



Annual Report 2014

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There are too many things to put in one report and we would like to tell you what we are doing throughout the year. Please have a look at our facebook page and website blog for news and events.

facebook.com/cre8macclesfield
cre8macclesfield.org

About this report

Cre8 is made up of Cre8 Macclesfield Ltd (the charity) and Cre8 Works Ltd (the social enterprise).

Cre8 is based on the Moss Rose Estate on the south side of Macclesfield.

This report covers the financial year 2012-13.

Cre8 Macclesfield is a registered charity number 1147150 and a registered company number 07737871.

This report was designed and written by people at Cre8. All photographs were taken by workers, volunteers and the young people themselves.



Looking for Cre8 Works?

Cre8 Works is the social enterprise part of Cre8 and offers employment to young people and young adults.

Cre8 Works has for the first time produced its own Annual Review. It can be downloaded at : www.cre8works.co.uk



What it's about

Being different



Many times when we stop and look back at what we've done at Cre8, whether it be in a fortnightly team meeting or writing here for our annual report, we feel that we are different.

We have to be different in order to make a difference. When you are trying hard to change things for the better, you have to constantly reflect, learn, change and act differently.

But it's not easy. Sometimes it feels as though just about every direction of our work is an uphill struggle; that our work is mis-understood, that many people out there just think that our work is not needed or that we are not worth funding - and lack of funding is a major issue for us at the moment.

Maybe it's just difficult for some people to see Cre8 as something that is needed. After all, we're in the 21st Century in the wealthy county of Cheshire, in one of the richest countries in the world; why would we need a charity like Cre8 to meet the needs of 'marginalised' children, young people and young adults? How can there be any significant problems of poverty or deprivation in this part of Cheshire?

Well, poverty and deprivation are here, it's just less visible than it is in some of our big cities. In this corner of Cheshire, on a relatively small council estate, we have some of the most deprived young people in Britain. The statistics in the following pages may shock you. The statistics don't lie; if you are born here, you are more likely to die young, more likely to suffer the effects of drug addiction, domestic violence and crime, much more likely to have mental health problems,

more likely to suffer from sexual violence, to have parents who have poor health and you are less likely to gain academic qualifications and get a good job. Based on averages in this immediate area, this evidence is damning, because it means that some young people here will have an even tougher time than this.

Being different can be costly, sometimes people in statutory organisations see us as challenging. Maybe because we dare to say how things actually are. We challenge indifference and the status quo. We challenge the idea that everything is ok and will be ok, we challenge the idea that young people don't have a good contribution to make in their community. We challenge the idea that dissenting voices should be ignored or disregarded.

Right now, we have a funding crisis at Cre8. The core funding which we have been receiving for the last five years has all but expired; we don't know how we will be able to fund the work that we want to continue to do. This is a distressing situation for us at Cre8. We know, and the people who we work with and who live here live here know how important our work is. We know what happens if we do nothing. We know what happens when children, young people and families are not given the support they need.

As well as our own work, Cre8 workers and volunteers have been involved in many good community activities here. We have been able to support the setting up of the Moss Rose Community Trust, which in turn supports an older people's

Lunch Club, Christmas activities, Fun Days, a new Scout Group and regular community meetings. We are involved in supporting a number of good initiatives here led by local people.

I am continually humbled by the commitment, sacrifices, tears and joy given by my colleagues, either paid workers or volunteers - towards the children, young people and adults that we work with - and also towards each other. The work is often emotionally difficult. Our team give too much sometimes and at these times I fear that their own sense of wellbeing is put at risk. But the joys of being and working here can be immense as well. Seeing people grow, physically emotionally and spiritually. Seeing people achieve things which defy anyone who sees them to keep a dry eye. Seeing people gaining freedom from things which cause them harm, freedom from fear, freedom from harmful addiction, freedom to go and live and be loved. Seeing smiles, laughter, shared fun and shared tears. These are the things which bring all of us life and hope.

We are hugely grateful for the support that we get from people like yourself, from individuals and local groups, including Churches and other charitable organisations. We are, we believe, making a big difference with your help. We are committed to the people we work with. These are very challenging times for Cre8. I hope you think that our work is worthwhile and that you enjoy reading this annual report.

Reverend Rob Wardle
Cre8 Director

Message from the Chair

Welcome to this our second Annual Report as an independent charity. Cre8 is now in it's ninth year as an organisation, and we take enormous pleasure in seeing how young people have now taken ownership and responsibility in many of Cre8's projects.

Cre8 comprises a charity (Cre8 Macclesfield Limited) and a Social Enterprise (Cre8 Works Limited) both of whom are based on the Moss Rose Estate in Macclesfield. Because there is so much for us to report about Cre8's charitable activities in this report, we have produced a separate Cre8 Works Review for those of you who have a special interest in the social enterprise part of the Cre8 organisation. It can be downloaded at www.cre8works.co.uk, or I'm sure we can supply you with a printed copy if you prefer.

Cre8 is part of the work of St Barnabas' Church on the Moss Rose Estate, to whose congregation we are especially grateful for their faith, their commitment and their encouragements.

We are also supported and encouraged by many of the local Churches in Hope in North East Cheshire and their members, sometimes in ways that are unseen and maybe unrecognised. We should like to thank all of you who are reading this report and who are able to recognise your own very personal contribution to Cre8; we are blessed to have your support, your experience and your faithful commitment.

As a Christian organisation, Cre8 insists that people's lives can be transformed by building community and by treating each other with care, forgiveness and respect. Cre8 is making change happen by providing exciting and challenging activities, education and employment that

enable young people to realise their full potential. A number of these young people are now employees and volunteers with Cre8, and you can read their stories in this report and also on our website.

Although the physical appearance of the Estate in recent years has been much improved through the investment of Peaks and Plains Housing Trust - the principal local Housing Association, the social problems persist. Cre8 has been successful in training, developing and encouraging the young people who live on the Estate and the agencies that serve them to recognise the long-term value of what is being achieved through Cre8's projects and the building of a resilient community.

Much has been achieved during this last year and you can read about each Cre8 project in this report. In addition, we have almost completed the refurbishment of the former derelict community building (now called 'The Building'). However, we are still dependent on a diesel generator for power, so there is still at least one significant thing to do.

We have also re-launched Cre8 Works, our Social Enterprise, with a new marketing image and resources, and with an excellent website!

I would personally like to thank all our Trustees for their faith and their leadership. Also Reverend Rob Wardle, our Director, and all those who are employed as staff or session workers by Cre8, for their dedication, their commitment and their professionalism. Many of them go well beyond the requirements of their paid jobs, giving their time,

their energy and their own resources to make Cre8 the very special community of people that it is.

As we have grown, our dependence on a wonderful group of volunteers has become ever more important; I should like to thank them all for their enthusiasm, their faithfulness and their commitment to what we're trying to achieve. They too, go beyond their commitments as volunteers, in order to make Cre8 the success that it undoubtedly is.

We live in a world of inter-dependence and have been blessed to have many successful partnerships. We are especially grateful to the Trustees of the Swallow Trust, the Cheshire Employer and Skills Development Trust and the Worshipful Company of Weavers, to the Directors of Peaks and Plains Housing Trust and to the Councillors and Managers of Cheshire East Council who have supported us financially and also in kind.

We very much hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be involved with this vibrant and innovative organisation.

**Pip Moss crop
Chair**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH

1 in 10 children and young people aged 5 - 16 suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder - that is around three children in every class.

www.youngminds.org.uk

Deprivation in Cheshire?

From the Office of National Statistics - UK Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

- The Moss Rose Estate is in the worst 4% of the most deprived areas in the UK for Children and Young people
- The Moss Rose Estate is in the worst 5% of the most deprived areas in the UK for Health & Disability across all age groups
- It is also in the worst 10% of most deprived areas across all indices.
- There is 4 times the amount of reported crime in this area compared to the rest of Macclesfield

So yes, there is deprivation, especially for children and young people in this corner of Cheshire.

Things people say about Cre8

“What is fantastic is that it is a skills-based project. Young people are learning to play instruments and fixing bicycles and have played a huge part in renovating the Building themselves. When you have unemployment, particularly in young people at this difficult time, skills are critical, so that when the economy improves they will be in a better place to get jobs. Here, the adults are not doing things for their young people, **the young people are doing it themselves. It's fantastic.**”

**Archbishop of York,
Dr John Sentamu**

A Mum

“Both of my children have attended clubs that Cre8 run. I feel that the opportunities offered to my children are fantastic. They both have music lessons, with my youngest passing 2 drumming exams, something she would not have been able to do without the Cre8 Team. They have been on some fantastic residential

holidays from retreats in France to activities in Wales. I feel that going to the clubs has helped them to grow in confidence and believe in themselves. They learn how to be part of a team and accept people for who they are. They take part in the music concerts that are run on a regular basis and they are fab to go and watch.

It's true! These guys do amazing things for kids on the estate x

**David Briggs,
Lord-Lieutenant of
Cheshire**

“Cre8 is inspired by it's Christian ethos and clearly that is fundamental to the whole charity. It has proven that it really has helped young people. Cre8 takes children who often come from a chaotic background and **transforms them into employable and responsible young people.**”

“Cre8 do a brilliant job in reaching out to the residents of the Moss Estate. They are buzzing with ideas to make a positive difference to people's lives. Along with my colleague, David Rutley MP, I fully support the work of this exciting

George Osborne, MP

organisation in **helping people to have pride in themselves and their local community.**

Thank you

to those organisations who have supported us in various ways, financially or in-kind, throughout the year...



PEAKS & PLAINS
Housing Trust



National Foundation for
Youth Music



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Highlights

FROM THE PAST 12 MONTHS

245

Club nights run this year

4,405

Miles travelled with young people this year

Approx.

1,350

Logs chopped by the RD guys to keep the Building (and the people in it) nice and warm

Over

70

People attended the recent music concert - our biggest ever audience

We have

5

Chickens at The House. Maud, Monty, Penelope, Audrey and Adam (all girls). They lay eggs everyday!

1,078

2-hour Learning Plus sessions have happened this year

269

Young people have registered with Cre8 since we first began

A photograph of two young boys buried up to their chests in a large mound of sand. The boy on the left has blonde hair and is smiling, while the boy on the right has dark hair and his eyes are closed. The sand is light brown and has some cracks on its surface.

74

Young people went on a Cre8 residential this year - that's more than ever!

Realising hope

LEARNING PLUS

Cre8 Learning Plus is an Alternative Education project for young people who can't be in school full-time.

This one-to-one informal learning project is unique, not just in Macclesfield, but across Cheshire.

Cre8's aim is to support young people to re-engage or re-connect with mainstream education, either in school or in college.

Learning is a core value of Cre8. But for some young people, the idea of going to school presents a challenge; something that brings anger and frustration, or just simply disengagement and absence. We aim to turn this round and re-engage these young people into formal education.

There are a number of reasons why young people disengage from school, the common thread in all these reasons is that something has happened away from the classroom, and so the remedy for the disengagement can't just be delivered in the classroom. The reasons for the disengagement may also be complex, so the solution is often not simple. Learning Plus re-engages these young people, often initially through Outreach, builds self-esteem and confidence.

It's not an easy process; it can be a bumpy road with the young people, but eventually it works, and it helps young people to feel good about themselves and for them to discover hope in their own future.



SO WHAT IS A LEARNING PLUS SESSION?

A Learning Plus session involves 1 young person (usually aged between 10 and 17) and 1 session leader. A session leader can be a teaching assistant, youth worker or an adult student; all session leaders have training appropriate to their work. Most of our leaders are paid, but some are volunteers.

A session is two hours long and can happen at any time during the school day. Sessions can be joined together to make a full morning, afternoon or a full day. Young people are with their session leader all of the time, including sharing food and breaks together. Sessions are based at either the Cre8 House, which has individual rooms, a kitchen, garden and workshop or at the Cre8 Building, which

has a recording studio, kitchen, outside wildlife area with a large pond. The atmosphere at Cre8 is calm, it's a nurturing one-to-one learning environment which stimulates and encourages the young people.

Sessions are planned and prepared by the session leader, with the topic or theme having been discussed previously with the young person, gaining their participation in the learning. During the referral process, from the school or other agency, we will have determined what areas of learning need to be addressed in the sessions. These outcomes will be met creatively by the session leader and the young person working together. Communication and relationships are very important.

THEY'RE JUST BEING NAUGHTY. THEY JUST **need to behave!**

That's a feeling we sometimes get a Cre8 when we talk about the young people on Learning Plus. We get that feeling from schools, occasionally from parents, from some politicians and also some members of the public. And maybe they're right.

We want young people to behave, but we also want them to thrive, to grow in confidence and maturity so they can fulfil their true potential. All this takes encouragement, nurture, discipline, care, guidance, sanctions, celebration of achievements however small they are and consolation with failures. Very little of this can be achieved simply by wielding a big stick at a young person and telling them to behave.

If a mature adult has poor mental health; finding it difficult to cope with life and is genuinely afraid about what their future might be - then nobody would be saying to them "if you don't do this, there will be punishment". We would all accept that nobody should be threatening a vulnerable adult. Why then, do we treat vulnerable young people so badly in this respect?

We assume that young people are not vulnerable, that they can look after themselves and that they have opportunities and the means to get on in their lives - if they just make the right choices. We assume that all young people are looked after - by someone or something. But in our experience, young people who come to us for Learning Plus often feel uncared for, unloved, unwanted, resented, disliked, even hated. Our first job is to help them to like their own selves...



YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH

95% of imprisoned young offenders have a mental health disorder. Many of them are struggling with more than one disorder.

www.youngminds.org.uk

WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

We asked a young person from the Learning Plus project to explain what Cre8 means to them, this is what they said...

How long have you been coming to Cre8 Learning Plus?

For about two months now. I go to school most of the time but I come to Cre8 twice a week.

What do you think about it?

It's alright, it's fun, definitely better than being at school. I enjoy art so we do that and cooking and games. Usually with Rachel or Sarah [session leaders at Cre8].

I like that Cre8 is like a break from school because I find it hard to concentrate there full time. You are always welcome when you come in, we make a brew together then do something that we both want to do like cooking for other people. The House is more like a home than school. It is relaxed but it's not like you can do whatever you want!

How were things before you started coming?

I had pretty bad behaviour and wasn't in proper lessons. I was out of lessons on my own most of the time. I go to some lessons with everyone else now but I am still out of other lessons in a separate part of school. I come to Cre8 two afternoons a week.

How are things now?

It's better. My time at Cre8 acts like a break for me because I just can't do it full time it just doesn't work and my behaviour gets worse.

What's been the highlight?

Cooking is my favourite thing that I do. Making hedgehog and bear cupcakes was the best thing. I like that we do things together - its not just me being told to do

something, we make something or plan something together - what we both want to do. We picked the recipe for the bear cakes and then we designed the hedgehog ones ourselves.



Being together

It might sound easy, but often 'being together' is really difficult. We have to learn to accept, forgive ...

CLUBS

We appreciate our young adult volunteer's for their
patience, energy and understanding
and we're very proud of them

Stephanie has been involved with Cre8 since it first began over eight years ago when she was 12. She has seen and done many things at Cre8! She is now giving back to Cre8 and her community by volunteering at Clubs.

Steph came to the first Cre8 Clubs back in 2005. She really enjoyed the atmosphere and the feeling of safety. Steph says that being involved with Cre8 is like being part of a family. Since going to her first Club Steph has done many things with Cre8 including: a bike ride from Macclesfield to Wales, camps and residential to lots of different places, cooked and shared lots of meals with people and she's even tried to walk on water on a canal boat residential! Steph is now 20 and as well as her volunteering she still enjoys going to her own ReCre8 over 16's Club with her friends.

Steph's favourite activity with Cre8 was a week-long trip to the Taize Community in France. She really enjoyed the calmness and that it was completely different to anything else she'd ever done.

When Steph reached 16 she started working for Cre8 Works, to earn some money and help support herself through a college course in Child Care and Education. Steph says that Cre8 Works helped her to understand the hard work it takes to stay in a job, and that you always need to put in 100% to produce the best quality of work. Steph stayed with Cre8 Works until she was 18.

Steph is also a volunteer at an over 50's lunch club on the Moss Estate run by the Moss Rose Community Trust - which Cre8 supports. She says it's a laugh and she likes chatting with the older people. She's also helps out at Tots Time at St Barnabas Church on Monday afternoons and occasionally volunteers at Cre8 clubs. Steph likes being part of the Moss Rose Community Trust, she says it's good to be a part of her local community and to have a laugh with people.

She is now employed as an Administration Assistant with Cre8, after completing a year-long Business and Administration apprenticeship with Macclesfield College. Stephanie is wonderful to have around the office - she is professional and dedicated but also very cheery and smiley!



RESIDENTIALS ARE A GREAT WAY TO:

Residentials are one of the most beneficial activities that Cre8 does. They can be exhausting for the volunteers, but afterwards they always feel positive - as though something very special has happened.

Cre8 now runs a range of residentials throughout the year. Our aim is to make sure that every young person who is involved with one of our projects has the opportunity to go on a residential. It may be a one



WHAAAATT!!!

Our clubs are about learning to be together - during the highs as well as the lows.

Sometimes to the outside world it can seem like our clubs are about doing a bit of craft, playing some games and then going home after an hour and a half of chaos. But what we're doing goes much deeper and can often be very challenging. Clubs are about Informal Education and Deep Learning.

Clubs are about learning to be with and accept each other, learning to deal with conflict, non-escalation, communication, equality, respect and

forgiveness - and having fun.

Restorative Justice sessions are a common feature of Clubs. When things go bad, and someone does something they shouldn't, then we have a 'meeting'. All the parties agree to sit down together. There is a facilitator and an advocate. Everyone has the opportunity to speak, and everyone learns to listen. People are encouraged to say how they 'felt' and not to judge each other. The outcome of the meeting is usually an apology, an acceptance and change - for the better.

It's definitely not easy, but building community isn't.

NEW STARTS

During the year we started two new clubs in response to what was needed: **Tots Time** and a **Year 7 boys group**.

We now have seven clubs running throughout the week covering all ages of young people from 8 to 16+ and also Tots Time for pre-school children and their families.

- Tots Time
- Cre8: PG (Penguins)
- Pre:Cre8 (Pandas)
- Yr 7 Girls (Pugs)
- Yr 7 Boys
- Club
- RE:Cre8

YOUNG PEOPLE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

39% of all reported rapes are against children and young people under the age of 16.

www.restoredrelationships.org



build community

night camp for some of the younger ones - many of whom have never stayed away from home. Or it could be a week at the Taizé community in France, living with young people and young adults from around the world. What's important is the young people get to experience what it's like to live in supportive community.

On every residential the basics are always the same: everyone is involved in all aspects of daily life. That includes doing chores together,

like washing up or cleaning the toilets (always goes down well). There are always plenty of shared experiences and shared learning to understand how each of us deal with things differently, and how we can do it better.

Residentials are often very formational for young people and for the group. People learn how to relate to each other in a safer, happier and calmer way. People learn how to make real friendships which can be transferred to life

experiences back at home.

Sharing highs and lows is a very formational human experience.

Residentials are about being together and having fun in a new place, and experiencing a different way to live.

Thank you to those people who donate and sponsor young people to come on a residential. You really are giving them a life-changing experience.

“ Staying on the boat was one of the best things I've ever done. I'll never forget it. It was mad. ”

Special interest...

OFFBEAT

SOMETIMES IT'S JUST ABOUT HAVING SOMEONE TO

listen and accept

Jenny started at Cre8 Clubs when she was 13, tagging along with some of her mates. Now she works for Cre8 Works and also the Music project and she's done lots in between. Here's her story...

I never used to want to go to club but my mates persuaded me and then I started going every week. My first residential was camping with all the girls from club and some of the leaders. Camp was hilarious and I loved it!

Later on in High School I went to Club most weeks. School was rubbish and I really struggled to stay in lessons. I punched walls and doors and got into loads of fights. I ended up being taken out of mainstream lessons for about a year and I was in a classroom on my own most of the time. Things were really bad with my parents and we got into arguments all the time. I ended up doing just some of my GCSE's - I passed all of them.

I went to Camas with Cre8 in 2012. It was great and I loved kayaking – I just loved being in the water! But towards the end of the trip I did have a really big argument with one of the leaders. I just blew up. A couple of weeks after we came back we had a meeting - with the leader and someone else - to talk about what had happened and how each of us felt about the falling out - it was difficult. Looking back I think it was good to do that rather than just ignore what had happened; it made me think.

Around the same time I started doing drum lessons with Cre8 music. I really liked music from when I was at school and one of the leaders mentioned that Cre8 was starting a music project and I was really keen to join. Music was the only thing I liked at school.

After my GCSEs, I tried college. I also started doing some RD work experience with Cre8 and then went onto a day a week at Cre8 Works to get some money to support me at college. But I quit college and then I wasn't really doing much. I was really bored and went out all the time. It was a bit crap. I went through a really bad patch with my parents again.

All through this I was doing more and more music stuff. I performed on drums at one of the first concerts in 2012 – it was good and I was alright. One of my favourite things was going to Greenbelt Festival with Cre8 in 2013. It was just nice to be away from home.

I started going to ReCre8 when I was about 16. ReCre8 is for older young people and young adults. I still go now and it's just nice to go and see people every week and hang out and chat and have food. I also

went to Camas without Cre8 for a young adults week and that was a fun experience – me and another girl making our way there on our own!

Since February 2014 I have been doing support work at the music drop-ins three times a week. I make sure that all the young people are in for their lessons and have something to do while they wait. It can be a bit mental at drop-in! Some of the girls can be really difficult but I enjoy it and I have some interesting conversations. It's my job to plan the Greenbelt trip this year – which is a bit scary.

Cre8 is a massive part of my life. The workers and volunteers are always accepting of everyone and I think that's why it works. People will have a conversation with you about something that's happening, and they will always listen.





CONCERT SUCCESS

The latest concert in December was a huge success; **these concerts just keep getting better and better.**

Nearly seventy people came along to the St Barnabas Church hall to see young people perform some of their favourite songs.

The performances were brilliant and at times there was not a dry eye in the house. Well done to all the young people - it's not an easy thing to get up on the stage in front of your family and friends. We were treated to some incredible singing performances, including drum showcases and guitar pieces.

The next concert is planned for May 2014 during the Cre8 Festival. You don't want to miss it - it's going to be something special.



THE STARTING POINT FOR OFFBEAT IS “we could do this” - from the young people

The Offbeat project is based around special interests - music, bikes and football - the project activities have come from the young people themselves, they run in small groups - after school and at weekends.

Music drop-ins

- Music drop-ins run on weekdays after school at the Cre8 Building.
- We have on average 14-20 young people who come to practice or try out an instrument.
- Young people can take part in singing, drums, guitar, piano, song writing and studio recording.

Music lessons

- Professional music lessons are provided free of charge (or subsidised) to young people who show an interest and who may not otherwise be able to access tuition.
- Everyone who has lessons performs at Concerts in the St Barnabas Church hall, these are held three times a year in the school holidays.
- Five young people have passed their music exams this year - these are all incredible achievements for young people who would not otherwise be able to learn music.

Bikes rides to far flung places

- The rides through the trails in Macclesfield Forest have been as popular as ever. We've also taken some young people on the tracks at Llandegla Forest in Wales.
- The highlight for the project this year was the C2C (coast to coast) bike ride in July. Six young people and three young adults cycled over 125 miles in some pretty grim weather conditions! Everyone completed it and they finished off with a big plate of fish & chips.

Studio workshops are a big hit

- We hold weekly workshops in the recording studio, teaching some of the older young people how to use the recording equipment and how to write and produce their own music.
- This has now progressed to some older young people passing on their skills to others. This is a core value for us at Cre8 - giving back - building community.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH

Between 1 in every 12 and 1 in every 15 children and young people deliberately self-harm. The number of young people admitted to hospital because of self-harm has increased by 68% over the last 10 years.

www.youngminds.org.uk

Football team

- We hold weekly training sessions for young people aged 8 to 11. Young adults who were originally involved in setting up the football activity now help to run this project.
- We have done several trips to local football matches and we're hoping to take a group to watch a Premier League team this year.
- Several young adults have progressed to play in the South Manchester and Cheshire Christian Football League.



Experiencing work

RD

We believe that
everyone's work should be valued and
that everyone has something to give

The floor @ St Barnabas. What a finish



The hall floor at St Barnabas Church needed renovating; lots of different groups and organisations use the building, so the job had to be done during a week when the building was closed. **RD to the rescue ...**

The floor had around 20 years of wear and tear, so we hired two heavy drum sanders and started work. The work was done in shifts during the week. Young people gave up days of their half-term holiday and worked alongside other people from Cre8 and the Church to make a floor to be proud of. The floor was varnished and ready by the end of the week for the Clubs and other activities that were due to restart in a few days time, and the young people earned volunteer expenses for themselves!

Store construction success!

The Church needed somewhere to store equipment - including chairs, tables, pool tables and table tennis table, children's toys and outdoor games; everything that is used during the week for clubs and other activities. So a new store was designed by the architect! Fifteen young people and five young adults worked to build the store, alongside Cre8 workers and volunteers. During the day young people from the Learning Plus project who needed practical work experience skills work

were involved. After school and at weekends other young people took over.

Foundations were dug, concrete was wheel-barrowed in, the frames were built, insulation and lining were put in and a steel roof was constructed, all under the watchful eye of the architect and project manager. All together, the project was a massive success and the store is something that Cre8 and all the young people are very proud of. It's great for the young people to be involved in building something in their own community.



UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES

Some of the young people who come to Cre8 for Learning Plus during school time need to experience the discipline and culture of a working environment.

Cre8's RD project gives them this experience by putting young people alongside tradesman and other skilled workers during periods of the working day. These young people would not survive straightaway in a work environment. They need to be taught, and gradually learn the life skills needed to get up in the morning and be fit and ready for a working day!

Patience and endurance are the qualities needed by the tradesmen, who are then rewarded by seeing young people enter employment and college when they leave Cre8.

RD also provides volunteering opportunities at weekends and during holidays for young people on the Moss estate. The young people get work experience in return for volunteer expenses and a free lunch!



GAINING SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE AND

hope for the future

Martin works with young people on the RD project. These young people come to Cre8 during the day with Learning Plus.

I work with 14 and 15 year olds who have disadvantages at school. We work on various work projects where the young people learn practical skills. This gives them experience, which develops confidence and gives them the opportunity to find an area of work they are interested in – possibly for their future education and employment.

The work includes maintaining the grounds of The House, St Barnabas Church and the Cre8 Building. We use machinery for a lot of this work, so the young people learn to use a rotary mower, strimmer, hedge cutter and blower.

We also look after animals. Hens at the House, and over the last winter, sheep in a field in Presbury which at the moment are having lambs. This work includes cleaning out the pens and feeding the animals, looking after their welfare which is of great importance.

We also grow vegetables on an allotment in the grounds of St Barnabas Church.

There have been many successes over recent months including one of the young people I work with becoming interested in agriculture. So he's hoping to start at Reaseheath College one day a week studying farming. Another young person is slowly developing confidence in gaining employment, he's now been accepted on an apprentice scheme for when he leaves Cre8.

All the young people I work with are developing self-esteem and confidence in their abilities. Politeness and respect for themselves and others are also being learnt due to being involved in a Christian environment, which I'm very happy to be involved in.

JOB LIST

Some of the jobs that we have done over the last year...

- Demolishing All Saints toilet block and boiler house
- Building sheds
- Renovation work at the Cre8 Building
- Building a new store at St Barnabas
- Rubbish removal and recycling
- Workshop projects
- Grounds maintenance at the St Barnabas Church

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH

More than half of all adults with mental health problems were diagnosed in childhood. Less than half were treated appropriately at the time.

www.youngminds.org.uk



What Can I do?

You've read our stories, you've seen our work, now you can do something and be part of this - to **make change happen**

£ DONATIONS

You can help secure Cre8's future by making a one-off financial donation.

We have a page on **give.net/cre8** where you can donate online.



Alternatively you can send us a cheque.

HOLD AN EVENT

Whether you plan to hold a coffee morning, run a marathon, or have a collection at Church, as a registered charity **we're grateful for all donations.**

If you are planning to hold an event to raise money for Cre8, contact hello@cre8macclesfield.org or 01625 503740 for a chat about how we can support you.

VOLUNTEERING

We couldn't do half of what we do without volunteers. We've learnt that **everyone has something to give.**

Volunteers are at the heart of Cre8. We welcome volunteers of any age, background or experience.

All you need in order to be a volunteer is a 'wanting' to make change for children and young people who are less fortunate; you simply want to make a difference.

Volunteers work on all our projects. If you'd like to talk to someone, please phone 01625 503740 to speak to Katy Wardle or email hello@cre8macclesfield.org



REGULAR GIVING

Would you like to be our Friend? We do need more of them.

A Friend is someone who makes a regular donation to us and is a lasting part of what we do. Having a bigger group of Friends would give us the confidence that we can run activities on the Moss Estate in the long term.



What you'll get

As a Friend you will receive:

- Three newsletters throughout the year
- The Cre8 Annual Report
- An invitation to 'spend a day in the life of Cre8'

As well as lots of other updates and goodies during the year.

How you do it

If you'd like to become a Friend then all you need to do is set up a monthly direct debit payment. You can find out how to do this on our website: www.cre8macclesfield.org or by calling us on 01625 503740 or by emailing hello@cre8macclesfield.org

WISHLIST

There are always things we're looking for at Cre8. Not necessarily brand new - second hand is great too!

- Good quality hand tools and gardening tools
- Musical instruments
- Bikes - old ones to repair, old ones to use for parts and new ones for bike rides
- Large tents and good quality camping equipment

Some slightly bigger things we're looking for:

- £10,000 to help pay for a mains electricity connection at the Building - we've already

raised £5,000. We'd love to be able to come in and switch a light on or make a brew without having to chop wood or start up the generator!

- A new 'catering' kitchen at The House.

If you'd like to buy us something specific, then please contact us. In the past people have bought us kitchen appliances, paid for young people to go on residentials, and bought us a minibus.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CRE8:

☎ Telephone: 01625 503740

✉ Email: hello@cre8macclesfield.org

🏠 Address: The House, 11 Belgrave Road, Macclesfield SK11 7TW

Looking ahead

We want to be able to do more.

There are so many young people who have benefited from what we've already done. Young people and young adults have turned around from the things that corrode and destroy their lives and prevent them from thriving.

- We want to reach more young people; to give them opportunities to learn and work and to enjoy doing it - so they can make a positive contribution to their own community.
- We want to offer more young people the opportunity to have 1 to 1 Learning Plus sessions and to do 1 to 1 work experience.
- We want to be able to employ two student workers – so they can learn about youth work skills in this environment – learn from our successes and take those skills to use them in different areas.
- We want to train more of our volunteers and more people in youth and community work skills – so they can make positive changes where they live.

Please help us to do it.

It's really tough for us financially at the moment; grant funding for projects like ours is very hard to get in the current climate.

- We need more funding to help us to continue and to do more.
- Regular monthly giving and one-off donations will help us to do all this.
- There are young people here who are eager to make changes in their lives, we want help them to do it.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND VIOLENCE

Nearly a quarter of young people in one study in Wiltshire believed that 'sometimes' abuse or violence in a relationship was OK. An earlier study found that 1 in 5 young men and 1 in 10 young women think that abuse or violence against women is acceptable

www.restoredrelationships.org

Resources

WHAT WE HAVE AND HOW WE USE IT

Cre8 Macclesfield became an independent charity in 2011, this financial report relates to our second year, for the period September 2012 to August 2013.

We have continued to build upon the foundations of the preceding years in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the charitable purposes of the company, which is reflected in the financial figures below.

Full financial figures for the year are published separately,

INCOME

Grants and contracts	£142k
Donations and gift aid	£24k
Other income	£52k

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Total incoming resources for 2012/13 **£218k**

EXPENDITURE

Salaries	£139k
Residentials, activities and materials	£26k
Premises, admin. and office	£17k
Travel, repairs and maintenance	£16k
Other and Governance	£13k

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Total resources expended 2012/13 **£211k**

We are extremely grateful to the Funds, Trusts and Individuals who have contributed to our income throughout the year.



