



The Salvesen Mindroom Centre

no mind left behind

"Your advice and support have been invaluable. It has been a very stressful experience but having an organisation like The Salvesen Mindroom Centre supporting us has made the navigation of the process easier."

Parent of a child with complex support needs

**ANNUAL
REVIEW
2017**

Some Highlights of 2017

We **changed our name** from Mindroom to The Salvesen Mindroom Centre.

We recorded more than **30,000** visits to our website and our Facebook posts reached over **70,000** people.

Busier than ever before, in 2017 we responded to an average of **26 initial enquiries**, over **270 phone calls** and **940 emails** related to our family work every month.

We **revised** our key publication, *It takes all kinds of minds*. With the support of the General Teaching Council of Scotland, we delivered over **85,000 copies**, including one to every registered teacher and student teacher.

A new Ambassador joined us – **Rory Bremner**, who has spoken publicly about his own ADHD journey.



“I can’t thank Mindroom enough for the support they have provided and the positive effect it has had on our son’s inclusion within school. Thank you Mindroom!”

Parents of an 11 year old boy who has ASD and Dyslexia

The feedback from teachers and the GTCS is that every child in a class of 30 or more will benefit from a better-informed teacher, not just the 5 or more young people with learning difficulties. And for families, better knowledge and ways of supporting a child with learning difficulties helps not just the child but any siblings. So, you can see how **thousands have benefited from our work**.

Introducing our Chair **Anton Colella**



In Summer 2017 we welcomed our new Chair, Anton Colella. Anton explains his motivation for taking on this key role:

I began my career as a teacher, working in schools in some of Glasgow's most deprived areas.

My passion for helping young people to reach their potential dates back to that time and, although I have since attained the highest level in global business, this goal remains most important to me.

When I was approached by the Board of Trustees to take on the role of Chair I was immediately impressed with the utter determination and commitment that had brought the charity from its beginnings around Sophie and Robin Dow's 'kitchen table' to its present standing as a small, but growing, charity making a huge impact and aimed at becoming a world-leader.

More than a quarter of all Scottish school pupils need learning support, while the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services struggle to meet waiting time targets. Without the right support, children are at risk of loneliness and isolation. These are the problems we urgently need to address.

I believe this is a time in which The Salvesen Mindroom Centre can make a real difference through its unique combination of a collaborative approach, providing direct help and support to families, awareness raising activities and a clear focus on the power of research to transform lives.

Our Vision

A world where no mind is left behind and where every person with learning difficulties receives the recognition and support they need to achieve their potential

In 2017, Mindroom became The Salvesen Mindroom Centre. As we previously reported in 2016, this was substantially due to a generous funding donation by Alastair and Elizabeth Salvesen. The funding brings us together with the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian to set the foundations for a centre where direct help and support, clinical expertise and research will ultimately combine to address and resolve learning difficulties.

The Salvesen Mindroom Centre team, delivering the Vision

Direct Help and Support remains at the heart of our organisation and what we do.

In 2017, we were delighted to welcome 3 new members of the Direct Help and Support service.



Identifying the demand for our service and the wider national context

There is a well-recognised picture in Scotland, wherein additional support needs (ASN) in schools are increasing, although the number of specialist teachers and support staff is decreasing. The incidence of exclusion among children and young people with ASN has risen, and bullying, isolation and loneliness are becoming more pronounced. Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), meanwhile, are stretched.



Our work is built around four strategic priorities

1

Empowering Families

Our unique Direct Help and Support service will transform the lives of those living with learning difficulties by:

- ▶ engaging creatively with children and young people with learning difficulties to achieve their potential and improve their wellbeing
- ▶ supporting more families across Scotland to secure positive outcomes, through working with professionals in school, health and social care and other services
- ▶ building confidence and reducing loneliness

2

Developing Knowledge and Awareness

Our outreach service will be a leading provider of trusted information and training about learning difficulties by:

- ▶ tailoring our resources to meet the needs of families, children and young people and professionals nationally and internationally
- ▶ hosting workshops and large-scale events
- ▶ developing a world-class website with online resources

Professor Moira Whyte, University of Edinburgh, hosts The Salvesen Mindroom Centre at the Playfair Library



3

Collaborating and influencing

The Salvesen Mindroom Centre will play a major role in raising awareness of learning difficulties across local, national and international boundaries by:

- ▶ consistently highlighting the experience of families living with learning difficulties in local and national policy fora
- ▶ delivering innovative projects with key partners, and disseminating learnings worldwide

4

Leading research

With our research partnerships, and close engagement with the NHS, The Salvesen Mindroom Centre will develop a world leading research portfolio to:

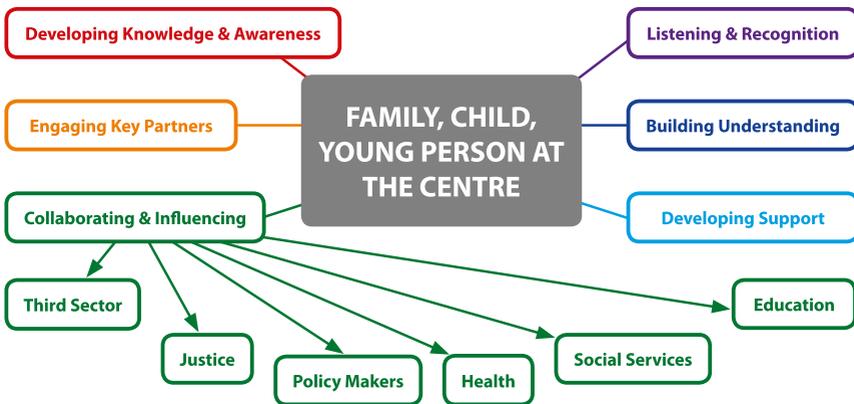
- ▶ identify the top ten research priorities for learning difficulties
- ▶ make a real difference in the lives of those living with learning difficulties and deliver short, medium and long-term benefits
- ▶ link research with lived experience in a transformational way

Our team visits the Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences at the University of Edinburgh



Priorities in action 1: Empowering Families

In 2017, our Direct Help and Support team worked directly with hundreds of families, and a growing number of professionals. Our activities enabled us to reach out directly and indirectly to thousands of people living and working with children and young people affected by learning difficulties. Our outreach model clearly shows how we work to put the family, and child or young person at the centre.



Through our outreach support we have given information and advice, helped with preparation for meetings, and supported families to be confident in attending:

- ▶ Child plan meetings
- ▶ Multi-agency meetings
- ▶ Children's hearings
- ▶ School placement visits
- ▶ Additional Support Needs Tribunals
- ▶ Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services team meetings

In February 2017, we showcased the family work of The Salvesen Mindroom Centre at an event attended by HRH the Princess Royal, in her role as Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh. The Chancellor met several families we have supported. This also provided an opportunity to hear about some of the vital research being carried out by the SMC Research Centre for Learning Difficulties, such as:

- ▶ Learning difficulties research priority setting partnership
- ▶ Validating the Child and Adolescent Screening Questionnaire (CAIDS Q)
- ▶ Clinical features of previously undetected intellectual disability in children aged 6 – 18 years

More than ever before, The Salvesen Mindroom Centre is reaching out to tell the stories of those living with learning difficulties.



We delivered **12 drop-in sessions** to parents and carers who attend The Yard venues in Edinburgh and Fife

We worked with **Children's Hearings Scotland** to identify ways to support Children's Panel members to have a better understanding of learning difficulties

At The Gathering, Feb 2017



This year we took part at the SECC in Glasgow for **The Gathering** and the **Scottish Learning Festival**. Our team engaged with a huge range of third sector organisations, and with education professionals at all stages of their careers.

Our Chief Executive, Christine Carlin, was the keynote speaker in Manchester, at a full-day event on autism, and our Founder, Sophie Dow, gave a key speech to a conference in Stockholm, which was attended by Princess Madeleine of Sweden.

We engaged in over **150 meetings** with our key partners with a view to raising the profile of learning difficulties and reaching more parents and carers

“I really want to show my gratitude – you have been there when all other organisations and charities turned us away as we did not meet criteria for help as he did not have a diagnosis. I was literally ready for a breakdown and you have all helped support me and that has kept me strong and believing in myself.”

Parent of a primary age child with complex needs

Priorities in action 2: **Developing Knowledge and Awareness**

We have been overwhelmed by the success of our revised guide to learning difficulties, **It takes all kinds of minds**. With the fantastic support of the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) we provided a copy to every teacher registered in Scotland, and to all the teaching students at 8 Scottish Universities and the Royal Conservatoire. As a result, we distributed more than **85,000** copies in 2017.

We are especially grateful to the young people who feature in **It takes all kinds of minds**: Amber, Daniel, Estella, Jennifer and Owen, and to their families, for their continuing support and encouragement.

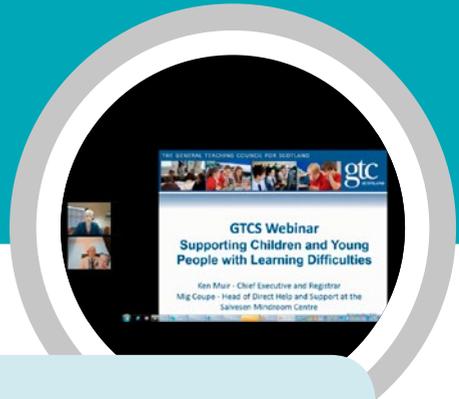
Demand for the guide is growing weekly and here are just a few things that people have said:



“It has quickly become established as a key reference in supporting the professional learning of students and teachers across Scottish schools. In addition, it is already being translated into several different languages by visitors to the Scottish education system who see the positive professional learning opportunities provided by the booklet.”

Ken Muir, Chief Executive of the General Teaching Council for Scotland

Mig Coupe and Ken Muir
hosting the webinar



“I felt the need to write to you directly to tell you what a brilliant booklet ‘It takes all kinds of minds’ is. It is so practical and user friendly. We currently have 60 staff and would be keen for every member of staff to read this as part of their professional development and reflection.”

Deputy Head Teacher, Primary School

Similarly, the webinar that Mig Coupe, our Head of Direct Help and Support, took part in with Ken Muir of the GTCS was one of the most successful that GTCS has hosted. Some of the teachers who participated gave their feedback:

“Great webinar this evening. Some super, practical strategies to try in class. Thank you.”

“I just participated in the above webinar which was excellent! Thank you for an excellent CPD opportunity.”

“Another very interesting and informative webinar full of lots of practical strategies. I am a supply teacher in Secondary and have found the webinar format really useful.”



We delivered numerous well-regarded workshops tailored to differing needs in 2017. Examples of the varying audiences include:

We supported **Edinburgh Airport** in its successful quest to gain recognition for its service to passengers with reduced mobility and hidden disabilities, providing training to its Special Assistance team.

“Great training and brought greater knowledge of all disabilities, which helps.”

Delegate, Edinburgh Airport

We offered training with parents and carers, **East End Carers**, Glasgow, on the work we do and how to access our service.

“Keep on the hard work to improve legislation to protect all the children and all the families in Scotland.”

Parent carer

We met with a local CAMHS service and explained The Salvesen Mindroom Centre model and how we work to empower families.

“Everyone in the team informed me that they found the session very helpful and they have started identifying families where your service could be beneficial.”

CAMHS workshop organiser

Priorities in action 3: Collaborating and influencing

Our Direct Help and Support service follows the national policy of Getting It Right For Every Child (**GIRFEC**). We pay heed to the **National Improvement Framework**, which is focussed on excellence through raising attainment and achieving equity.

Collaborative projects 2017	
General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)	Working with GTCS to get <i>It takes all kinds of minds</i> to every teacher registered in Scotland Highly praised Webinar giving teachers ideas and 'tools' to use in the classroom Interview in Teaching Scotland magazine
The Yard	Delivering outreach sessions for families in Edinburgh, Dundee and Kirkcaldy
Edinburgh Airport	Staff training Key member of the Disability Community Consultation Group
Children's Hearings Scotland	Engaged in capacity building for Children's Panel members
Barclays Bank	Disabled access day public event
Scottish Government/ Corra Foundation	Recipient of funding under the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund and Adult Learning and Empowering Communities Fund (CYPFEIF & ALEC Fund)



We have grown our profile as an organisation that takes part in **national policy decision-making**, such as the Advisory Group on Additional Support for Learning, the GIRFEC Third Sector group and through membership of several parliamentary cross-party groups. We are also a founding member of 'for Scotland's Disabled Children,' a coalition of agencies advocating for families with disabled children.

We have also consistently raised the profile of the issue of **loneliness and isolation** for children and young people with learning difficulties. We authored a blog for Voluntary Health Scotland and highlighted to key decision-makers that this issue has a significant adverse impact on the mental health of children and young people.

Our work is supported and promoted by The Salvesen Mindroom Centre Ambassadors: **Rory Bremner, John Frame MBE, Dr Loretta Giorcelli OAM** and **Prof Eileen Hogan**



We submitted **9 consultation responses** and **attended 10** Parliamentary cross-party group meetings

We have had a level of involvement with **25 of the 32 local authority** areas in Scotland during 2017

Our team attended more than **90 training courses and events**

Priorities in action 4: Leading research

Our primary focus in 2017 has been to work on a project with the University of Edinburgh and the James Lind Alliance to identify the top ten research priorities for learning difficulties.



A scientific advisory board chaired by Professor Sir John Savill has been established to provide the scientific and clinical expertise that will inform and advise upon our research aims. We are making progress towards our goal to take a lead on research, while disseminating research findings to families and professionals so that the learning can inform practice and service delivery.

2017 also saw the start of our participation in an important Scotland/ England research partnership on Additional Support for Learning led by the Centre for Research in Education Inclusion & Diversity (CREID) at University of Edinburgh.



The SMC Research Centre for Learning Difficulties project video 2017

A Big Thank You

We are only able to help families; raise awareness; collaborate with and influence policy makers and service providers, and stimulate research, because of the incredible support we receive from individuals and organisations.

We have benefited from expertise and funds as well as the gift of time. We especially appreciate the key ongoing encouragement and very generous financial support of Alastair and Elizabeth Salvesen. Amongst many others we are very grateful to:

James and Morag Anderson	Margaret Murdoch Charitable Trust
The Brownlie Charitable Trust	Miss E.C. Hendry's Charitable Trust
Cairn Energy	The Nancie Massey Charitable Trust
Wendy Campbell	Research Scotland
Cruden Foundation	The R S MacDonald Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation	Saints & Sinners Club
Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers	The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
John Frame MBE	St. James's Place Foundation
John Kirkhope Young Endowment Fund	The Hugh Fraser Foundation
Jorge Correia	The James Sim Trust
The JTH Charitable Trust	The Martin Connell Charitable Trust
Kat Gollock Photography	The Scottish Government
Ken Muir CEO GTCS	WCH Trust for Children
	Plus several anonymous donors

A huge thank you to all those who contributed to, or participated in our highly successful events Mindroom at Muirfield and The World Short Hole Golf Pairs Championship.

We rely on this generosity to continue to ensure that children and young people with learning difficulties are supported to make the most of their precious lives. Thank you to everyone who has helped us during 2017.

Governance and Finance

The Salvesen Mindroom Centre is committed to pursuing excellence in all aspects of its work. This includes our approach to governance, financial management and fundraising as much as to activities on behalf of individuals with learning difficulties.

We are member of the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations and use the information and advice they provide, together with that of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), to ensure that we follow best practice and comply with all relevant legislation. We have reviewed our policy and practice with regard to the General Data Protection Regulations which come into effect in May 2018. In addition, our Board will be considering OSCR's Fundraising Guidance for Charity Trustees as well as the revised Charity Governance Code.

We are very grateful that income in 2017 was a record and nearly double that of the year before. This was mainly due to the arrival in the late Autumn of 2017 of over £50,000 from the golf event we held at Muirfield. However, this achievement

needs to be considered alongside the planned deficit in 2016 (we had expected income to be low due to the ending of two significant multi-year grants).

The 44% growth in charitable expenditure is a better measure of our direction of travel as it reflects the impact of the additional staff employed and the increase in support offered to families as well as our collaborative and influencing work.



The winning team at Muirfield, 'Crainiacs'



Registering for the Short Golf Pairs Competition

The most significant source of income results from the generosity of Alastair and Elizabeth Salvesen – details of other funders can be found elsewhere in this Review. Our principal expenditure is on our staff team, without whom The Salvesen Mindroom Centre could not function.

In future, we plan to increase expenditure to fund a further increase in activity whilst ensuring that we hold to our policy of maintaining undesignated reserves of between three to six months expenditure.

Income	2017	2016
	£	£
Fundraising – Donations and Gifts	488,152	247,160
Other Income	56,654	35,341
Investments	521	362
Total	545,327	282,863
Expenditure		
Charitable Activities	425,564	296,317
Fundraising	18,933	35,242
Total	444,497	331,559
Net movement in Funds	100,830	(-48,696)

A copy of the Trustees Annual Report and audited Accounts can be found at www.mindroom.org/index.php/about_us/accounts

“Thank you again for taking the time to talk to me in February at The Gathering and for following up with the email responses. Our conversation was key. I phoned Dyslexia Scotland, booked a test with an Educational Psychologist and – yes! – our eldest boy does have dyslexia.”

Parent of 10 year old child in mainstream school



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