



# **Stretford Children's Theatre**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1175334**

## **2016 / 2017**

# **Annual Report**

**Year end 31.8.17**

**Stretford Children's Theatre**

**Stretford Public Hall**

**Chester Road**

**Stretford**

**Manchester**

**M32 0LG**

**Email: [stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk](http://www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk)**

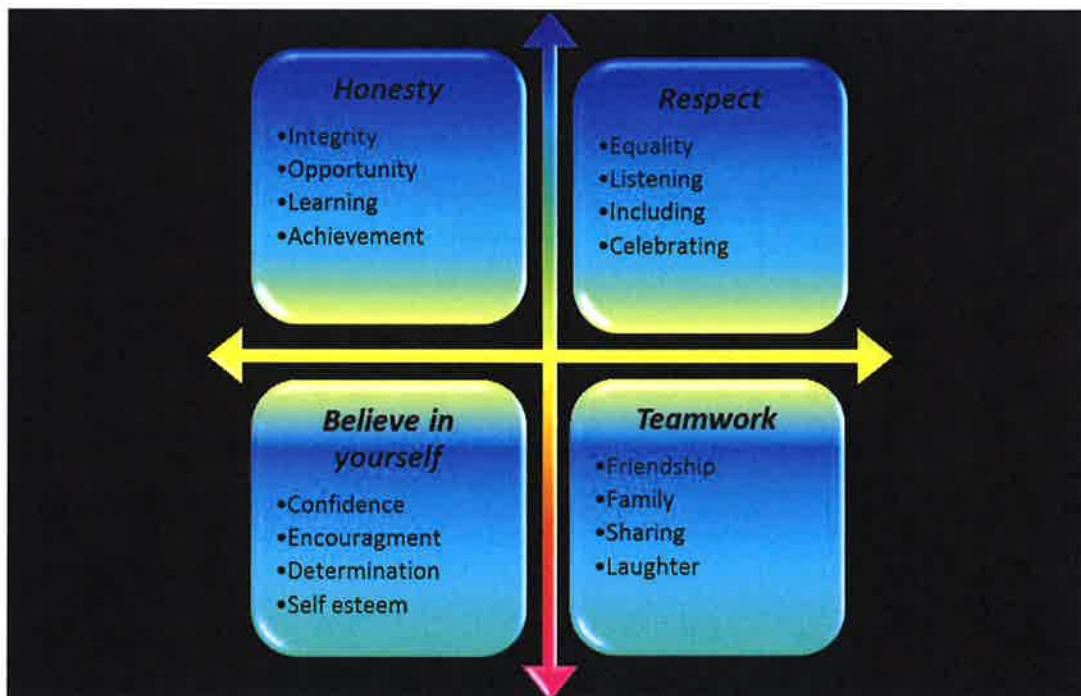
*Mission Statement:*

***A complete 'one stop shop' for affordable community drama and theatre productions in Stretford - accessible to all***

*Our Vision:*

***~ INCLUSIVE ~ FUN ~ CREATIVE ~***

*Our Values:*



*Our Aims:*

- ***A safe environment for all***
- ***Everyone is happy***
- ***Fun learning***
- ***Everyone is respected***



Stretford Children's Theatre was originally founded in 1945 by Bertram H. Holland and was embedded in the community for more than 35 years. It ceased to exist in the early 1980's, but was re-formed in 2015 by a small group of local people, and takes place at one of its original venues, Stretford Public Hall.

We are a small community group, with a volunteer committee, and drama sessions delivered by professional theatre practitioners, specialists at working with different age groups.

Stretford Children's Theatre, which also includes Stretford Youth Theatre, is committed to providing affordable quality drama experiences for local children and young people, aged 4 upwards.

We want to:

- increase the levels of creative opportunity in our community;
- provide positive, fun and challenging group activities;
- offer group support in order to increase individual resilience;
- provide exciting and inspiring opportunities for otherwise marginalised individuals and groups to use the arts to explore subjects that matter to them;
- encourage self-development [confidence, independence, informal learning, emotional health and well-being, communication] through participation in a fun and creative experience in a challenging yet safe environment;
- promote an understanding of the significance of the arts in our shared cultural heritage;
- work together with residents, community users, local authorities, voluntary and other organisations to continuously improve the area.

We currently run during term time on Thursdays at Victoria Park Infant School [while Stretford Public Hall is being refurbished] at the following times:

Reception aged children from 4-5pm

Children in Years 1&2 from 5-6pm

Children in Years 3-6 from 6.00-7.30pm

Children in Years 7-11 from 6.00-7.30pm

We think we meet our aims at every session we deliver and hope that everyone feels the same. If you feel differently please speak to the any member of the Executive Committee and highlight any concerns you may have.



As you will see from each of the facilitators accounts within this report, the sections have done some great things this year which means everyone is working towards fulfilling the aim of making a positive contribution to society to the public benefit of all.

We are a registered charity as a foundation CIO, and as such we are governed by our Constitution and the property of the group / charity is held by the trustees [committee members] of the group. If you wish for a copy of the Constitution which details more information about our group's governance and rules please ask any of the trustees who can give it to you or you can find it on our website.

Our registered address is: Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, M32 0LG

Our Bank details are: Natwest, Trafford Park, Third Avenue, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1NW

- General Account Name: Stretford Children's Theatre
- General Account Number: 56057687    Sort Code: 010881
- Savings Account Name: Stretford Children's Theatre
- Savings Account Number:, 56057695    Savings Sort Code: 010881

We have had no serious accidents or incidents this year – thankfully!

Our public liability insurance is held with Markel Insurance and our certificate for this can be seen on our website.

All our drama practitioners have DBS checks and follow our child protection policy. All our policies can be found on our website.

We conduct risk assessments for each group, and each place we visit to ensure every child's safety.

**If you are able to support us any further, through donations, volunteering your time or offering specific skills that might be useful, please do get in touch via email at [stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com) or get in touch through our Facebook page (Stretford Children's Theatre), or speak to any of the committee, volunteers, or leaders.**



## **Group Structure 2016/2017**

### **Our Executive Committee / Trustees are:**

Ali Dunican	- Chairperson
Kirsty Thomas	- Treasurer
Laura Riley	- Secretary
Shelly Quinton-Hulme	- Trustee
Janice Rendel	- Trustee

If you need to contact any of the executive committee please email: [stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com) stating who you would like the email to go to.

Cheque Signatories are: Kirsty Thomas; Shelly Quinton-Hulme; Janice Rendel and Laura Riley



## Proposed Group Structure 2017/2018

### Our Executive Committee / Trustees are:

Ali Dunican	- Chairperson
Kirsty Thomas	- Treasurer
Laura Riley	- Secretary
Shelly Quinton-Hulme	- Trustee
Janice Rendel	- Trustee
Annika Edge	- Trustee
Sinead Renold	- Trustee

If you need to contact any of the executive committee please email: [stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com) stating who you would like the email to go to.

Cheque Signatories are proposed to remain as: Kirsty Thomas; Shelly Quinton-Hulme; Janice Rendel and Laura Riley



## Chair's Annual Report 2016 – 2017

During the year to 31 August 2017, Stretford Children's Theatre has delivered high quality drama sessions to local children and young people between the ages of 4 and 18. Membership has grown significantly since we began in February 2015 and in this period we had 96 members across 112 sessions.

Sessions are received well by both participants and parents.

### *Participant responses:*

"This is the best club ever" "It's exciting, good, excellent" "Epic, interesting, happy"

### *Parent responses:*

"She has grown in confidence so much, the teachers have been brilliant with her and have always understood her reticence; this has enabled her to do what she feels able to do in her own time. Drama is typically really expensive, and we'd just not have done it because of the cost... We have a happier, more confident child. Drama is her favourite activity."

"I don't know if you know how valuable this is to my son - he is not a natural joiner-inner - yet comes home alight / buzzing- thank you."

As well as delivering weekly term-time sessions, we also presented two performances (December 2016 and July 2017) to parents, family, friends and interested local people. These gave the members an opportunity to present to an audience which fostered a sense of pride and belonging. The performances were received well.

"Went to see the theatre show tonight and I would just like to thank everyone involved in the production - excellent!!!" *Parent of participant, 2017*

The sessions have been delivered/facilitated by local professional practitioners, with regular support from local volunteers in a number of roles: as co-facilitators, admin/registration support and through the voluntary committee.

We began with a small committee, but have recently become a registered charity (number: 1175334) with committee members becoming voluntary Trustees, all of whom are from Stretford.

"I feel a much stronger sense of community since being involved with this group; I've learned new skills and had new experiences." *Committee member*

We also benefit from support from parents, who enable participants to attend, and also express interest in the sessions and the future of the group. Our most recent performance was full to capacity.

During this period, we received income of £32,998 (including grants and a restricted project grant received in advance of £17,900) with expenditure of £8,485. Together with a small opening balance, we close the year with a balance of £25,075.



As well as delivering sessions and sharing the work with our local community during this period, we have put energy into shoring up our processes and adjusting the format and timing of sessions for efficiency and convenience of stakeholders, improving our policies and procedures, becoming a registered charity and securing resources for the future. During the year, we have continued to have regular committee/planning meetings.

In this period, we moved from our home at Stretford Public Hall which needed to undergo essential renovations, to Victoria Park Infant School. We will remain at the school until the renovations are complete.

**We are confident that we have been successfully meeting our principal objective of delivering high quality, affordable drama sessions to local children and young people.** We also know through our own monitoring, plus uptake of discounts as well as personal connections that we are supporting children/young people from a diverse range of backgrounds and circumstances, including those who are marginalized, isolated or vulnerable, whether that is evident/visible or not.

Key aims of the group are to provide inspiration, unlock talent and potential, and to help children and young people become confident and improve their physical and mental well-being.

"When she started reception, she couldn't answer the register at school and she couldn't speak to say what she wanted for dinner. Painfully shy a year ago. You would not know it now (she took the register recently at school!) and I think it's because of Children's Theatre. Today she got a trophy for the most confident reception child". *Parent of participant, 2017*

"I'm part of this group because I want to gain more confidence, and learn to project my voice"

"I'd like to get new ideas to one day maybe make my own stage shows".

Going forward, our efforts will be centred on delivering a project focusing on the life of John Rylands, who commissioned Stretford Public Hall and was one of Manchester's most famous philanthropists. Funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund, this project involves the senior group carrying our research and creating a promenade performance at the hall in summer 2018. We're also looking into setting up a children's choir group, and increasing the number of Trustees.

The interest in and support for the group has been overwhelming. In its creation and in the delivery of our activities, we have seen a sense of community, a coming together and an interest from a wide community in helping children and young people realise their potential and make a positive contribution to society.

Ali Dunican

Trustee/Chair





## Infant Group Leader's report of 2016/2017

### **Alice Penny Facilitator of Infant groups**

*Storytelling, drama, movement, music & more, all packed into an amazing adventure to explore. Let your imaginations soar!*

In the sessions the children were lead on an imaginary adventure into the world of a theme (we covered Charlie & The Chocolate Factory, The world at Christmas & the Jungle), and out of each adventure a story developed that continued each week. The adventure was facilitated loosely to allow space for the children's ideas to direct the adventure and lead the way.

In each adventure we used various art forms including drama, storytelling, puppetry, the giant parachute, props, costumes, role-play, movement & dance, music. The adventure stimulated each child's imagination and creativity and put into practice all of the skills they learnt & developed in the first half of the session (see below), whilst also encouraging the children to work together and have lots of fun!

Before each adventure there was time dedicated for the children to play games that had an emphasis on warming up the children's bodies to get them ready for the session. We developed their physicality and body expression and encouraged the children to really let go and enjoy their bodies. They also played fun voice games to warm up their voices. We developed the children's confidence of using their voice & speaking in front of others, and developed vocal range & intonation.

In the spring 2017 term we started to work on a summer performance with the older group (year 1&2's), based upon the Jungle theme that the children had been exploring during their 'adventures'. This included ideas from the children that had been expressed during these sessions, and told the tale of an elephant named Ellie telephoning the children all the way from the African jungle in desperate request of their help! The children journeyed to Africa in their 'imaginary' jungle jeep, crossed a crocodile swamp and rescued the last white tiger from the clutches of monsieur beret, an evil fashion designer from Paris!

Every child had something to do 'by themselves', which they embraced with such joy & enthusiasm, really taking ownership of their contribution. It was clear that this enjoyment lead to a natural confidence during the performance, which was presented at Stretford Public Hall at the end of summer term to a full audience of family members. It was so wonderful to see this confidence shining through, especially as many of them had initially felt very nervous about joining the sessions, perhaps leaving 'grown ups' for the very first time.

## Junior Group Leader's report of 2016/2017



*When I discovered Stretford Children's Theatre was reforming, I was eager to be involved with a community project that I knew I had a passion for and would be able to help with the skills I have gained within my training in performing arts. When I came across Stretford Children's Theatre, I was coming to the end of completing my degree within performance. During my three years at Bolton University I completed various modules within dance and drama, I developed skills as a performer and a practitioner. I took an interest in applied theatre and working alongside communities. I worked with a hospice to raise awareness through performance, regarding the hospices influences on families they support and the nurse's roles and relationships they have within their community of the hospice. I also co-founded a performance group within Bury and worked on a project to promote theatre for an autistic audience. This project allowed me engage within a specific target audience and create a performance that was tailor made and accessible for an audience that would generally struggle to attend a show. I developed many skills with various age ranges from children in nursery through to adults at college. I worked very intensely with schools, careers, drama practitioners, recording artist and The National Autistic Society. From these two projects, I was excited to work within the community of Stretford as I found this was an area that would benefit from drama.*

When planning a vision for my group, I wanted to concentrate on gender equality, I am passionate about increasing an equal balance within performing arts and eliminating stereotypes. I am extremely pleased with the number of children I have attending my class to date. I have an equal balance of male and female participants, which allows us to cover various topics and allow both genders to explore and learn within a safe and inclusive environment.

During the past year, I feel my group has been a success. I have had obstacles that I have overcome with support from the rest of the committee and I feel we have created a stable group where all the children are benefiting and achieving every class. I have worked closely with the children developing their individuality and confidence.



After each session, I interact with the parents as they collect their children from the session, I discuss briefly how their child has benefited from each class and I am there to offer any support and resolve any issues parents may have. I feel it is important to work closely with parents and allow them to know what their children is achieving with Stretford Children's Theatre. I have created newsletter for parents on each term illustrating topics and themes covered over the term. I feel this is a positive way to liase with parents.

My group have successfully delivered two show cases within the Public hall with an audience. The first show we devised focused on the theme 'Change', the juniors used the idea of Charles Dickens, 'A Christmas Carol' and developed the idea of this classic plot to develop a story regarding bullying and how actions can affect others. I feel this was an important theme for my group, during group sessions when developing this project, the children were able to explore scenerios within a safe place and discuss with their peers. This project I feel was a success, the performance was a chance for the children to experience the idea of performing in front of an audience without overwhelming them. It also allowed parents to watch their children and see what skills they have developed during their first term at Stretford Children's Theatre.

Over Christmas the children participated in a Christmas show 'Christmas around the world'. Performing in a show alongside with Stretford Youth Theatre, the children were able to explore other cultures and traditions in other countries around Christmas. I was externally impressed regarding the children's enthusiasm within this project. The children and I had already explored basic theatre techniques, that during the Christmas term we were able to start exploring techniques in further detail. With new members joining the group welcomed them and adopted their performance. I feel this project was a great accomplishment. Rosarie (youth leader) and I worked closely with Janice Rendel to merge the two groups together to deliver a Christmas song that all the members participated in. The skills the children are learning are transferable and will benefit them within their lives and citizens of Stretford.

I am thrilled to work within Stretford Children's Theatre and work within the community of Stretford. The benefits sessions have on the children are recognised through parent's feedback.

**"thanks so much for the work you've done with the kids, 'C' has really found her voice- we were really impressed, Thanks again to you all, happy Christmas" December 2016**

**"I really enjoyed it and 'A' loved being part of it. Thanks Jenni and the rest of the team for organizing this festive treat for the eyes and ears" December 2016**

I am passionate to keep working within Stretford Theatre Group and support the group in its growth. I look forward to working with the children over the next term and developing their skills within drama. This group is much needed within the Stretford community, the benefits are valuable and rewarding to everyone involved.



## **Stretford Youth Theatre Leader's report of 2016/2017**

The youth theatre is for ages 11-16. We explore a variety of topics depending on the needs and interests of the group and while the sessions are led by facilitators, young people are empowered to make creative decisions themselves, developing their sense of agency and critical thinking skills.

In December the young people devised a performance called *The World at Christmas*. It was centred on a narrator opening Christmas cards from people around the world whose life they have impacted. In January Rosarie went on maternity leave and so Caitlin ran the group from March-July. The young people used a variety of theatre techniques and styles, and explored themes including place, travelling and personal journeys. Through this exploration they devised *The Journey*, a comical show in which characters travelled to Rome, Egypt and Pluto to rescue their friend, meeting mermaids, sharks and aliens along the way.

This year the group grew in numbers, and young people hugely developed their skills and confidence in performing.

Young people said about SCT:

***'SCT is exciting and creative.'***      ***'I want to do more drama and plays.'***      ***'It's enjoyable and cool.'***

***'I want it to stay open, that's all I want to say because I enjoy it.'***      ***'I like this place.'***

***'I like socialising here.'***      ***'The sessions are engaging, fun, and interactive.'***

***'SCT is fun and welcoming.'***

Parents said about SCT:

***" my son was originally very sceptical about SCT because it had the name 'children' in it now he absolutely loves it now and it has definitely improved his ability to deal with certain kinds of stresses in his life"***

***"The sessions help my son with his communication skills, especially around emotional issues"***

***"My son is now keen to try acting more seriously and is starting to understand what that means in terms of hard work as well as glory!!"***

In June, SCT was awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Young Roots Fund for a project in partnership with the People's History Museum and supported by John Rylands Library and Friends of Longford Park. Young people will create a promenade performance in May/June 2018 at Stretford Public Hall called *Ahead Of His Time: John Rylands* and through this will complete a Bronze Arts Award. Rosarie and Caitlin will continue to run the group together and are really enthusiastic about the potential for this project.

@m32projects #AheadOfHisTime



## Treasurers Report and Annual Accounts - 2016/2017

### SCT 2016-2017 Figures

	Autumn Term	Winter Term	New Year Term	Spring Term	Easter Term	Summer Term	Total for year
<b>Number of sessions in term</b>	24	24	0	24	24	16	<b>112</b>
<b>Total number of children attending over the term</b>	57	54	0	46	56	53	<b>266</b>
<b>Number of children paying Full Rate for sessions £3.00</b>	44	43	0	37	45	45	<b>214</b>
<b>Number of children paying Sibling Rate for sessions £1.00</b>	13	11	0	9	11	8	<b>52</b>
<b>Number of Paid Members</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>96</b>
<b>Membership Amount for year Sep 17-Sep 18</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£440.00	<b>£440.00</b>
<b>Subscription Fees Paid</b>	£855.00	£814.00	£0.00	£705.00	£876.00	£560.00	<b>£3,810.00</b>
<b>Subscription fees owing</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total Income from Classes minus owing</b>	£855.00	£814.00	£0.00	£705.00	£876.00	£675.00	<b>£3,925.00</b>
<b>Total Income from Classes &amp; Membership</b>	£855.00	£814.00	£0.00	£705.00	£876.00	£1,115.00	<b>£4,365.00</b>
<b>Grant Income</b>	£289.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	£6,435.00	£20,452.00	<b>£27,676.00</b>
<b>Donation Income</b>	£43.92	£700.00	£50.00	£65.11	£0.00	£0.00	<b>£859.03</b>
<b>Performance Income</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£97.94	<b>£97.94</b>
<b>Rent</b>	£362.00	£240.00	£0.00	£144.00	£192.00	£220.00	<b>£1,158.00</b>
<b>Sessional Leaders costs</b>	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,000.00	<b>£7,000.00</b>
<b>Sessional Mgmt costs</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Other Expenditure [DBS, PR, resources]</b>	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£23.35	£110.25	<b>£153.60</b>
<b>Performance Costs</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Insurance Costs</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£173.25	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	<b>£173.25</b>
<b>Website / Domain costs</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	<b>£0.00</b>



Opening balance	£561.74	
Group total income	£32,997.97	
Group total costs	£8,484.85	
Closing balance	£25,074.86	
Balance as per bank statement	£24,984.86	As at 30.08.2017

This year we were awarded grants from:


- Waitrose – green discs - £289.00 – Manchester Branch, for general purposes
- John Grant Davies Trust - £500.00 – for general purposes
- Trafford Housing Trust, Stretford Community Panel - £5435.00 – for general purposes
- Waitrose – green discs - £125.00 – Manchester Branch, for general purposes
- Heritage Lottery Grant - £17,900 – Ahead of his Time – Project
- Forever Manchester - £1,000 – Pantomime Production
- Tesco Bags of Help - £2,000 – General Purposes
- Trafford Council - £427.00 – General purposes

We had 96 different children accessing our classes throughout this year with 20% paying the sibling rate over 112 sessions.

This report is a true reflection of our year:

Signed & dated Ali Dunican – Chair:  08/02/18

Signed & dated Kirsty Thomas – Treasurer:  8/2/2018

Signed & dated Laura Riley – Secretary:  8/2/2018.

