Red2Green

2022-2023

Annual Report



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Please head to our website for our full annual accounts.

Who we are

Red2Green works to increase opportunities in education, training, work and leisure for people with learning disabilities and/or autism across Cambridgeshire. To achieve this, we offer a variety of programmes which enable learning new skills, enjoying a broad variety of leisure activities, making new friendships, gaining confidence and preparing for employment. We also raise awareness of the potential of people with disabilities to make positive and valuable contributions to society.



What we do

We have two main services across our centres:

Firstly, our Aspirations service works with adults on the autism spectrum, working on a range of life skills, independence, self-advocacy and employability work. Our learners enjoy cooking, socialising, and working on projects together. Our Aspirations service is split between Granary Barn and Harvey's Barn in Swaffham Bulbeck.

Secondly, our Options service supports adults with a range of learning disabilities and physical impairments across two sites: Harvey's Barn in Swaffham Bulbeck, and the Red2Green Community Garden in Bottisham. Each site offers a range of opportunities for learners to support independence and meaningful contributions to the local community.



A few words from our Chair - Jane Miller

As we moved into the financial year 2022-23 we were finally beginning to hope that the worst of the Covid pandemic was behind us. In the early part of the year, although we were still following our living with Covid strategy, life at Red2Green was beginning to get 'back to normal'. As the year progressed, we were able to begin planning how community visits and trips could once again be undertaken for our clients and learners. Trustees were able to meet face-to-face in our Red2Green offices and arrange visits to our services to see for ourselves how important the work we do at Red2Green is.

My sincere thanks to everyone involved with Red2Green during yet another busy and challenging year. Our staff have continued to work tirelessly, showing their commitment to Red2Green and our trustees helping steer us through those challenges.

A few words from our CEO - Liz Taylor

This was a great year for Red2Green as we grew, and expanded our work. We went from having a staff team of 32 to 37 and increased the amount of 1:1 support we give. It's been wonderful seeing our learners and clients grow in confidence throughout the year, with some great successes. We introduced the AQA Unit Award Scheme, with 10,000 different units in every area imaginable, and it regularly astounds me the number of awards that were achieved.

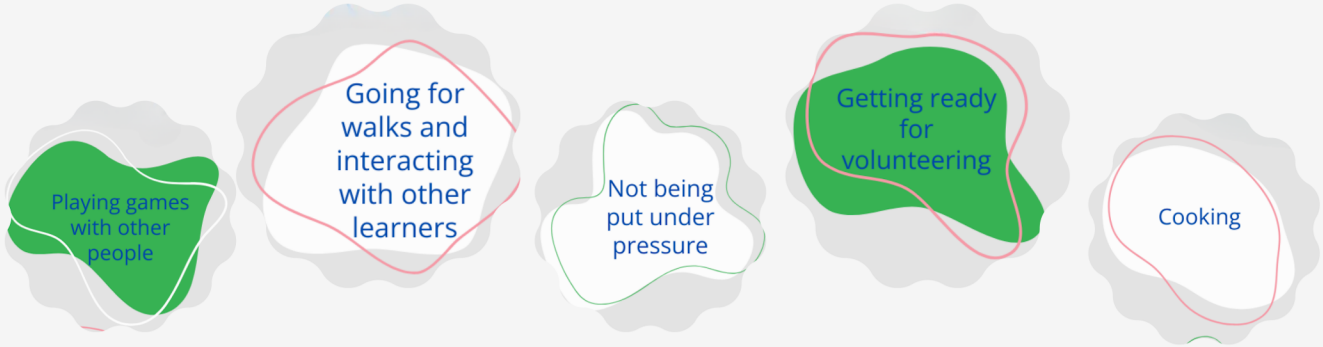
Sadly we said goodbye to our garden expert Rose who retired after almost 17 years with us, but in the Red2Green way she was given a great send off! The garden continues to flourish with our support workers, in particular Tom, overseeing the work that so many of our clients put in.

We are so grateful to everyone who supports Red2Green, whether that is with money, volunteering time, or telling others about the work we do. And of course we wouldn't be Red2Green without both our amazing staff, and fantastic learners and clients.

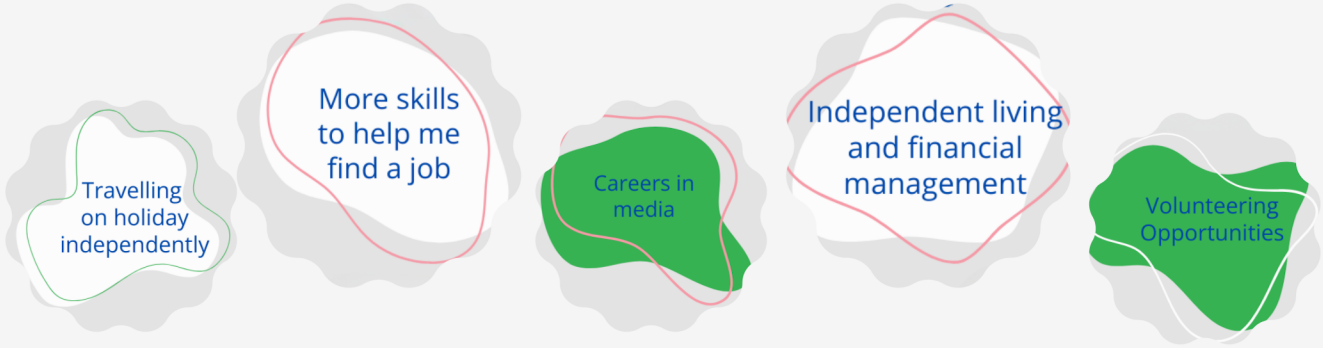
Looking back at the year

- **1** bus route campaigned for and saved!
- We completed **10** Autism in the Workplace assessment meetings.
- Staff undertook **261** training courses in total.
- Clients gained **313** AQA unit award certificates.
- **10** new clients joined our services.
- We provided **130** days of support to clients a week at the beginning of the year, and by the end of the year this has increased to **142**.
- We started the year providing **26** client days a week of 1:1 support and finished the year providing **46**.

What do our learners enjoy about Red2Green?



What did our learners want to learn more of next year?



Aspirations

It was a busy and sometimes challenging year for our 41 Aspirations learners as we gained freedom from covid restrictions. After a slow start of what seemed like endless risk assessments and planning, we were able to start getting back out into our local communities. For some this meant facing some big fears after the lockdown, but overall our learners appreciated being able to complete external activities once again.

This year we embedded AQA unit award scheme certificates into all our groups. Sally's group all completed a vocational profile project before the end of the summer term working towards looking for work after the summer break. Alison and Vicki's groups worked hard on projects to increase the understanding of attainable hobbies such as birdwatching. Sandra's team of staff and learners have worked hard making progress in English and maths, as well as their Education health care plans (EHCP) outcomes.

The summer break came and went with a whole host of weekly trips which gave learners a much needed chance to engage in the community and have fun. From footgolf to picnics, adventures were had by all. This was thanks to Alison who was always happy to drive the minibus and get everyone out and about.

In September, our youngest learner of 16, joined our service. After a year of being a school refuser, he settled quickly with us and has blossomed. We saw his happiness, increased independence, and communication light up more each week. Whilst his story is a happy one, we have experienced that there were still many EHCP learners being rejected from accessing our services and staying in mainstream education.

Finally, we had a bittersweet moment saying goodbye to one of our learners who came to us and Owl Bikes. He studied and passed his welding exams, and is now in a full-time job. He will be missed by staff and learners alike, but we are so very proud of all the progress he made with us!







Options

There has rarely been a more important year for key workers and the social care sector than the one that has just passed. Our core mission at Red2Green is to support the development of life skills and education for our clients, and this year, we also helped support the transition from Covid lockdowns and bubbles, towards “the new normal”. Staff diligently followed the strict rules around testing regularly, hand washing, taking clients temperatures every morning and end of day, and we wore masks all the way up to January 2023.

For some of our clients, they were excited to see peers again and as we regrew the sizes of our groups, joined straight in with activities. However, for many, the lockdowns were a time of isolation and stress. Luckily though, we were able to increase the number of support workers on our teams, which resulted in clients having more days with us and more 1:1 support where needed.

Some of the highlights of returning to normality in Options included:

- Being joined by work experience students from Bottisham Village College in October 2022 who helped staff make drinks and run fun activities for clients. They gained valuable insight into both the charitable and social care sectors.
- Learning the value of awesome neigbours as Mrs Hutt (from Hutties in the barn next door) raised £331.50 by selling our plants at a garden sale.
- We began working on AQA certificates in our service.
- We saw our peers in the Aspirations service again for the Christmas carol service.







Red2Gym

LIVING SPORT
INSPIRING ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

BETTER

Between November 2022 and March 2023, Red2Green partnered with Living Sport to create Red2Gym, a pilot scheme focusing on supporting our clients to get more active and learn more about why physical fitness also supports mental wellbeing. Our Mental Health Support Worker Nikki, realised that there were many barriers for our learners with autism and learning disabilities when it came to accessing gyms so coordinated group and individual visits to Cherry Hinton Village Leisure Centre where the staff were incredibly warm and welcoming to us all.

We worked with the staff to develop a step-by-step induction, so clients had the ability to learn how to use different equipment each week and build up their confidence in accessing the facilities. Our groups also had the chance to use the sports hall and try out different sports, emphasising that physical activity should be fun!





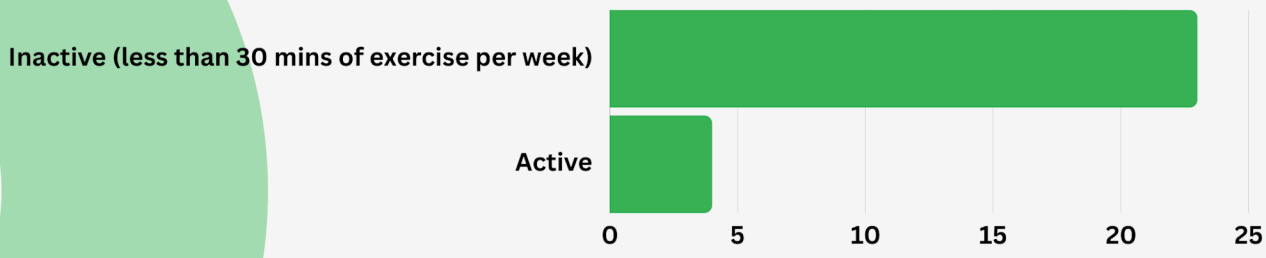






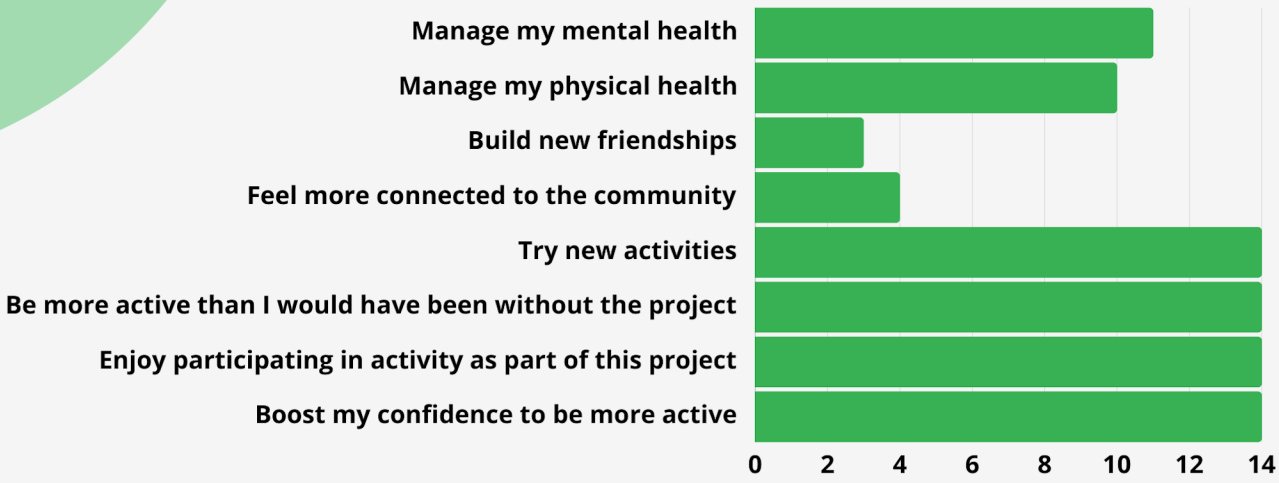


Key Stats



23/27 participants told us they did less than 30 minutes exercise per week before Red2Gym, all reporting a disability and long term health conditions.

Our participants told us that the Red2Gym project helped them to...



Finally, all participants rated the project's overall experience at 7/10 or over. Here's what they had to say!

"A big THANK YOU. We really enjoyed it."

"Can we have more sessions in the future? We'd like to try more sports in the sports hall."

"It was good to have the gym to ourselves. We were taught to use the equipment without feeling silly about asking questions."

"The support team were very helpful and friendly"

Kitchen Refit

From MDF boards and loose wiring to a severe lack of storage, it was evident when we returned to our site after the pandemic that we were in desperate need of a whole new kitchen in Harvey's barn. An operational kitchen was our way of giving clients a chance to learn key independence skills such as cooking for themselves and the group, learning how to load a dishwasher, as well as making a cup of tea or coffee for themselves.

With funding from the ASDA Foundation and the B&Q Foundation, we were able to revamp the whole area with extra storage, accessible cabinet handles, and a bigger sink for all the washing up!



Out with the old

In with the new



Christmas

For the first time since 2020, our clients were able to attend the Red2Green Christmas carol service, held at St. Mary's Church in Swaffham Bulbeck. The day signaled the end of the pandemic in some ways, as clients in different bubbles were able to meet and interact with each other once again.

To combat the frosty day, mince pies and hot beverages were served and we were very sad to say goodbye to Rev. Sue Giles and we thank her for many great and accessible services over the years.









Staff who joined us



Stacey Huckle - Support Worker
Fleur Maslin-Miller - Support Worker
Rosanna Dillon - Support Worker
Samantha Holliday - Support Worker
Nicola Palmer - Support Worker
John Smith - Support Worker
Aimee Botting - Support Worker
Sally Hulme - Bank Tutor
Robyn Jarvis - Fundraising and Marketing Officer



Staff who left us



Tessa Vicat-Cole - Premises Administrator
Rosemary Moulding - Support Worker
Samantha Holliday - Support Worker
Stephanie Ward - Contractor

Our Trustees and Patron



Jane Miller - Chair of Trustees
Roger Crabtree - Vice Chair of Trustees
Tony Kirk - Treasurer
Peter Hains - Trustee
Fred Peeling - Trustee
Ruth Rogers - Trustee
Hobson Bullman - Trustee
Philip Lane - Trustee
Sian Constantine - Trustee
Caragh McMurtry - Trustee
Emmanuel Ajoku -Trustee
Susan Wallace - Trustee
Andy Hamilton - Patron



Keep in touch

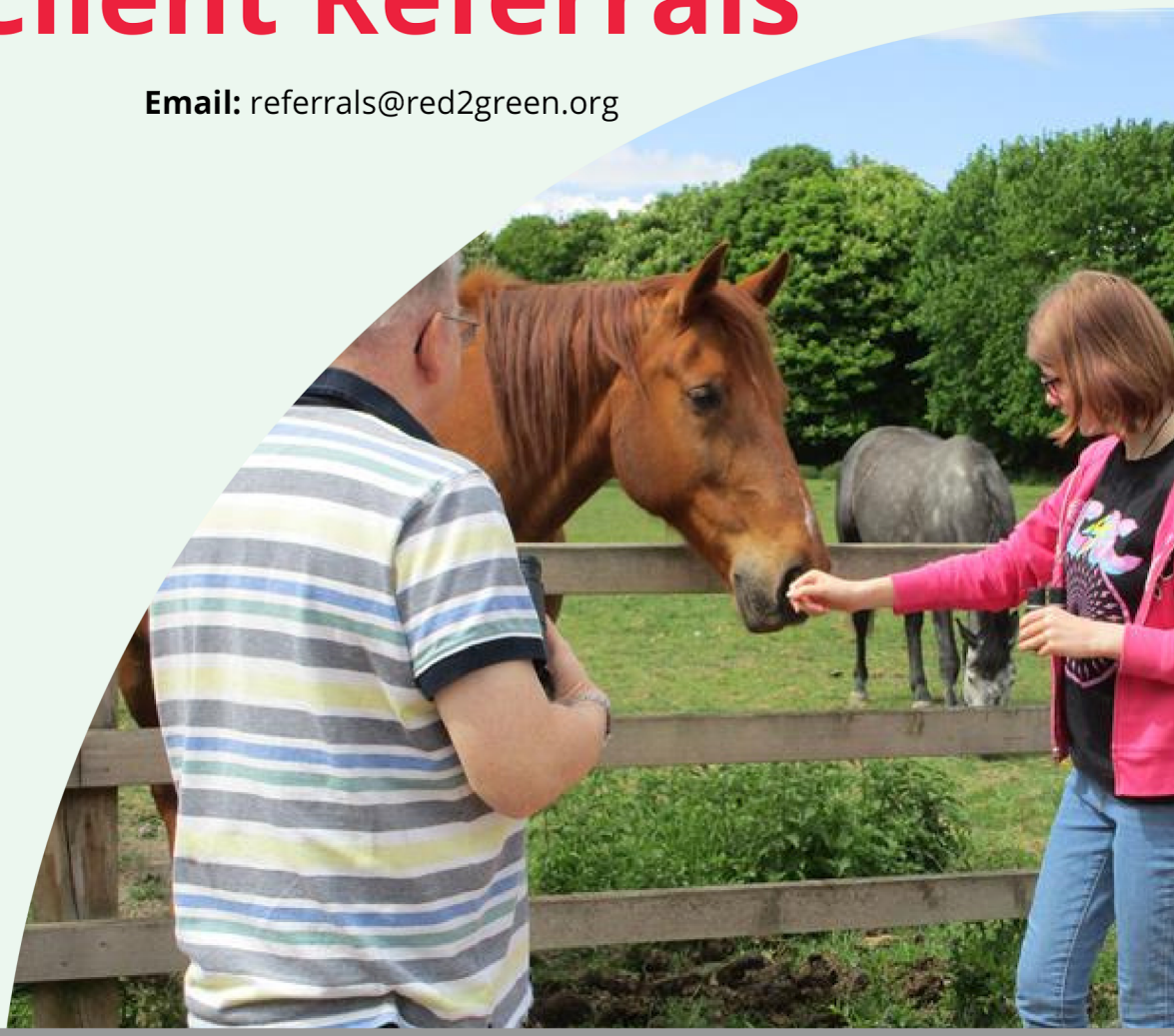
Red2Green is a day opportunities provider and registered charity supporting people aged 16+ with learning disabilities and autism towards achieving independence, education and employment. We support 90 clients a year from our barns in Swaffham Bulbeck and our Community Garden in Bottisham. Follow our work via our social media channels or join our monthly newsletter.
https://linktr.ee/red2greenuk

General Enquiries

Phone us: 01223 811 662
Text us: 07451 283 333
Email: info@red2green.org

Client Referrals

Email: referrals@red2green.org



Registered Charity Number: 1112429 | Company Number: 5485413 | Turning the Red Lights Green T/A Red2Green