



**Be** **dazzle** 

# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022  
YEAR 6



# SUMMARY

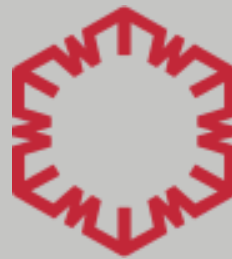
This year we have begun to see the devastating aftermath the pandemic and restrictions have had on families and young people across our region, but there has also been some hope in the continued community spirit we have seen.

It has been an incredibly tough year for our colleagues in partner schools, with noticeable changes in behaviour across all key stages, as 'normal service' has been expected to resume, with judgements made against our young people and schools based on data, with the disruption only widening the gaps on attainment and progress.

Despite the pressures, there have been many positives, one of those being the return of the arts and live theatre, including our very own WYMT.

The introduction of the Senior Mental Health Lead role in schools by the DfE has seen a renewed interest in interventions and training to ensure all schools are better supporting their staff, children and families.

We have also been able to see the impact from the Fore grant received last year, in terms of our own training and development as an organisation. As ever the Trustees are extremely grateful for the continued support, encouragement and recognition we receive.



**Telford & Wrekin**  
**Co-operative Council**

Recognising the success of our ongoing relationship with Donnington Wood Juniors, we have been successful in winning a bid to work with 16 of the Primary schools in the North Cluster of Telford with a focus on school improvement and reducing the need for exclusions and alternative provision. This contract will run for one year and work began after Easter with the first wave of schools.



Earlier in the year we helped our longest standing Partner school, Milking Bank Primary, achieve the Wellbeing Award for Schools, based on the evidence compiled of their work to promote positive mental health over recent years. We could not be more proud of the whole team there!

Whilst concentrating on using the Fore Grant to impact our organisational structure, we have been fortunate to receive some smaller grants to support specific projects, from Wolverhampton Council and the Arnold Clark Community Fund.



**Wolverhampton**  
**Young Opportunities**

**Arnold Clark**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**FUND**

# HIGHLIGHTS & TIMELINE

**August 2021** - Our wonderful Youth theatre, WYMT returned to the stage and summer intensives with their fabulous production of Matilda The Musical.

**September 2021** - Launched young peoples Wellbeing Champions training in pilot schools.



**October 2021** - WYMT October Half Term Project - Youth Opportunities Fund.

Celebrated World Mental Health Day with whole school workshops on the theme of Equality, Equity and Justice

**November 2021** - Supported Milking Bank Primary in securing the Wellbeing Award for Schools from the NCB

**February 2022** - Began training 1st cohort of Senior Mental Health Leads - Primary course for Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Entered our first cohort of young people for Arts Award Explore and Discover from schools intervention projects.

**March 2022** - Delivered MHFA Training to Health and Social Care students at Walsall Studio School

Delivered Year 7 Focus Day on Self Esteem and Personal Development at Shireland Collegiate Academy

2 day face to face Youth Mental Health First Aid Course, Wolverhampton

**April 2022** - Delivered DBT Training to over 500 Primary Staff at the Annual Manor MAT Conference



**May 2022** - Began delivering wave 1 of Telford Cluster project working on primary school improvement for specific KPIs on a plan, do, review model focused on SEMH Support.



# WORK IN SCHOOLS

This year we have gained some new partner schools in Dudley and Sandwell, as well as returning to delivering ad hoc workshops and focus days, including increasing our work with secondary schools.

We look forward to building on these relationships in the coming year.

We have worked closely to support parents with behaviours and concerns seen at home, being involved in Early Help support and running joint parent and child sessions in some schools.



## 200

*Young people have accessed in school support from our team.*

It has been great to see a shift in our long term partner schools to upskilling staff and refining their in school provision to ensure that positive mental health and well-being is central to their ethos, proven by Milking Bank being awarded the Wellbeing for Schools Award and our work with Donnington Wood to lead on the Telford Cluster project.

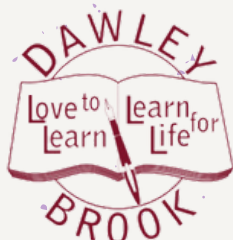


This year, thanks in part to the grant received from The Fore we have been able to support Rachel, one of our long serving volunteers in achieving her Level 3 Teaching Assistant qualification, now working in schools as specialist SEMH support. She has also completed her Arts Award Advisor training and trialled accrediting our interventions with this qualification to add even more value to the work and combining our passion for well-being and the arts. Congratulations to her on all her hard work!

We have been delighted to work with these new schools, alongside our existing partner schools, as well as those in the Telford Primary Cluster:



**SHIRELAND**  
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY



**MANOR**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

# TRAINING

The return to face to face training has been much welcomed, especially with the nature of the courses we deliver. Whilst it has not been without difficulties; such as ongoing battles with staff absence and also a real drive for schools to return to life pre pandemic, impacting on the time people have been released for CPD, this year has seen us extend our training offer with the DfE approved training for Senior Mental Health Leads, which we lead our first cohort of Primary Leads through successfully over the course of this year. Congratulations to them for their hard work and commitment in this challenging role!

We have extended our reach with our MHFA England training in Mental Health First Aid skills, delivering to cohorts of students studying at Post-16 and have established a working relationship with Walsall Studio School's Health and Social Care department. Similarly we have delivered more training to Parent's in Telford, as part of the cluster project.

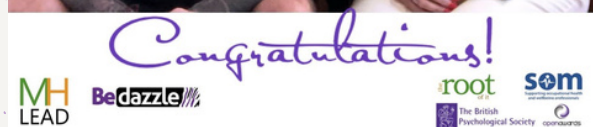


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People participated in one of our MHFA England Courses

This year we have all delivered more of our in house courses for staff inset in our partner schools and beyond. Our most popular training has been about supporting emotional development needs in the classroom, supported by live in class coaching. Other popular training has been for lunch time staff on how to actively engage pupils to reduce behaviour incidents.

One of the highlights was delivering our Introduction to DBT Skills training to over 500 staff from the Manor Multi Academy Trust, at their annual conference, which this year focused on supporting teachers own mental health and wellbeing.



**"The course has made me think more strategically, fully understanding the vastness of the role and feeling better able to lead the school in this role"**

Feedback from attendees of Senior Mental Health Lead training



# THE ARTS

It has been great to finally see the return of the arts in schools and live theatre professionally and at a community level. This year our wonderful Youth Theatre, WYMT, staged two productions and welcomed a cohort of Junior members, extending our reach to primary age children across Wolverhampton for our amateur premiere of **Matilda** the musical.



Our cast of over forty, 8-18 year olds met for two weeks over August, as restrictions around social distancing were lifted. They rehearsed intensively for two weeks, with half the cast missing part of the second week due to an outbreak of COVID. However, we utilised digital technology to ensure the cast could still rehearse, delayed our opening night slightly and added in a Matinee performance. We had a sold out run, so despite our initial reservations about being one of the first companies to return, it was obvious audiences were more than ready to escape reality and join us for this fabulous story.

Thanks to funding from the council Youth Opportunities fund, we were able to produce and perform a Halloween themed showcase in the October half term. This ensured we could keep the interest of new members, as well as find time to nurture their talents further. This fun performance saw an array of Spook-tacular Halloween favourites, mixed with classic musical and pop favourites. There was singing, dancing and even some of our talented cast showing us their musicianship with live recitals and accompaniment.

This year also saw us encouraging schools to ensure the arts made a welcomed return, accrediting some of our intervention programmes with the introductory Arts Award at Explore and Discover levels!

We look forward to the year ahead and doing our bit to keep the arts alive!

