

# IMPACT REPORT

2024







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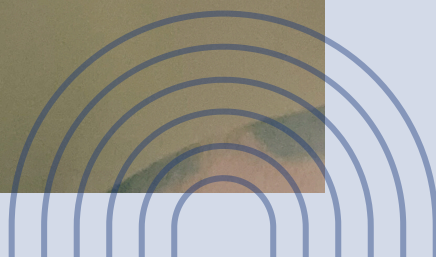
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**Picture: Little girl enjoying the sensory toys.**





**Picture: National Lottery Fund awarded - 2019!**

## Introduction

Established in 1975, within St Luke's Hospital, we will be celebrating our 50th birthday this year.

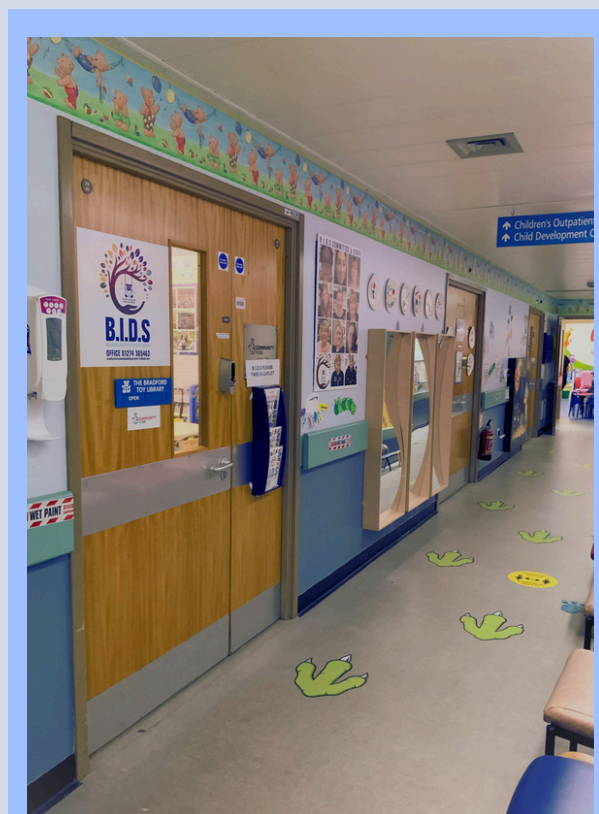
Starting out as a toy library for children with additional needs and their families, our initial goal was to support clinicians in Children's Outpatients with the provision of toys for children with sensory impairments, Autism and other life-limiting conditions. For many families, purchasing specific toys for their children was often outside of their financial means and the Toy Library became the solution.

Our staff team grew over time and by 2006 we employed two full time staff who both have children (now young adults) with additional needs. Through their personal and professional knowledge, over the years, we have introduced more activities and services that support our children, young people and families alongside our toy library. All of our services have been developed with our families and children, so we are proud to say we are truly user-led.

The change in our name in 2019 was borne out of the change to our services, we are more than a toy library now and we wanted our name to reflect our growth.

Across the following pages, we are proud to share more about our staff team, the services we provide, their impact and our future plans.

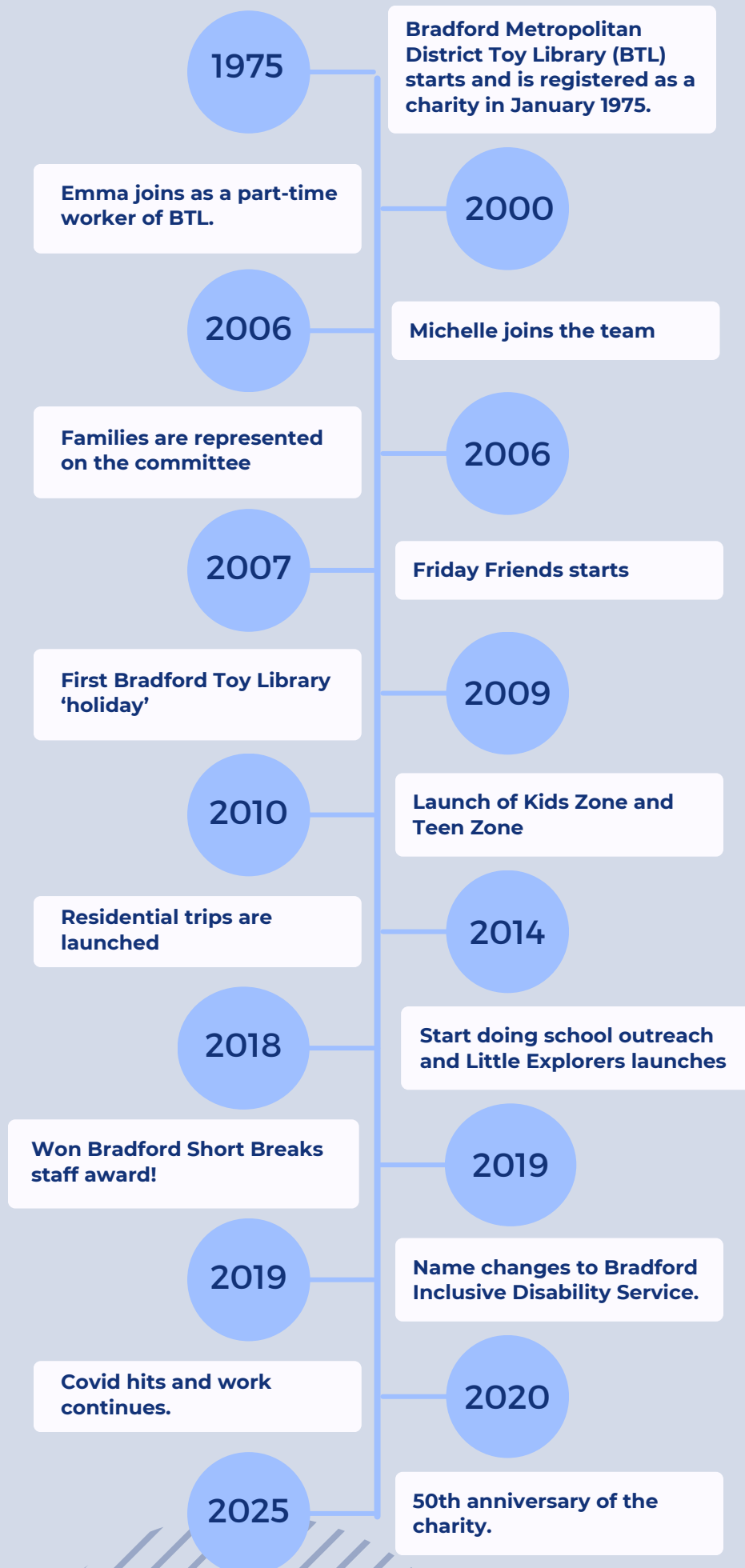
We hope you enjoy reading our impact report, and if you know someone who needs our support, our contact details are at the very end.



**Picture: The entrance to B.I.D.S in St Luke's Hospital**



# Our timeline





**Picture: Emma Rae**



**Picture: Michelle Neale**

## Meet the Team

Emma first heard about the Toy Library when she joined as a client in 1999, seeking support for her (then) 4 year old daughter who had been diagnosed with Autism. This soon became a part-time role working 10:00 to 14:00 during term-time, mostly loaning out the toys and providing some support with a cup of tea.

Emma recalls the early days of the committee just being the clinical staff from the hospital and her role doing new things, including helping someone who had issues with hoarding to move house. There was always a different need and Emma has been proud to be able to help meet that need for their members.

Michelle used to be a nursery nurse working in special education schools and used the Toy Library as part of her work. Following a work break she came into the role at the Toy Library and used her educational experience to help grow the organisation.

Michelle set about cataloguing the toys and making a toy 'database'; the Friday Friends group snowballed from one person to many parents and days out with the families came out of her own personal understanding of their needs due to having a child with Autism.

The current staff team have been jointly responsible for the development of Friday Friends, Kids Zone, Teen Zone, annual trips, residentials and outreach to schools. On top of this they have also enabled parents to join the committee alongside the clinical staff to make BIDS 2020 a strong user-led organisation.



# Our Committee

Our committee is made up of a selection of parents, grandparents, professionals and interested parties, all whom share a passion for helping families who have been touched by disability.

We asked a few of our Trustees, current and past, why they wanted to be part of the committee for BIDS this is what they had to say;



*I have a son with SEN, he has had needs from birth. I joined BIDS committee to help support the charity to continue to provide the essential support and services for families in Bradford. My background is in Social Care and Benefits and I am also a Parent Governor at a Special Needs School in the local district as the Safeguarding Governor.*

- Katrina

*I am mum to two girls ages 8 & 9. My eldest daughter was diagnosed at the age of 5 with dyspraxia, hypermobility, short term memory loss and language processing difficulties and is now awaiting Autism assessment also. When I first popped into B.I.D.S I signed up and they loaned us some toys. We the started doing some summer activities and met some lovely families. We have recently joined Friday Friends and attend Kidzone. Michelle and Emma have always given our family support and a listening ear. I wanted to join the committee to give something back to this amazing charity.*

- Amanda

*I wanted to be part of the committee as I want everyone to know they can come to me and I will help with what I can. I also want people to feel they can talk and ask for help if needed or to help them have more understanding of things and get the right support.*

- Carol



Picture: Pond dipping at Nell Bank.

Picture: The Community Disability Play Day

## Our Partners

It's amazing what you do, keep up the good work!

- ZW, parent

### St Luke's Hospital:

- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Consultants

Short Breaks Bradford

Nell Bank

Inn Churches

Moor Time

AWARE

Shine

Parents' Forum for Bradford and Airedale (PFBA)

Vision Impairment Team

Portage

Chellow Heights Special School

Hirst Wood Nursery School

Co-op Academy Delius

Canterbury Nursery School



Our partnership with BIDS has created The Bradford Community Disability Play Day, delivered annually to approximately 400 visitors over the last seven years.

Working in partnership with BIDS has meant we can maximise funding opportunities by matching what each partner is able to raise and scaling up the events as a result.

Our specialist facilities means that through BIDS, with their network of families, we can reach a wide range of people who have children with SEND and provide exciting and engaging events and activities for them, for which the physical and mental wellbeing benefits are significant.

- Dan Goodey, Nell Bank Centre



# Our Client Journey

## The doorway to BIDS

Referral from Children's Outpatients or other professional

Word of mouth / self-referral

Schools outreach



## From there...

Become a member of BIDS to access lots of services such as...



The Toy Library to loan toys

Social skills groups Little Explorers, Kids Zone, Teen Zone and Friday Friends

Family fun days, summer activities, trips, outings, mini-breaks and residential

Support and advice on finance and managing bills, benefits, disability badges, Family Fund and more



**Picture: The contents of a Covid food and 'boredom buster' parcel.**



Before BIDS we had struggled for 5 years trying to find help trying to get schools on board with his disability so meeting people who listened, and we could be open and honest without judgement.

We were referred to BIDS by one of the occupational therapists for support and sensory type equipment. So we started loaning toys and equipment weekly which then opened the doors to being with other families who would help and support us as a family with their ideas and lived experiences.



- The Lomas family



**Picture: Bradford Toy Library logo**

## Accessing BIDS Toy Library:

New families access our services by either calling or popping in when they are at children's Outpatients. We make them an appointment during the week that lasts for 15 to 20 minutes.

Once signed up, parents can access the toy library and take up to 4 toys for a month. We do bend rules to meet the needs of those families who find it difficult to travel to us, and this is one of the reasons we developed the service within schools.

# BIDS Toy Library

# 576

New members in just one year.

# 250

Toys loaned each week.

# 100

Parents and carers come to our specialist schools sessions

Alongside borrowing toys, families can then access our other services or opt for a chat and a cuppa with the team.

*My son has been off school for over a year and the toy library had been amazing! He looks forward to going in and having a chat with volunteers and staff, and they make a great effort with him. They search for and match toys to his ability and the right level of challenge. My son enjoys it so much, he says "its like going into Smyths!" We have been able to build therapy in through these toys and work on his fine motor skills and turn taking practise which has been very effective. It has helped us to tie in therapy through play.*

- Gina





**Picture: Friday Friends on a group outing to the theatre,**

## Friday Friends

Our Friday Friends group is a friendly and supportive space for parents and carers to pop in for a cuppa and a chat. In addition to friendship and support, we also offer help and guidance with:

- Benefits advice
- Access to other professionals (Occupational Therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, and consultant support)
- Sharing knowledge, advice and support
- Meeting other parents in similar circumstances

Friday Friends has its very own Facebook page and WhatsApp group to provide information about the meeting that week.

Through the groups that we have run in the office we have watched families engage with each other and make lasting friendships. They empower each other, support each other and have made play dates away from our charity together feeling that they have made lasting friendships because they have something in common.

*The Friday friends group has enabled me to meet and get to know some wonderful SEN parents who have become friends. Spending time chatting over a coffee gives us a lovely opportunity to share our experiences and help each other out with advice. The ladies at BIDS have also been amazing at signposting other services and providing advice that is helpful in these sessions.*

- Christiana

# Kids Zone and Teen Zone

We have two dedicated and exciting youth groups catering for young people with a disability. We meet every Monday evening from 17:00 during term time and our aim is to have lots of fun within the community.

It's a wonderful way to join in with your peers, helping to develop social skills and promoting independence. It's also a lovely way for parents to connect and socialise with other parents who have children with disabilities. Siblings are welcomed and included too.

Our children's social groups have grown over the last few years and we have over 25 children and young people regularly attending these groups giving children opportunities to make lasting friendships and enjoy some fantastic activities such as bowling, swimming, Lazerzone, the cinema and eating out. This helps the children grow and develop into fantastic individuals.



**Picture: The children at Kids Zone**



**Ages 8 to 11**



**Age 11+**

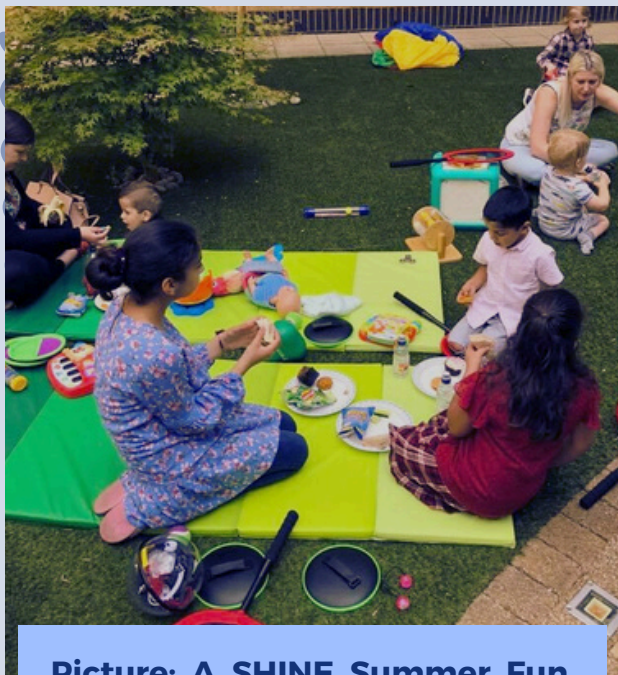
*We first met BIDS in 2017 after our paediatrician told us about them. At the time O was beginning to realise that she had different needs to the other children in her class (none of them had a feeding tube or used a wheelchair or wore nappies.) The doctor thought it would be good for O to meet other children who may look a bit like her or have some similar needs, with S and A having Autism and ADHD traits we thought it would help them as well as they struggled to communicate and socialise with other people.*

*We chose BIDS specifically as the activities were able to cater to all 3 girls needs, as well as myself being able to talk with other parents who have children with similar needs. With BIDS we have been able to regularly meet up with Kids Zone / Teen Zone.*

*The girls have all become more confident since starting going to BIDS, they feel accepted even if they are having a tricky day. If we hadn't joined BIDS we probably wouldn't go out places as much as we do, I also think the girls would be a lot less confident than they are now.*



# Little Explorers



**Picture: A SHINE Summer Fun Day.**

Seating, positioning & play for children aged 3 to 18 months – these sessions are designed to help our children learn how to play – we call them toy lessons.

We felt it was important to support families as early as possible in the journey so we have designed these sessions with this in mind. As our office is based in St Luke's Hospital, we work in partnership with the on-site physiotherapists and other specialist staff to provide these sessions.



**Picture: The Little Explorers group.**

“ We are very grateful for all the opportunities we have had over the years you have been a real lifeline ”

“ To find an organisation that had a support network for special needs children and their families was amazing and a real community resource. We started off in Little Explorers which was run in the BIDS office with the physiotherapists teaching us seating positions whilst the BIDS staff gave us many toys to try and learn through play.

We made some special friends through this group and we went out together on picnics and playdays and shared ideas. This wouldn't have happened if we hadn't joined BIDS service.

The benefits to us as a family have been being able to approach a service for specialist toys and equipment. If I had seen something that I wanted to try the staff would buy it for us to loan and also if I couldn't make it to the office because my son is often unwell because of his disability the staff would bring the toy out to my home and drop it off for us. They always go above and beyond for us.

# Holidays and residentials

We work with Short Break Bradford and Principle Trust to offer family residential opportunities.

Within the school summer six-week holidays we aim to provide four weeks of fun and during other holidays we offer theme days and family get togethers.

The sessions are designed to support the whole family with activities that can be adapted to meet the needs of the disabled children, time off for parents to enjoy a bit of 'me time' and lots of opportunities to meet like minded families that soon turn into friends.



**Picture: No limits at Calvert Trust.**

This testimonial is from a member who joined in 2006. Her son was 2 and a half when they joined, she is still part of the service today and says it is like an extension family with new people joining; she has made so many friends and even brings new people along herself.



**Picture: A day out enjoying the good weather.**



**Picture: Halloween at Lightwater Valley**

*Some of the benefits to them has been going on holidays to Center Parcs with a group of parents and Ingleborough Hall making new friends and giving me the ability to actually go away with the friends I made at BIDS.*

*Even planning and going to Disneyland Paris with my son which all happened with the help of Emma and Michelle. Especially Michelle as both workers were part time and I saw more of Michelle on a Friday so she helped me very much with this trip.*

*It made a massive difference talking to other parents who were going through the same things as me and being able to understand each other and empathise.*

*Without this valuable support my son would not be where he is today studying at university doing a graphics degree. As a family we introduced a lot of other friends to the service with children with disabilities, this was important to me to be able to share my journey with BIDS with friends who also need the support.*

*If I hadn't have found BIDS and attended the sessions of support I probably wouldn't be doing anything or as confident, I certainly wouldn't have planned a trip to Paris with my son without their support.*

*I feel my confidence has grown so much in the 17 years I have been a part of BIDS. There is a sense of belonging, you can go to BIDS for support and they understand you.*





# Working with hospitals

We have been situated in St Luke's Hospital since we began back in 1975. The Toy Library was initially designed to support the clinical staff within Children's Outpatients Department.

Since our inception we have been financially supported with a rent-free room and phone line. This support then extends to the network of professionals provided for us by the NHS within Bradford giving us the chance to make a real difference to disabled children as early as possible in their diagnoses.

*Within my role I work with children with a range of complex neuro-disability conditions and I regularly signpost the families I work with to the BIDS service.*

*It can be very difficult for families in Bradford to access and receive the support they need for them and their children and the BIDS service is absolutely invaluable in providing this support.*

*The toy library loan service is amazing as it allows families to borrow toys and therapy equipment that they wouldn't be able to access.*

*This helps to promote the development of the child's motor skills, learning, vision and hearing and also provides support to parents to learn how to promote play and therefore support their child to reach their full potential.*

- Laura Dent, Children's physiotherapist, complex neuro-disability conditions

*BIDS is an asset to the trust and my department greatly appreciates all the hard work and effort that goes into enabling BIDS to continue. Each family I have linked up with BIDS has nothing but praise for the service.*

*Families are given opportunities and experiences through BIDS that is not available anywhere else. BIDS make sure all children experience play in whatever capacity they can.*

*We need BIDS to continue for our families well into the future.*

- Marcia Emmott, Occupational Therapist Paediatrics / Rehabilitation

**Picture: The front door  
at Horton Wing.**





# Specialist Outreach



**Picture: Our setup at a school outreach session.**

Going into schools enables us to interact with the seldom heard communities in our district. We have carers groups within four specialist settings providing a coffee morning for the carers to talk with us and each other. This gives them time to offload and talk and we have seen some lovely friendships blossom here.



Co-op Academy  
Delius



*Chellow Heights is a generic special school for learners aged 2 to 11 years. We are based on two sites; Heaton and Low Moor. Our pupils come from across Bradford and reflect the diverse population of the district.*

*We initially got in touch with BIDS as we were keen for our parents group to access all available services within the district. The parents loved the toy library and Emma and Michelle were keen to bring the toy library to the families at the school sites, rather than requiring the parents to get to St Luke's. BIDS come to both sites once a month and soon the service progressed into advice, information support and activities. From the outset it felt that BIDS were a great fit with our school and our parents, sharing similar experience, empathy, values, and professionalism.*

*Now BIDS run holiday activities from our BD9 site, which benefits our children, families and parents hugely. The school can provide a venue that is welcoming, safe and secure and we are very pleased that BIDS run this type of out of school activity here*

- Katie Hansard

# The Difference We Make

We have supported over 4,500 families and their children in the past 5 years.

For many of the children and the families we work with, we are not just here for a few months; it's a long journey together. For many of our clients, this journey has been particularly special:

There have been lots of activities that we wouldn't have tried as it would've been too stressful.

BIDS has grown and become a homely community where anyone is welcome.

If we hadn't found BIDS honestly, I dread to think... My wife and I probably wouldn't be married!

On the residential we could sit and breathe, watch them enjoy themselves running around being free in a secure environment.

The Team at BIDS do a phenomenal job in supporting families in the district and work tirelessly to ensure they have access to a wide range of enrichment activities and support services.

- Nell Bank

It made a massive difference talking to other parents who were going through the same things as me and being able to understand each other and empathise.

Sometimes you don't feel acceptance and don't get the support, but with BIDS I really felt this wasn't an issue. Everyone was welcoming and helpful.

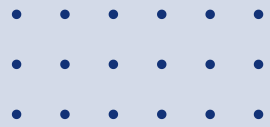
Our family is always welcome and this means so much to us.



**Picture: Our supplies ready to be packaged and delivered during Covid.**



# Our Impact



Picture: Celebrating 45 years of B.I.D.S

**12**  
Shine sessions

**48**  
School Outreach sessions

**46**  
Teen Zone sessions

**39**  
Friday Friends sessions

**46**  
Kids Zone sessions



**Holiday Activities**  
**735**  
attendees

**Teen Zone / Kids Zone**  
**720**  
attendees

**Little Explorers**  
**540**  
attendees

**School Visits**  
**413**  
attendees

**670**

Children with disabilities have enjoyed new specialist toys.

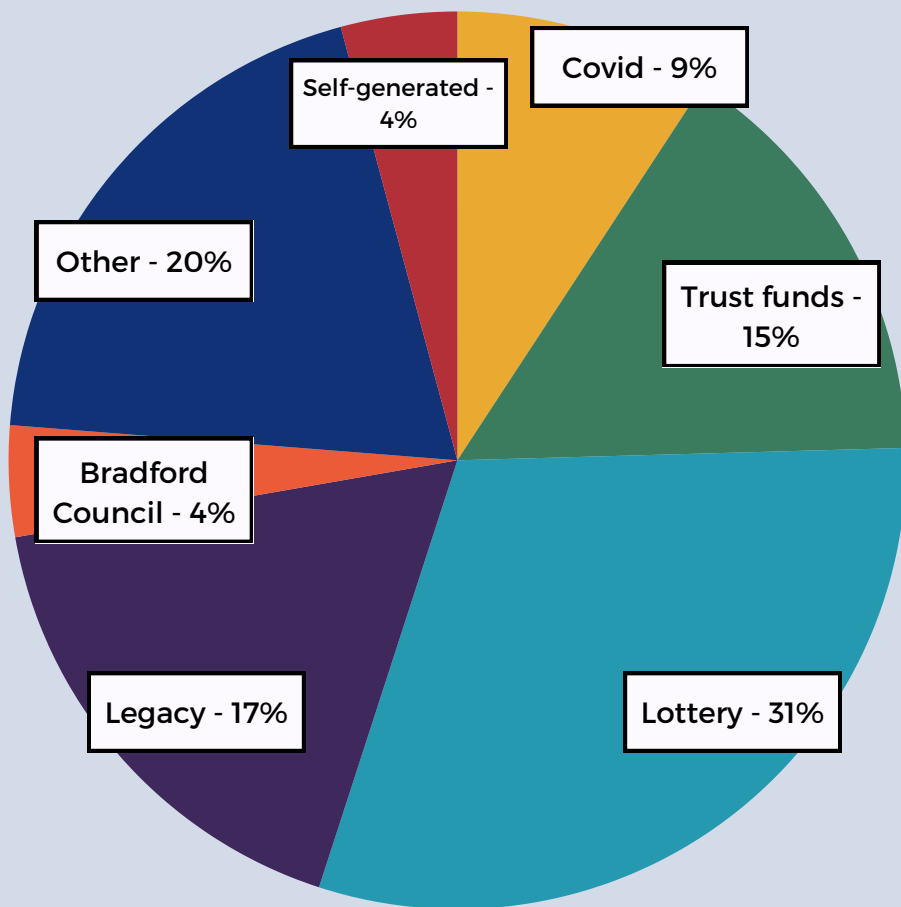
Represents one year of activity.

# Funding Profile

We are grateful to all our funders over the past 5 years. Our complete range of funders are listed at the very end of this report. They have supported us in many ways, including exceptional support during Covid.

## Sources of Funding

2018 to 2023



From our data we can see that around one-third of our funding has come from the National Lottery Community Fund, through a number of programmes including Awards for All and Reaching Communities.

**1/3**

Across the 5 years this is roughly £50,000 per year.

**49 Funders**

**33 Trusts**

**1 Legacy Donation**

Our self-generated income includes membership fees, small donations, contributions towards activity costs from our families and bank interest. Whilst this is a small percentage of our overall income, since 2021 it does give us around £10,000 per year.

Scope in Bradford donated more than £140,000 when they closed their doors for the final time in our last financial year. This legacy has really supported the long-term stability of the organisation and we are very grateful to have been considered as their beneficiary.





**Picture: Caving at Ingleborough Hall**

## The future

Looking ahead to the next five years we aim to continue the success of our services, extend our reach and support to more families in the Bradford District, and to consult and communicate with them to develop based on need.

**It's not a job, it's our life and it's what we do**

- Emma and Michelle

Additionally, we will identify gaps in service to ensure new offerings do not duplicate existing services, unless there is high demand that justifies the need for more.

We also plan to increase our engagement with schools and play settings, this will enable us to support the harder to reach families within our district.

We would like to organise and host a children's disabilities information day yearly, bringing together services, groups and charities to share information, knowledge and experience to further support families. A day like this is key to giving families the confidence and knowledge to connect to the appropriate groups and support.

Finally, we will develop transitional work experience, volunteering and employment for our young people in Teen Zone to develop skills in the work place and opportunities for the future.



**Picture: Delivering Christmas presents to our clients.**

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FUNDERS

29th May 1961 Charitable Trust

4814 Trust

Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation

The Alchemy Foundation

The Angela Gallagher Memorial Fund

Awards for All

The Barbara Shuttleworth Memorial Fund

Bradford Council

Bradford Autism Services

Bonus Ball Families

Brelms Trust

Charities Aid Foundation

The Cleeves and Whitehead Trust

Cotton Industry War Memorial Trust

David Family Foundation

Fitton Trust

The Friends of St Luke's

Sir George Martin Trust

The Hadley Trust

The Hedley Foundation

The Hooper Family – in memory of Paul Hooper

Inn Churches

Joan Wilkinson Charitable Trust

The Joel Harrison Charitable Trust

Keepmoat

Leeds Building Society

Leeds Community Foundation

The Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation

Lloyds Bank Foundation

Lord Barnaby's Foundation

Localgiving

Marsh Charitable Trust

The Masonic Charitable Foundation

Modiano Charitable Trust

The Myerscough Charitable Trust

National Lottery Community Fund

The Pat Newman Memorial Trust

The Percy Bilton Charity

The Pierrepont Trust

Rangoowala Foundation

The Rank Foundation

Scope in Bradford

The Sobell Foundation

Sovereign Health Care

St James Place Charitable Foundation

The Sweetpea Charitable Trust

Tesco Stronger Starts

The Trevor Chinn Charitable Trust

Transforming Lives

The Truemark Trust

The Wilson Family – in memory of Abbie Wilson


Webb Family Charitable Trust

W W Spooner Charitable Trust

Zedra Trust Company


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