



Annual Report 2016-2017



**“A welcoming and friendly community where all are respected,
valued and supported”**

Welcome to the Bridgend Centre Annual Report 2016-2017



The Bridgend Centre is a registered charity, established in 1990. Since then it has gone from strength to strength, widening its appeal to local people as the first point of contact for community matters.

Bridgend Centre is a community where everyone works together for the greater benefit of all. The Centre was set up to create a positive life experience, especially for those feeling isolated. Since 1990, we have continued to achieve this by breaking down social barriers through community integration and change in people's lives. Our primary aim is to improve the quality of social inclusion.

Our open door policy encourages people of all ages, social backgrounds, abilities and medical conditions to enhance their lives through interaction with others. By accepting and understanding differences, individuals can relate more easily to each other and be part of our extended family.

We are governed by an excellent board of Trustees with substantial expertise in a range of different areas and 2016-2017 brought a number of changes to the Board. We have been joined by Lisa Cox and Sue Brocklehurst, who bring a wealth of skills and experience having worked, amongst other places, at AstraZeneca and the Prince's Trust. Janet Beech resigned after many years' service to Bridgend and we would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to Bridgend and hope to continue to see her regularly at the Centre.

We have also seen some change amongst our staff

members, with Helen Dewhurst leaving us to start her own venture and Jane McGill-Hoyland joining us in January 2017. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and multi-skilled team led by our Centre Manager, Becky Lea, and very much appreciate all their hard work.

On behalf of myself and all members of the Management Committee, I should like to thank all of our volunteers, who carry out such vital work at the Centre.

As well as the usual services we run, we have started a number of new initiatives this year including the very successful Bridgend Community Choir and 'Bridgend Buddies', a project aimed at reducing isolation for the most vulnerable people in the area. It is great to see new ideas and initiatives taking place at Bridgend, which will keep things fresh and encourage new people into the Centre.

In another exciting development, we have fully refurbished the reception area this year with the hugely generous support of the Co-op, Macclesfield Lions and Equilibrium. We have changed the reception furniture, decorated and installed an automatic door in order to make the area more accessible for everyone, particularly those with mobility issues and with prams and buggies.

We produce various statistics in order to demonstrate the value of our services to the community and the figures for this year clearly show the astonishing attendance figures and the value for money we offer. Over 1400 different people regularly used the Centre during the year and on average 57 adults plus many children visited us every day.

Of course, we couldn't achieve any of this without the huge generosity of our supporters, whether it is our regular donors, volunteers or service users. Thank you so much for everything you do, day in, day out; come rain or shine. We very much appreciate it.

**Geoff Brown, Chair of Bridgend Trustees
Bollington, August 2017**

Vital statistics 2016-2017

**1422 different people
visited the Centre
21% increase on last
year**

**359 people attended
our walks
26% increase on last
year**

**50 people
accessed
information**

**108 people
received 1-1
support**

Our Vision

A welcoming and friendly community where all are respected valued and supported.

Our Purpose

We are a local, independent charity playing an active role at the heart of the community, open to everyone.

We aim to enhance quality of life through fostering a caring and support environment, identifying and bridging gaps in social need and providing a wealth of opportunities through facilities and resources.

Our Values

- **Welcoming and friendly to all**
- **Inclusive and accepting**
- **Encouraging of engagement and involvement**
- **Community feeling**
- **Affordable**

**Over 5500 volunteer
hours worked by 163
volunteers**

**158 people
attended 356
health and
educational
sessions**

Focus on.....Bridgend Buddies

An exciting development this year at the Centre has been Bridgend Buddies. We have been awarded a grant from Comic Relief (through Cheshire Community Foundation) to pair up twelve volunteer 'Buddies' with twelve people in the community who are lonely, isolated or vulnerable.

The aim is for volunteers to collect those on the project to go out and socialise, for example at the Bridgend Centre and other local venues. They will be able to offer support and facilitate social contact on these occasions, thereby building up confidence in social communication. The volunteers can also take individuals to specific appointments e.g. doctor, hair-dresser, chiropodist and also accompany people to the local shops. As far as possible, volunteers will be paired up with one or two individuals and it is to be hoped that positive relationships will develop between the pairs.

We have already teamed six 'pairs' up and the project is going well. We also have a list of people who have expressed an interest in taking part.



Chris and Kenneth, one of our pairs of 'Buddies'

Bridgend Events

The events we hold at Bridgend create wonderful social occasions as well as the opportunity to raise funds for the Centre. We have had the following events during 2016-2017.

- Two vintage fairs and artisan markets
- George Borowski concert
- Fortnightly car wash
- Pub quizzes at the Poachers Inn
- Bollington Nostalgia Hill Race
- Playing a major part in the Bollington Walking Festival

Thank you so much to our generous supporters, including those who volunteer for us, either regularly or for specific fundraising events; regular donors; users of the car wash, donors to the charity

shop, participants in the 100 club; gift aid donors and corporate sponsors. Without all of you, Bridgend would not be possible.

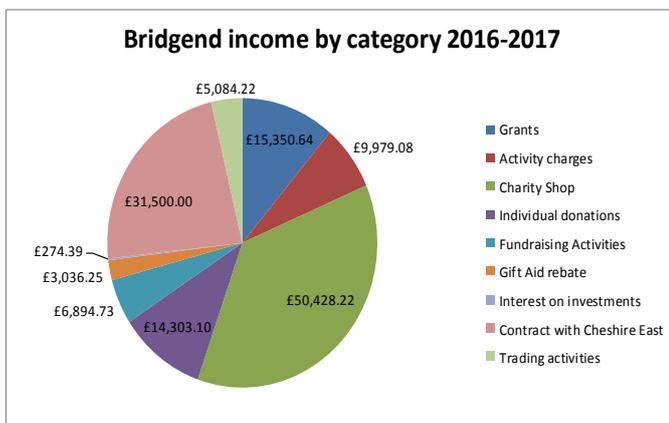


Financial Information

2016-2017 was a very positive financial year for Bridgend with income of £136,851 and expenditure of £111,628, giving us a surplus of £25,223, which will be put into our reserves for future investment and to provide increased stability for future years.

We continue to receive our income from a variety of sources, which is extremely important as it allows the Centre to remain adaptable to changes in the economy and to remain independent.

The charity shop continues to do very well and raised over £50,000 this financial year, an increase of 13% on the year before.



We have many donors who make donations throughout the year and we could not function without this support at the community level. Some donate regularly (for example monthly) and some make one off donations. We are so grateful for this support.

We have a contract to provide Early Intervention and Prevention services for Cheshire East Council which pays £31,500 per annum but expires on 31 March 2018. Clearly, this is a very important source of income for us and at this stage, we don't know if the contract will be renewed and if it is, what the value will be. This is why it is so important for us to continually seek out new income streams.

Overall it is a healthy picture for the Bridgend Centre at this stage, but as ever, there are uncertainties surrounding future income and we must be prepared and flexible to cope with such demands.

Focus on.....Rossendale Trust WorkTaste programme

This year Bridgend has been providing placements for the Rossendale Trust WorkTaste programme. We have had five people from the Trust working at Bridgend on eight week placements and the programme has been a huge success. It has been beneficial for both sides of this partnership; as well as providing an opportunity for people to learn about the world of work, it has also been fantastic for Bridgend in terms of the inclusion of people from all walks of life, as well as helping us with work required at the Centre.

Bridgend Centre

Shop Assistant



The Bridgend Centre in Bollington offers a variety of tasks, for example making drinks, setting up for events, and cleaning. The participant will develop a wide range of skills, this placement would suit someone who is calm, friendly and polite.

What our participants say



"This place is brilliant"

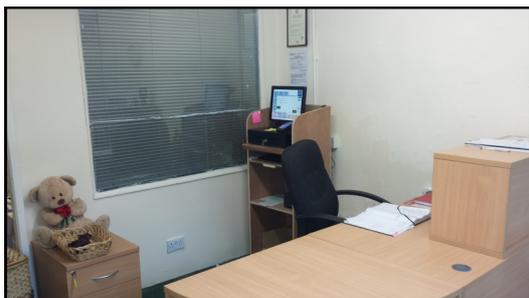
What our coaches say



"This placement would suit a variety of participants, as there are so many roles available. The staff are very friendly and will work around the participants needs and allow them space when necessary."

Focus on.... Bridgend reception area

We've seen a lot of changes in our reception area this year. In order to make it more accessible for people with mobility issues and those with prams and buggies, we removed the old reception area and replaced it with some bright, more space efficient furniture with the aim of creating a more spacious and welcoming space. We have also had a new automatic front door fitted to improve ease of access. Thank you so much to all our sponsors of this project including Macclesfield Lions, Co-op Food, and Equilibrium LLP



Corporate sponsors and supporters 2016-2017

Bollington Beer Festival

Bollington Town Council

Broadheads Garage

Cheshire Community Foundations

Cheshire Connect

Cheshire East Council

Comic Relief

Co-op Food

Equilibrium LLP

IBM UK Ltd

Macclesfield Lions

Peaks and Plains Housing Trust

The Poachers Inn

Stockport Scouts

We are very grateful for all the above sponsors for their support during April 2016-March 2017

Trustees

Geoff Brown—Chairman

Barry Matthews—Treasurer

John Gooding—Secretary

Alan Scott

Lisa Cox

Sue Brocklehurst

We have two new Trustees who have joined us this year, Lisa Cox, who brings lots of experience from AstraZeneca and Sue Brocklehurst who is a mentor for the Princes Trust.

We also say farewell to Janet Beech after several years as a Trustee and thank her for all her hard work and support over the years.

The Bridgend Centre

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