

SO18 Big Local

TWICS continues to be one of the 'Local Trusted Organisations' for SO18 Big Local, helping to deliver community development and youth work in the Townhill Park, Harefield and Midanbury areas. SO18 Big Local is one of 150 Big Local areas in England, supported through the Local Trust, with Big Lottery funding over ten years.

It's an exciting project to be part of, and TWICS has actively encouraged local involvement with the research projects and training and networking opportunities offered through Local Trust. TWICS employs the Big Local Workers (Jo and Suzanne) and the youth workers (Naomi and Alice) who together with Barbara work with and support SO18 Big Local's Partnership Committee, made up of local residents, who take the decisions about the direction of Big Local and how to use its money.

This year TWICS also helped run an event engaging the wider community to think about what the 'lasting difference' that Big Local could make (its legacy). The ideas that came out were particularly about achieving more connected and collaborative communities, involving both local people and organisations.

For more information about SO18 Big Local, visit www.SO18BigLocal.org.uk or call/text 07528 338104



Together We Grow People's Health Trust project

We applied for a two year grant from the People's Health Trust Active Communities programme for funding for a community gardening project, to employ a part time community development gardener to bring together local residents to grow edible and attractive plants in community spaces near their homes. Our application was successful, and we started the planning to bring the project to life.



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

"Through training, empower people and groups to take an active role in their communities"

A word from the TWICS Chair

This has been my second year as chair of TWICS. I am extremely pleased how TWICS has responded to the challenges of austerity and changing social needs and has managed to tailor its services to meet them.

TWICS is working closely with Southampton's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to find and deliver community-based solutions in order to deliver good quality services to Southampton's population in the light of ever diminishing NHS resources.

I am also very pleased that TWICS has been able to get a grant from the Big Lottery Fund for a research project looking at the future of Community Development in the city. The "Community Connectors" project will be looking at how we can link assets to people and people to assets and what gaps there are in the city.

The highlight of the year was our very close relationship with Mencap and Way Ahead, both of which are adult mental health services. Our tutors have adapted their training methods to deliver high quality training to learners whose services face cut backs to ensure that service users are able to continue to develop their skills, knowledge and independence.

There is no doubt that our financial challenges increase year on year but, with Iane Chamber's inspirational leadership, and the vision and creativity of our amazing team, we have managed to weather the storm so far and we had another highly successful and productive year.

Mike, TWICS Chair



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Swaythling Neighbourhood Centre
Hampton Park Way
Southampton
SO17 3AT
Telephone: 023 8067 1111
e-mail: admin@twics.org.uk

A reflection of the past year

Iane Chambers, TWICS manager

It has again been a very busy year for us in what has become an ever more challenging political and economic climate with increased competition for funding amongst the voluntary and community sectors.

Together with our tutors we worked hard to deliver our Adult and Community Learning contract with Southampton City Council and in fact, we have exceeded our allocated learner numbers by a big margin. Like in previous years TWICS was involved in organising the Adult Learner Festival in the city's art gallery where we celebrated the achievement of some of the city's most inspiring learners. A big thank you goes to Maureen who is coordinating our training programme!

Our involvement with SO18 Big Local has continued and we have supported many amazing events, including a Christmas grotto, local nature clean ups, a bake-off event and Townhill Park estate regeneration consultations.

During this past year we have continued to work with the Clinical Commissioning Group to look at community based initiatives which will help to address the health needs of Southampton's residents. We have also been successful with a Lottery application for a Community Researcher project looking at how to connect Southampton's communities to each other in order to make the most of the assets that we have in the city. We hope that our findings will support Southampton City Council in deciding on the future of Community Development in the city.

I want to thank Southampton City Council's Community and Adult Learning Team and the Integrated Commissioning Unit for their ongoing financial support.

A big thank you also goes to our Management Committee. We appreciate their friendly challenge, useful advice and knowledge in the field of Community Development and Adult and Community Learning.

Finally, we had to say a sad farewell to our admin officer Alice. Alice has started a new job with a solicitor and we wish her all the best in her new career. However, we have gained another staff member and we welcome Pippa, our new community gardener, to the TWICS team.

Some of the highlights of the year are included in this annual report and we hope you enjoy reading about them.



A really good course and every client got something out of it -
Way Ahead



Community and family learning

Over the past year we have delivered 36 courses to 390 learners at different locations across Southampton.

This year we have welcomed Gillian Jeffery who has been teaching our arts and crafts courses. Learners have been busy making a variety of things from bird boxes to bunting, painting on glass to making memory boxes!

A first for TWICS was the introduction of a Choir. Our learners at Mencap were led by another new tutor, Alison Moffatt. We all thoroughly enjoyed listening to them when they entertained the audience at the Southampton Adult Learner Awards!

Our Healthy Cooking and Food Hygiene tutor Pula Popat continues to be in demand and she has been busy teaching learners referred to us by our partners. One of her learners has even gone on to deliver healthy cooking sessions himself – something he would not have had the confidence to do without her help and support.

We continue to work in partnership with the Society of St James, Mencap, Way Ahead, Parent Support Link and others. Our learners have many diverse learning needs and we are proud to say that each one has made some progress through attending one of our courses.

Our success has been down to our tutors so a big thank you to Gillian Jeffery, Alison Moffatt, Pula Popat, Iane Chambers and Chrissi Knights for all their hard work!

The singing was enjoyed by everyone who had to work together as a team to put on a fantastic performance – thank you Alison for teaching our group so well! –
Mencap

Iane is very good at explaining to each client at different levels of understanding
– Way Ahead

I can now make healthy meals which don't cost the earth – thank you Pula –
Society of St James



Gillian is very good at building each person's confidence through the medium of Art
– Parent Support Link

