since day one, found a system of working in a small space. Customer feedback has been hugely positive with comments on the warm and friendly atmosphere, this is due to the attitude of the staff and volunteers, who work hard to create a friendly, safe space where all are welcome. Only last month The Shed Cafe welcomed Scotland's First Minister and all staff and volunteers ensured that he received a warm welcome.

Our Intergenerational Work has been further developed with the recruitment of two Intergenerational Workers and the provision doubled to two sessions per week ; whilst Little Stars has been part of the work of The Shed for a long time this further development has awarded specific funding and we have seen a significant increase in numbers of families attending each week, the highest amount being 38 families in one session. Our staff at Little Stars ensure that the activities provided for the children within Little Stars meet their developmental needs and this is constantly under review, the inclusion of a specific baby area is an example of such a review. A further development has been the Music and Rhyme session held in the Shed where parents are invited to attend with a specific focus on child development through music and song, this group has really benefited the parents who attend as they build relationship with staff and each other. A recent evaluation from the parents who attend has been positive, with parents saying it helped them through the first few months of parenthood, and that parents feel seen and heard by Little Stars staff and volunteers.

All our services benefit from an important level of committed volunteer support, without it our services could not operate as they do, and we are so thankful for our wonderful volunteers who serve across all our services and give of their time, knowledge and expertise. We continue to recruit for volunteers who can give even a little time every month to our growing work, and we are looking forward to celebrating the contribution of our volunteers throughout our 10th year.

Our Safe Families Western Isles service is now in its second year, and we have seen an increase in the referrals received with our current total at 32 received. We have twenty-six approved volunteers. Our team have been busy promoting the service across the islands, attending Family and Child events, visiting head teachers, and welcoming opportunity to speak to various organisations such as GP practices. Earlier in the year we made the necessary steps to further develop Safe Families Western Isles in the Southern Isles and as such we held a partnership meeting in Benbecula, and this confirmed that there is similar need for family support within the Southern Isles and we have currently one Uist based volunteer in training. Our Safe Families Western Isles team work hard for the families they support and have such enthusiasm for helping people feel seen, heard, and understood.

We have grown as an organisation and now have fifteen members of staff and supervision and engagement takes place on a regular basis. We are indebted to our staff team who work with huge passion and energy in supporting all The Shed Project's activities.

We have much to be thankful for in our 10th year of operation, and this year will reflect our 10 years celebrations with events throughout the year. All we are currently doing in management and in people terms is looking towards the future work that will take place in the Barn. We will be reviewing and updating all our working policies and procedures to make sure we are ready for this exciting expansion in the life of The Shed.

Fiona Douglas

Business Manager