



Children
Heard+Seen

Children

Heard & Seen

Summer Residential Impact Report - 2025

August 2025



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The Residential in Numbers

67

FAMILIES

135

CHILDREN

87

PARENTS

WE
RAN 30+
ACTIVITIES

51

VOLUNTEERS LENT
US THEIR TIME

FAMILIES TRAVELLED

9,400
KM

AND A HUGE
AMOUNT OF
FUN ...

Where Families Travelled From



Families travelled 9,400km to attend this years residential in Oxford.

Our families travelled from all over the UK, including from the following counties:

Bedfordshire	Kent
Berkshire	Lancashire
Bristol	Lincolnshire
Buckinghamshire	Merseyside
County Durham	Norfolk
Cumbria	Northamptonshire
Derbyshire	Nottinghamshire
East Riding of Yorkshire	Oxfordshire
Essex	Somerset
Greater London	Staffordshire
Greater Manchester	Surrey
Hampshire	Tyne and Wear
Herefordshire	Wales
Hertfordshire	West Midlands
	West Yorkshire
	Worcestershire

Why Come Together?

Our annual Summer Residential at Hill End is a chance for the children and families we support to come together, make friends, and discuss their shared experience in a safe and non-judgemental environment.

The amazing 67 acres at Hill End give children the ability to roam free and explore, as well as participate in activities such as the climbing wall, the teddy bear hunt, the books and bugs workshop, and much, much more. Our practitioners lead them through activities designed to raise children's self-confidence and encourage them to think positively about their futures. For many children we support, this is their first time meeting their online caseworker and friends in person.

For parents and carers, this is often a chance to connect with others in their situation. The Residential provides parents and carers with a powerful opportunity to form friendships, discuss shared challenges, and rebuild self-esteem.

As a whole, the annual Residential is an opportunity to reduce social isolation and feelings of stigma and forge long-term, sustainable peer support networks for other families in similar situations. Every year, it is a powerful reminder of the community we work with.



Thursday's Activities

After months of planning, the Residential kicked off on Thursday afternoon as families arrived and got settled. Children were soon enjoying the many activities we had planned for them.

Ice cream parlour

What better than a nice ice cream after a long day of travelling?



The afternoon was filled with lovely craft activities for families to express their creativity.



Decoupage, graffiti workshop, family craft activity, cup and water bottle decorating



Live music at the Residential!

In the evening, families listened to The Kings of Culture's performance and danced on their delightful covers and original songs.

Thursday's Activities

Ice Cream parlour



Cup decorating



Family craft



Graffiti workshop



Live music - The Kings of Culture



Rounders, and much more...

Friday's Activities



Yoga for all ages



Karaoke



Teddy Bear's picnic



Bracelet Making



Forest school

Police car Q&A + demonstration



Meet the Author and much more...

Friday's Activities

Meet the Author

We had two authors come on the day: Rebecca Ashdown (Thunderboots) and Danny Lee (Finding Dad). Both gave signed copies of their work and gave a talk on their books, and the creative outlet of writing and illustrating.



Relaxation Yoga, Bracelet Making, Forest School and Watercolour Art

Children, Young People and Adults could all participate in various creative and relaxing activities, providing them with a space to release all tensions and reconnect with themselves and nature.

Karaoke

To finish the day in style, the families discovered their inner star and gave life to the dancefloor.



Saturday's Activities



Paper Mosaic Making, 5asideCHESS

5asideCHESS introduced the children to a new way of communicating with each other through chess. They also tested their logical skill with some checkmate in two puzzles. Others showed their craftier side by making paper mosaic art.

Football, Climbing Wall

The kids had an absolute blast kicking the ball around with the Witney Vikings and showing off their climbing prowess.



Campfire and Karaoke

To carry on the musical adventures of the evenings, we had more songs at the karaoke and some new ones around the campfire.

Saturday's Activities



Paper mosaic making

Karaoke

Football with Witney Vikings

Feedback

Our families had an amazing time at the residential this year, and it can be reflected in the great unsolicited feedback we got from them:

" It's the only place he can be himself. "



" I can't remember the last time I was this relaxed or laughed this much. "

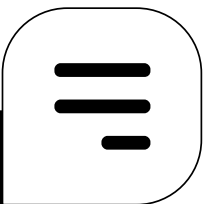
" It's just so lovely being able to chat with people with no judgement "

" Seeing how happy the kids were and how they related to other kids and didn't feel different made it worth it! "



" Life at home becomes very busy and to be able to get away in nature and spend quality time is amazing but what this has shown my daughter is that she's not on her own and none of this is her fault."

" I saw nothing but smiles over the last few days and met some really amazing people. Thank you to you all for being available to talk and listen it has really meant a lot "



Local Partnerships

Witney Vikings



We were also lucky to be visited by the Witney Vikings Football Club, who spent a few hours at Hill End on Saturday and played football with some of the children.

Thea the Therapy Dog

Thea and her owner Kerensa Butcher visited us at the residential and put a smile on the kids' faces!



Thames Valley Police



Every year, the Thames Valley Police pay a visit to Hill End to meet the children.

This annual visit offers children a chance to put a friendly face to our local officers.

The children loved sitting in the front seat of the police car, trying on the police uniform, and interacting with officers.

Forming Lasting Connections...

Jesse Devlin



Jesse volunteered for the whole residential, providing tailored yoga sessions to all ages throughout the weekend. Jesse's own lived experience of having had a parent in prison as a child drives her dedication to creating change for children with a parent in prison. She is continuing her wonderful volunteering every Monday with a new online weekly meditation group for the families who attended the residential.

5asideCHESS

After the success of 5asideCHESS' introduction at the residential, they have provided Children Heard and Seen's staff with training to facilitate an online group on how to implement 5asideCHESS in 1:1 interventions.



Online Children's Group

Children who attended the residential now join our weekly online residential group - building and maintaining the friendships that were formed.



Meals and Treats

Special thanks to everyone that has prepared meals and donated food throughout our residential weekend:

Emmanual Church Oxford
Children's Safeguarding
Board Free Cakes Oxford
Oxford Food Hub

Prison Advice Care Trust
Mothers Union
Thames Valley Police
DWP



THANK YOU to all our wonderful funders, donors and volunteers! The weekend would not be possible without you!



Volunteers

Sarah Hawkins	Nancy Bior
Emma Wilson	Grace Low
Flora Dodd	Sarah Moncrieff
Sylvia Geita	Alison Winder
Julia Tupper	Patricia Newman
Archie Tupper	Aimee Hutchinson
Eli Bromley	Anna Smith
Sue Partridge	Lauren Spencer
Matt Partridge	Charley O'Brien
Danny Lee	Sandra Cooper
Jesse Devlin	Aileen Anderson
Chris Ward	Amy Palmer
Jemima Norris	Marina Opritesu
Alex Norris	Mills Brown (& Lilli)
Sylvia Colley	Tracey Croucher-Clark
Russ Massie	Kerensa Butcher
Alex McSweeney	Will Murch
Rachel Lane	Marjorie Ottley
Laura Church	Sean Fitzgerald
Katie Akers	Mary Zacaroli (& Ian)
Colin Howe	Eve Massie
Katy Cockram	Tracey Wiggins
Bibek Gyawali	Kami Parnes
Jacky Dines	

Donors

Sheila Gough	Shirley Scott
Fliss Radomska	Victoria Burgum
Patricia Newman	Margaret Wright
Cecile Miralles	Lesley Sherbourne
Evelyne Arragon	Glenis Hutton
Danny Lee	Gillian Bastow
Charlotte Waldron	April Jeffers
Shona Gibbs	Robyn Airlie
Atlanta Browning	Graham Knowles
Anne Marriott	Matthew Shillaber
Merline Napier	Evren Alkis
Sarah Trentham	Kerry McCarthy
Andrew Gray	Jeremy Cooper
Asima Bokhari	Chris Gravell
Jill Gort	Stephen Schlich
Deborah Seccull	Claire Taylor
Claire Harnett	Megan Players
Emma Wilson	Judith Burton
Deirdre Armstrong	Emma Rix
Gillie Howarth	John Quincey
Ann O'Kelly	Judith Redman
Josephine Walden	Chris Best
Evlyn Smith	Valerie Bolton
Rebecca Farley	Barbara Carter
Marjorie Ottley	Teresa Heys
Ronnie Caspari	Barbara Hughes
Rohan Mailoo	Jane Hearn
Rona Edwards	Nicholas Pemberton
Florence Walsh	Andrew Pearl
Catherine Hilliard	Robert Caston
Jane Robinson	Jill Salisbury
Sharon Johnston	Sue Perry
Annabel Stretton-	Sue Kardahji
Derham	Kate Barrett
Alan Cane	Sean Keane
Antony Duff	Helen Coyne
Janet Thomas	Suzanne U
Peter Redman	Nicola Hill
Harry Crew	Carol Seymour-Newton
Emma John	Denise Holmes
Borderline Books	Pennington's Solicitors

Donors

Agnieszka Rout	Katherine Sloper
Catherine Cook	Denise Maruszczak
Sarah Challoner	Gemma Mbega
Catherine Brickwood	Jonathan Ranger
Amanda Garnham	Jennifer Clark
Fran Defazio	Mary Haldin
Sophie Smith	Antonia Luxton
Mary Soutar	Mr B Haldin
Pauline Pierce	Jacky Dines
Nicola Pepper	Claire T
Gillian Wood	Chris Rose
David Ashmore	Neil Butter
Diana Rippin	Julie Robinson
William Nicholas	Mary O'Shaughnessy

Appendix: Referral Sources

