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**Kids Kabin**

# Annual Report

*July 2020 - June 2021*

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# Overview from the Trustees

“Another challenging year for Kids Kabin as we again had to cope with the effect of Covid 19 and its restrictions on the operation of our organisation. We would like to pay tribute to all involved in Kids Kabin; from the board, the staff, the volunteers, the participants, the funders and all supporters for having patience and determination to keep the ‘show on the road’!

We again saw the ingenuity and flexibility of all concerned as we sought to deliver to the communities which we serve. The Chief Executive’s report highlights the details, but the trustees are very pleased the participant numbers have remained strong despite the adversities faced.

As our new year began in July 2021, we saw the resumption of our summer activities programme which was very successful and well attended. Hopefully the remainder of the year we see further development with the completion of our kitchen renovation in Walker and the widening of our activities at our satellite locations around Newcastle and Middlesbrough.

We look forward with confidence and enthusiasm into 2022 and beyond.”

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# Chief Executive's Report

## *Introduction*

This year has seen the ongoing impact of the pandemic - with profound changes to many aspects of daily life. Kids Kabin's activity has responded accordingly, focusing on adapting services and ensuring targeted support for children and families with the highest needs. However, as the emergency phase of the pandemic has eased, we have been able to return to our 2019-2022 organisational objectives – including sharing our practice with other organisations, further developing our geographical impact in Middlesbrough and developing progression pathways for young people. As well as confirming our priorities and highlighting areas for improvement, we are also seeing new opportunities, especially in areas of partnership and collaboration.



*Kids Kabin teams adapted delivery to provide hundreds of creative outdoor workshops*

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## *Adaptation*

After our emergency responses between March and June 2020, the relaxation of restrictions from July 2020 led us to focus on developing Covid secure workshop delivery models. After the limitations of online workshops and home activity deliveries, we needed to design workshops which combined Covid safety, creative engagement and face to face contact. As a result, we introduced a range of new outdoor workshops in community settings and in schools.

## *Targeted support*

The pandemic has affected everyone. However, the impact has been greater for people with complex existing challenges. For example, children and families with existing health concerns and anxieties have been affected disproportionately. Families without the resources to work from home or the space to engage with home learning have struggled more than others. Kids Kabin has worked with local schools and community partners to prioritise support to children and families who have been disproportionately affected, sharpening our tools for collaborating and assessing need. We have also looked to our own staff and volunteers, putting in place systems to promote wellbeing and to provide additional support as required.

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## *Lessons from Covid and emerging opportunities*

Covid has enforced changes to our practice in many ways. As time moves on, we have been able to reflect and learn important lessons from these experiences. For example, lockdowns and the closure of face-to-face services have demonstrated the value of strong relationships and communication links with parents and carers. Covid has amplified this requirement and led us to improve these relationships where needed.

The pandemic has led to innovation in our use of outdoor spaces and in our workshop design. We have started to use a number of new outdoor venues including community gardens in Byker and Cowgate in Newcastle. These venues have also enabled additional projects for Kids Kabin members to practice their skills and benefit the wider community – such as making planters, garden furniture, as well as cleaning, weeding and growing. With schools unable to run outings and school trips we have taken workshops to them, notably running a winter of bushcraft and survival skills workshops in 4 primary schools.

Emergency response and covid recovery has highlighted the importance of community partnerships and neighbourhood knowledge. These local partnerships (e.g. Walker Workers, Byker Children and Young People's Partnership) provided immediate responses at the onset of the pandemic while the local authorities were putting new systems in place. Subsequently, these partnerships have promoted mutual support and shared learning about good practice. Moving forward, these partnerships are in a strong position to understand community needs and organise targeted responses.

This report will review Kids Kabin's activity over the last year and will be structured around the four key themes in our 2019-2022 organisational plan – People, Places, Partnerships and Processes. Kids Kabin's plans for 2021-2022 and beyond are also introduced - building on learnings from this challenging year and making the most of the 'new normal'. Exciting future developments include the introduction of the renovated kitchen and café space at the Walker centre, the continuing growth of Kids Kabin Middlesbrough, delivery partnerships in new geographical areas and a new apprenticeship programme.

We keep a close eye on the financial sustainability of Kids Kabin. As the charity and its expenditure grows, we are aware of the increasing requirement to raise funds, to diversify our sources of income and to remain lean and cost effective. Against a backdrop of competition for available funding, we are planning to create more capacity by recruiting a fundraising manager.

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# People

## *2019-2022 objectives*

- > Continue to involve parents and the community in supporting and delivering our street workshops.
- > Empower young people to progress and take on new roles and responsibilities.
- > Build the role of the international volunteer team, developing their leadership training and their support for Kids Kabin Middlesbrough.

## *What has happened this year?*

- Our teams in Newcastle and Middlesbrough have continued to engage and support a significant number of children and young people across our delivery locations. Covid restrictions and disruptions have led to a small reduction in total numbers of participants and attendances. However, overall numbers remain consistent with previous years. Across all Kids Kabin activities, 980 participants have taken part (1173 in 2019-2020) in 687 workshops (677 in 2019-2020). These children and young people have taken part 5449 times (total attendances, as compared to 6490 in 2019-2020).
  - We have appointed 2 new project workers in Middlesbrough, Dean Ross Tinkler and Brandon Fox, to support workshops there. The Middlesbrough team have also been supported on a weekly basis by 2 members of our international volunteer team.
  - We have seen a reduction in regular community volunteering as a result of Covid. However, we have also been very fortunate to have had 3 full time international volunteers as part of our team over the year (thanks to the Assumption Volunteer Programme). This has given consistency and capacity through the turbulence of the last year.
  - The focus of work with parents has been in building relationships and developing strong communication practices across our locations. This has enabled us to more effectively communicate the changes to delivery resulting from lockdowns and restrictions.
  - Our work with young volunteers has focused on a number of progression projects. These have enabled groups of young people to take part in 'Making a Difference' projects to benefit their own communities. Groups in Cowgate have made flower planters for the church hall and young people in Byker and Daisy Hill have cleaned, tidied and improved community gardens.
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## *Future plans*

- Further developing the roles of the Assumption Volunteer Team, the ‘international’ volunteers, focusing on their progression and leadership roles.
- Increasing the number of community volunteers, after the reduction caused by Covid.
- Continuing to promote and develop progression routes for children and young people, through young volunteering and ‘Making a Difference’ projects.



*A very happy return to Rupert's Wood with 6 summer camps*

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# Places

## *2019-2022 objectives*

- > Continue to commit to our Newcastle communities.
- > Build Kids Kabin Middlesbrough.
- > Explore new opportunities in a third city.

## *What has happened this year?*

- Kids Kabin Newcastle teams continue to work with and support our 5 core communities – Walker, Cowgate, Pottery Bank, Daisy Hill and Byker.
- Kids Kabin Middlesbrough continues to grow. Last year's report highlighted the development of the Kids Kabin base at 36 Laurel Avenue, Grove Hill. Since then, the team have worked with partner organisations to set up and deliver workshops from the Charwood Centre in Thorntree/Brambles Farm, with further support from the Thirteen Housing group. Middlesbrough delivery now focuses on 3 core neighbourhoods – Grove Hill, Thorntree/Brambles Farm and Easterside.
- Across our 8 delivery locations we are now running more than 20 workshops in an average week.
- Last year's report also outlined plans to research the development of Kids Kabin delivery in a third town or city with pilot workshops running in Summer 2021. Ongoing Covid challenges have limited the scale of these developments and directed our focus on Newcastle and Middlesbrough. However, in response to a request from the Family Time team at Hartlepool Borough Council, we trained their team in street workshop delivery and co-delivered workshops with them to help them kickstart their summer programme.
- The kitchen redevelopment at the Church Walk centre is making steady progress, amidst a range of challenges for the building trade over the last year.

## *Future plans*

- Continuing to develop and welcome new geographical skill sharing partnerships – following the positive outcomes of the Hartlepool collaboration.
  - Opening the new kitchen and Kids Café facility at our main centre in Newcastle by January 2022.
  - Continuing the establishment and development of our 3 centres in Middlesbrough.
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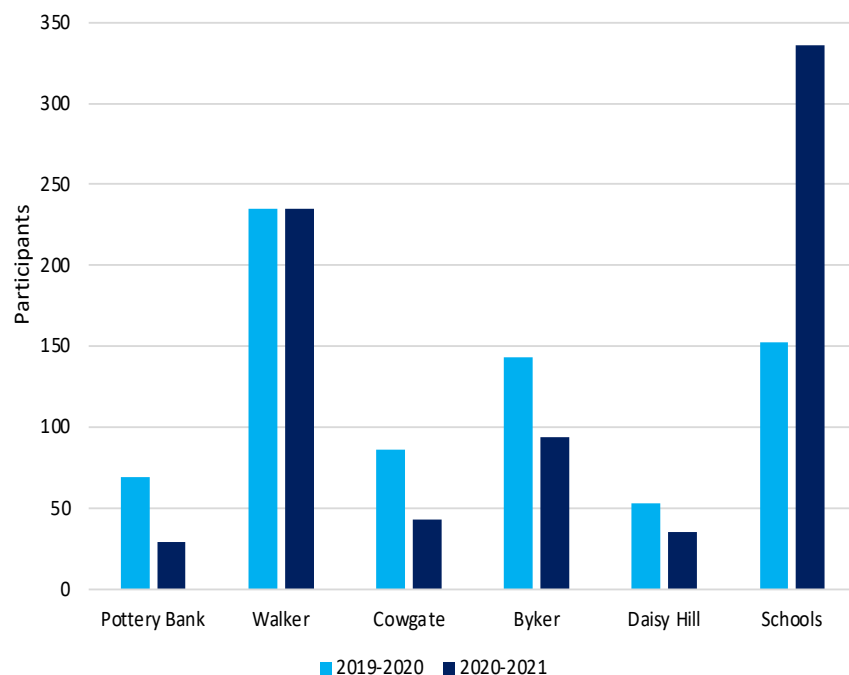
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# Attendance numbers

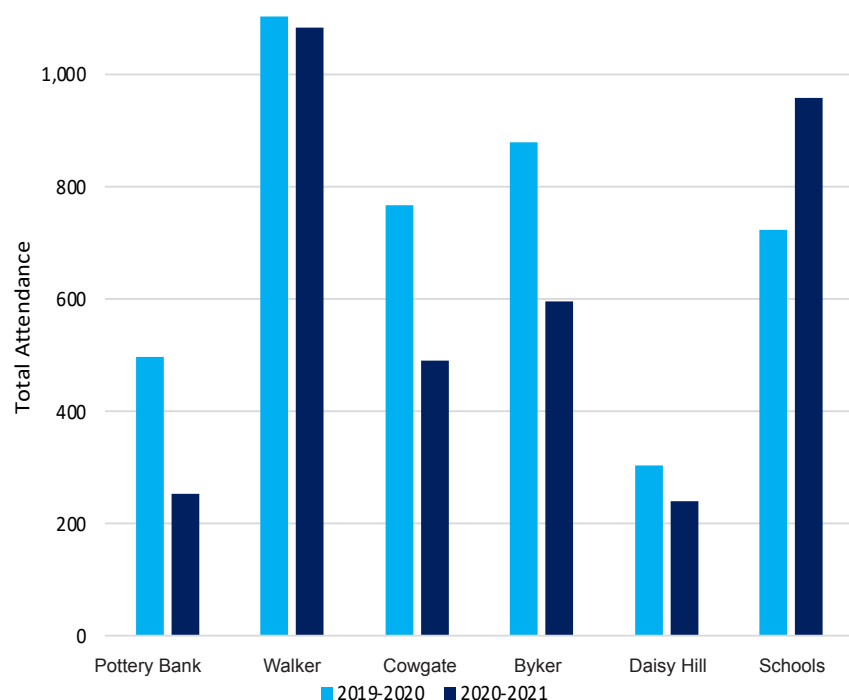
## *(Children and Young People) at Kids Kabin Newcastle*

Attendance data shows a decrease in numbers of participants at Newcastle satellites, caused by the impact of Covid on street delivery. This is offset by a significant increase in school delivery, a key element of our lockdown response

1. Numbers of unique individuals taking part at each Newcastle location, 2019-20 and 2020-21



2. Total number of attendances (i.e. footfall) at each Newcastle location, 2019-20 and 2020-21



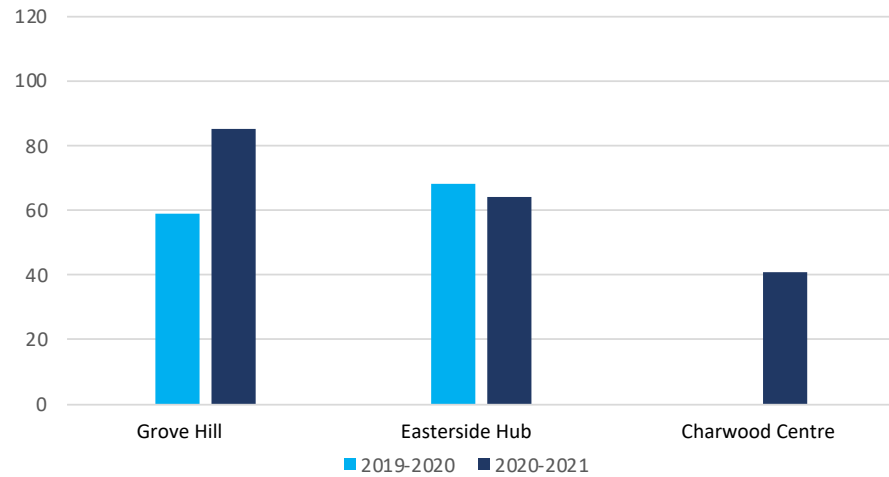
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# Attendance numbers

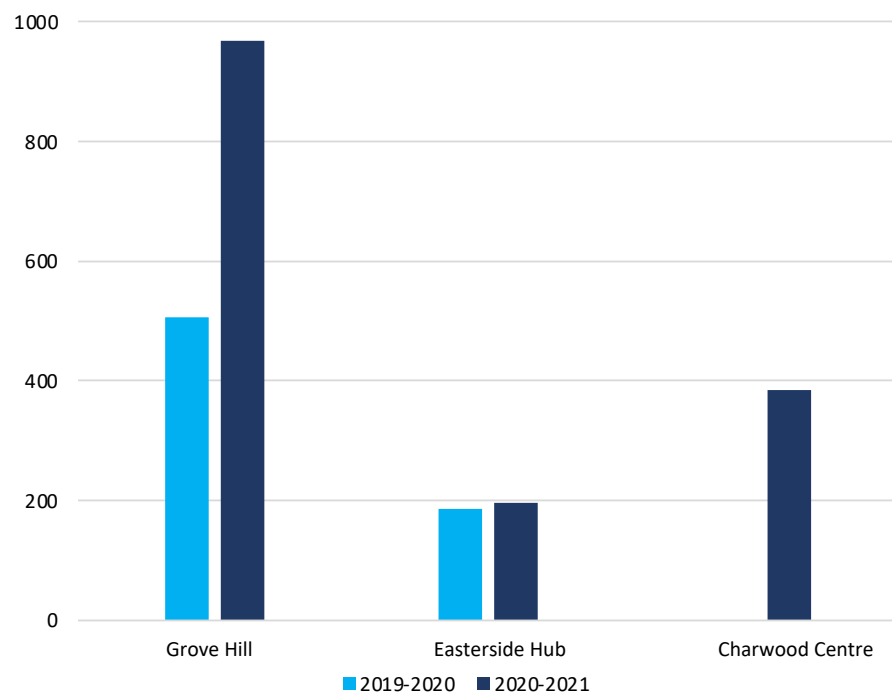
*(Children and Young People) at Kids Kabin Middlesbrough*

Attendance data shows an increase in the number of participants at the Grove Hill base and the third Middlesbrough satellite at the Charwood Centre in Thorntree/Brambles Farm.

1. Numbers of unique individuals taking part at each Middlesbrough location, 2019-20 and 2020-21



2. Total number of attendances (i.e. footfall) at each Middlesbrough location, 2019-20 and 2020-21



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# Partnerships

## *2019-2022 objectives*

- > Share practice and innovation with other organisations, learning from them and helping them develop – for example, helping them become mobile and meet more people on the streets.
- > Work with both the voluntary and community sector and businesses and find mutual benefits in these partnerships.

## *What has happened this year?*

- We have continued to develop our practice sharing partnerships, starting with our collaborative street bike mechanics workshops in Byker. In September 2020, we restarted street delivery, adapting it to create a covid secure ‘Dial a Repair’ scheme using online and phone booking, working with family bubbles. In April 2021 we resumed open street workshops alongside Recyke Y’ Bike and Byker Children and Young People’s Partnership.
  - In April 2021, the family time team at Hartlepool Borough Council contacted Kids Kabin asking for support to engage a targeted community through street delivery. We worked together in summer 2021 to empower them to make this happen – as shown in the case study below.
  - Community partnerships in Walker and Byker in Newcastle continue to collaborate to target need and deliver community activities together. In December 2020, the Walker Workers brought Christmas cheer and celebration at a challenging time – through a fancy-dress horse and bike parade through the streets of Walker. In summer 2021 we restarted the Walker Outdoor Week Community Festival.
  - Kids Kabin is currently working with Northumbria University and Beamish Museum on an intergenerational creativity project, linking groups from Kids Kabin with elderly ‘makers’ from Beamish.
  - Kids Kabin Middlesbrough is developing a number of exciting new partnerships. For example, the team are working with Thirteen Housing, the Community Police team and local partners to turn a derelict back alley into a safe and tidy play street and community garden.
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## *Future plans*

- Building on our new partnerships – Learning and developing the work with Beamish, and continuing to work with and share practice with partners in Hartlepool
- Collaborating with local Universities – Exploring how community partnerships can best support Universities and researchers to engage with the neighbourhoods in which we work.
- Developing collaborative training – Kids Kabin is a member of the Neighbourhood Youth Projects partnership. We are currently setting up an apprenticeship scheme, to enable each organisation to recruit a trainee and for this new cohort to work and train together and learn from other youth organisations.



*The Walker Workers delivered a week of activity in Walker Park, with over 250 children taking part in 2021*

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# Case Study

## *Collaboration and skill sharing*

**‘Thinking outside the building – street workshops in Hartlepool – Summer 2021’  
Congratulations to Hartlepool Family Time team for taking their activities out on the streets, daring to do things differently and introducing a new way of working.**

The Family Time Team support families across Hartlepool, delivering physical activities and promoting wellbeing. The team see big differences in engagement by families across Hartlepool, with particularly low levels of participation in some areas. Therefore, the team decided to try to work in a new way to reach children and families in the Victoria ward, an area of poverty near the town centre.

Louise George, Family Time team member, had heard about Kids Kabin’s bike trailers and street workshops and got in touch. Together, we came up with a simple approach. It was clear that Louise and her team had all the enthusiasm and skills needed – with ample experience of community engagement and activity delivery. They just needed to see a street workshop in action, be given a few pointers and that little ‘nudge’ to make it all happen.

Therefore, after putting our risk assessments in place and getting things in order, Kids Kabin and Family Time joined up to run 2 street sessions together – the first a bike repair walkabout, offering free bike repairs and spreading the word about the up-and-coming Saturday street workshops. Three days later, on the first Saturday of the school summer holidays, the Kids Kabin pottery wheel and smoothie bike were in action alongside the Family Time arts and crafts activities. The sun shone and families started to appear. Children went off and came back with their friends. The programme was underway.

Over the next 5 weeks, the Family Time team ran a range of workshops introducing basketball, treasure hunts, different arts and crafts and more bike mechanics. They linked up with other local partners and have come up with new partnerships, plans and ideas. Overall, more than 30 children and parents got involved and the team are looking to run similar projects in the future. Family Time and Kids Kabin will continue to stay in touch, sharing experiences and finding new ways to support and empower children and families.

***“It’s easy to have a good idea on paper, but the difficult part is making it real. We’d have probably talked about it forever. Kids Kabin showed us what to do by ‘just doing it’, getting out there and making it happen. They’ve given us the confidence to change the way we work and to ‘just try it!’”*** –

Louise George, Family Time Team, Hartlepool Borough Council.

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# Processes

## *2019-2022 objectives*

- > Innovate and develop new street workshops and exciting new activities for children and young people.
- > Develop the use of data, technology and systems within the organisation to learn more about the impact of our work and how to make the most of what we are doing.

## *What has happened this year?*

- In response to Covid safety requirements, the team have continued to adapt delivery. For example, between October 2020 and June 2021, we increased our Newcastle school delivery to 4 workshops a week. These workshops took place on school premises, focusing on bushcraft, campfire cookery and outdoor furniture making. This enabled 450 children to participate in these workshops, an increase from a previous average of 250 participants each year.
- We have continued to use a range of outdoor spaces and adapted engagement methods, including the introduction of ‘doorstep’ repair workshops, using online and phone bookings.
- In May 2021, with the relaxation of restrictions, we resumed our conversation ‘interviews’ with participants to measure impact. The results of these conversations are described below.
- To ensure high quality delivery and the sharing of practice across the organisation, individual delivery teams are now setting, reviewing and sharing their working objectives and creative ideas.

## *Future plans*

- Increasing fundraising capacity – As Kids Kabin grows, we see the increasing importance of developing our fundraising capacity and diversifying our approaches to income generation.
  - Developing leadership skills in the organisation – International (AVP) volunteers and young volunteers are becoming increasingly important in our delivery model. We are improving how we support these young people as leaders.
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# Measuring impact

**To help us understand impact and outcomes, we interview participants every 6 months. Postponed during COVID, we restarted interviews with a small sample of 36 children in May 2021. This has given us an initial picture of outcomes over the last year:**

- All participants report new practical skills and increased confidence in at least one activity. Improvements in skills and confidence vary by activity, from 97% of participants reporting increased confidence in woodwork and cookery, decreasing to 78% in arts and crafts and 16% in drama. These numbers also reflect our focus on outdoor workshops – cookery, bushcraft and woodwork – and the limits we have faced delivering groupwork (e.g., drama)
  - 94% of participants reported an improvement in social confidence. One participant says, “I’ve learnt how to talk to people more. I feel more confident talking in front of people and talking out loud in a group.” A parent has explained how Kids Kabin has helped her child reengage after lockdown, “He never goes out or sees anyone else, but he really looks forward to coming to Kids Kabin now it’s back on - it’s all he’s talking about.”
  - 81% of participants have explained that they are more confident to share their skills with others and 78% have reported that they are more confident to use the skills they have learnt at home.
  - Schools also report impact. The headteacher of Central Walker Primary School has told us “*Without Kids Kabin’s encouragement, creativity and support, many of our children would not have flourished in the ways that they have - both during lockdown and prior to it.*”
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# Conclusions

Kids Kabin has adapted to the challenges of Covid and has been able to continue to bring fun, happiness, creativity and learning to hundreds of children over the last year. Supporters, funders and friends continue to help us achieve our aims and our team of trustees, staff, volunteers, parents, partner organisations and kids continue to work together to create thousands of positive opportunities.

Therefore, we must say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed, each in their own unique way, to maintaining positivity and action throughout these recent challenging times.

Moving forward, we will continue to target the highest levels of need, supporting the ongoing recovery from Covid and challenging inequality and disadvantage. We will engage our local communities in this process. Kids Kabin teams in Middlesbrough and Newcastle and their respective satellites will collaborate, support each other and continue to share experiences and learning. We will also look outwards to find new partnerships and new opportunities.

We look forward to 2022 and beyond with confidence and determination.



*Kids Kabin Middlesbrough organised a Whitby day trip for children and families from Grove Hill*

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