

Case Study

Basic Profile

Date: 5 April 2018

We interviewed Sally Honey, the Health & Wellbeing Manager at South Downs Leisure, for this case study. South Downs Leisure has five leisure facilities in Worthing: Worthing Leisure Centre, Davison Leisure Centre, Splashpoint Leisure Centre, Field Place Manor House and the Fitness Centre at Worthing College. The organisation provides a Compass Card offer at its facilities and provides Short Breaks 'Fun Days' for West Sussex County Council.

South Downs Leisure requested data from Compass West Sussex (the 'disability register' for the county which is held and managed by the Compass Team at Amaze) in the autumn of 2017. We've focused on the company's use of the data for this case study. There are around 2300 children and young people on Compass West Sussex and that figure is rising steadily. Data is updated every two years.

Before involvement

Sally Honey attended the SEND Provider Forum meeting on 19 September 2017. The forum is for organisations commissioned by West Sussex County Council to provide Short Breaks for 0 to 18 year olds with special educational needs and disabilities. Compass Database Manager, Tina Brownbill, talked about Compass West Sussex at the meeting and the extensive data it provides. Sally Honey recognised how useful specific information about the disabled community could be in terms of targeting South Downs Leisure's Short Breaks activities and emailed Tina on 21 September 2017.

Participation

"I found Tina very approachable, so I sent her an email shortly after the meeting. I wanted to understand how many children and young people with SEND there were in the Worthing area and what their needs were, so we could really target our Short Breaks activities. Tina sent the data through the same day – it was really easy, a brilliant service."

As soon as she had the data, Sally put the information to good use. "There's a high proportion of children and young people with Autism and ADHD [Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder] and we wanted to make sure we provided activities for them, but there were also children with complex medical conditions and mobility issues and we wanted to make sure they were catered for too. With the figures to hand, we could see who we were already reaching and who we still needed to reach. You

can't argue with the numbers; it's meant we can tailor our product and provide a service that directly reflects the needs of our community."

Impact

The biggest impact for South Downs Leisure has been in adapting Short Breaks activities to include children and young people with complex needs. "We've thought carefully about our activities and adapted them so we're also providing a range of activities for these children and young people too. So for example, when we provide a Short Break at Splashpoint in Worthing, we appreciate because we don't have a hydrotherapy pool attendees with serious medical conditions may prefer other activities and we've made sure there are plenty of other alternatives to keep them interested. We've added Aiming High trampolining for kids with complex needs and hired a Migloo to provide hoist assisted changing when necessary."

The numbers suggest the new policies are working. "We definitely have more children and young people with complex needs than before and there's been positive feedback", says Sally.

She also intends to use the data for funding bids. "Providing accurate data that shows how many people can benefit and that there's a real need for what you're proposing really helps to make a strong argument to potential funders."

The data will also come in useful in developing Worthing Leisure Centre's new Sensory Room, which is due to open to the public at the end of May.

Sally expects to use Compass West Sussex data again and she has this message for others who might be considering it: "I'd recommend it. Knowledge is power – it gives you a foundation to help you build the successful activities or services the local community wants and needs", she says.