



HAF Summer 2023 – Case Study

Name of Organisation: OOMOO – Open Door Charity

Date of provision: Summer 2023

Intro: OOMOO is an Open Door Project that reimagines what emotional wellbeing support can and should be for young people Looked After on Wirral. OOMOO supports its members to shape change within their own lives by providing creative wellbeing classes, therapeutic offers, peer support and shared experience. OOMOO supports young people aged 11-18 and is based in Birkenhead.

Opportunity/Issue: Children of OOMOO find themselves at our door through no fault of their own. Many members have been failed by the adults, system and services designed to support them and keep them safe. This, coupled with CLA often not being given the same opportunities, outlets or provisions as their peers has a direct impact on sense of worth, wellbeing and mental health and is a recognised catalyst in the increase in wider social issues such as inequality, deprivation, and drug addiction.

Barriers overcome: HAF Funding enabled us to add the provision of food throughout the days of our OOMOO Summer programme. Our summer programme provides wellbeing activities and mental health support during the summer holidays- OOMOO Summer offers structure and support for our young people, along with unique opportunities and outlets that they may not have had access to before.

Our members enjoyed the addition of food to the summer programme, with them looking forward to breakfast and lunch each day. Our members got to spend time with other young CLA in a safe environment.

See feedback from placement/carers below:

“Trying new food, loved his ramen making. He liked the routine, gave time with other kids, school routine/timing was familiar and worked well.”

“Timing it was perfect, kept them busy the whole day, were not bored when they came home.”

“A very positive impact, D loves coming to OOMOO. It helped a lot, even with him being fussy with food.”

“Definitely beneficial for K; new social settings, and immersed with new people, help with her social skills and confidence. The food was a great help, especially helped with eating breakfast, allowed her to make her own choices on what to eat/when. 100% would recommend OOMOO.”

“Had a really good positive impact, and variety of different foods provided e.g., fruits and vegetables. Longer days more helpful, help plan the day and do individual work, gave L something to do every day.”

“They enjoyed going when they went, helped them socialize. They have no problem with food, they were all happy to come in for breakfast even when they've already had breakfast! It gives us a break, gave them more independency, time outside the house. Have already recommended to other carers and would continue to do so! OOMOO gives them a safe place to be with other peers who are CLA, and they don't have to explain themselves. Thank you for everything that you do! :)”

“T really enjoyed going every day, kept him active. It provided him with other option/food for them, his diet has now improved and changed e.g., Eating Greek yogurt for breakfast. T has now asked us [his residential home staff] for more protein/calcium into his diet. It helped T and us as placement with the transition from summer to school and kept his routine at placement. Absolutely would recommend, were very impressed with OOMOO, T loves OOMOO!”

“His confidence grew massively, and his English has improved greatly from socialising. It did help having food provided, especially lunch and really helped going back into college routine. “

“It gave A some focus and gives him a comfort zone, to be himself. A has ASC and OOMOO is one of the few places that are not specifically for SEND that A wanted to engage with over Summer. It was very helpful for food to be provided, not necessary, as we are fortunate. Definitely enjoyed the longer sessions, give you the chance to catch up with things in your life!”

“Kept her busy, had her socializing people her age. M attended once a week and was looked after well - M doesn't like sandwiches so she loved the home-made pizza wraps! The timing and routine was perfect, early starts encouraged her to go up and out”

See feedback from young people on their favourite days below:

“I enjoyed the long days out, seeing the flamingos was my favourite. I made 3-4 new friends”.

“My favourite day out was at the beach, doing crabbing. I would like to continue to do more trips out and going to new places.”

Impact: OOMOO’s unique Move, Make and Be wellbeing activity approach introduces young people to re-experiencing safety and to re-engage the world around them following difficult life experiences. OOMOO champions young people to access wellbeing tools and techniques they can use now and later in life. Young people who access at least one session at OOMOO report an increase in their overall happiness with 76% of members going on to attend more than one session resulting in 64% of our members going on to access mental health support.