

**CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)**

**ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ**



# Annual Report 2018

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*The highlight of our year was the launch of a new project funded by UNICEF. Our Team in Gomel 'Supporting Children Together' is the Implementing Partner for a project which will improve the level and quality of support for families with children with disabilities in Gomel Region.*



**Charity No. 1059832**

# Recuperative Holidays

A four week holiday in a clean environment provides a great boost to the immune systems of children from Belarus.

All the children who come to stay with our groups are in remission from cancer. **Glossop and New Mills** hosted five year old children with their mothers.



**Endon and Stoke on Trent** hosted a group of young children and their mums in the spring and then a group of 18 older teenagers during the summer. They spent a fortnight with families and a further two weeks living together in Cicely Haughton School at Wetley Rocks.

Slightly younger teenagers came to stay with families in **Solihull** and they also spent half their holiday living together, in Lindsorth school in Kings Norton, Birmingham.

We are very grateful for the support of so many people which enables all the children to have a memorable and action packed holiday.



**Stafford** group hosted ten to twelve year olds, and a highlight of their holiday was an exciting week at RAF Shawbury.

Most of the children visited dentists and opticians, who are very generous in donating their time and providing free treatment and glasses.

# Volunteering in Belarus

Fifteen dedicated volunteers went to Belarus in the summer to ensure that children and young people with disabilities had a great holiday.

Marcin Witek travelled from Poland for the fourth time, and led the first group of volunteers at Ptich Sanatorium, with Lewis Greaves and Emily Savill leading the first group.



With support from the **Persula Foundation** and money raised by volunteers we were able to fund a holiday for 40 young adults with disabilities, who joined in with all the activities organised for the children of Rechitsa Boarding Home.



Lynne Murphy led the group who went to Zhuravichi and Vikov adult boarding homes to provide care and attention to residents young and old.



They were warmly welcomed by the Directors of both institutions and by all the residents who so look forward to their visit. Lynne, with the support of Brian Hardwick, also organized the Volunteers' Ball in Altrincham, raising £1,500 to fund 10 young people for a holiday at Ptich.





## Child Mental Health Project

Celebrating the success of a project started in 2017 with a grant from the **BEARR Trust** are the psychologists who worked on the project and some of the mothers. Using a mixture of group and individual work and including body therapy, this programme made a significant difference to the lives of almost all the 20 children who took part.



## Training in Belarus and the Unicef Project

In January, with officials from Unicef, Geoff Wright visited many institutions, centres and family associations in Gomel, Rechitsa and Rogachev. This was in preparation for the new project which Unicef would fund and our partner organisation, 'Supporting Children Together' would be the Implementing Partner.



The purpose of the project is to support families with children with disabilities, helping the children to reach their full potential, and making sure that they do not end up in institutional care.

In June Geoff was in Gomel again delivering several training programmes on: future trainers of foster carers, safeguarding and parenting skills in Rogachev, and coping with self harm for psychologists. Geoff also had meetings with Unicef and the British Embassy about a forthcoming project on Youth Justice. In November Geoff delivered training to all the staff involved with the Unicef project.

## Nuclear Free Future Award for CCP Director

In October Linda Walker was presented in Salzburg with the Nuclear Free Future Award for 'Solutions' for her work with children affected by the Chernobyl Disaster and her campaigning for a future free from Nuclear Power.



# Educational Visits to the UK

In March Vera Khitruk, **Head of the Institute of Inclusive Education in Minsk**, came to visit special schools and look at inclusion in mainstream schools in the UK.

In May we organised a visit for the **Deputy Governor of Gomel Region and the Directors of Education and Social Protection**. They took part in a wide variety of visits and meetings in Stockport, Manchester and Trafford.



Here they are learning about the integration of health and social care in Manchester. They also learned about fostering, safeguarding and commissioning of services in Stockport; supported work, supported tenancies, day care and short break services; and visited many special schools and charities providing care.



In September **Gomel Region's Chief Gynaecologist and Chief Paediatrician** came to look at pregnancy, delivery and post natal care in Manchester and Birmingham Hospitals.

In December the leaders of the three teams supporting families in Gomel, Rechitsa and Rogachev came to Stockport, Trafford and Essex to visit special schools and talk with social services as part of our **UNICEF Project**. All groups were accompanied by Natasha Samoilik.



## Supporting Children and Young People with Disabilities

We continue to fund our two family type homes for young people with disabilities – **Rodni Kut** in Rogachev and **Family Home 2000** in Klimovka, near Gomel.



During 2018 we were able to help a young woman living in an institution who became pregnant. She came to stay at Klimovka for a while before and after the birth of her baby. Social Protection has now provided a flat for Marina and her baby Masha and we continue to give her moral and practical support.



We fund two teachers to work extra hours at **Zhuravichi**. At **Vikov** in addition to the teacher we have funded for many years, we employed a psychologist during 2018 to help improve the lives of some of the residents.

We also worked with **Special School No 5, Babitchi Orphanage** and **Rechitsa Boarding Home**, and bought them computers and other equipment through funding from '**Godel**'.





## Our Palliative Care Team

Our Home Hospice nurses and doctor continued to provide great support to families caring for palliative children at home. We received a grant this year through the Belarusian Children's Hospice which enabled us to provide training for doctors and extra support for families.



## Thank You to all our Funders

We received grants during the year from **Action for Disability, the Persula Foundation and British Embassy in Minsk.**

Our **Charity Shop in Crook** has had another successful year, raising us £22,200 And our Indoor Market Stall in Stoke raised £8,800.



We are very grateful to the many companies, and organisations which have given generous support.

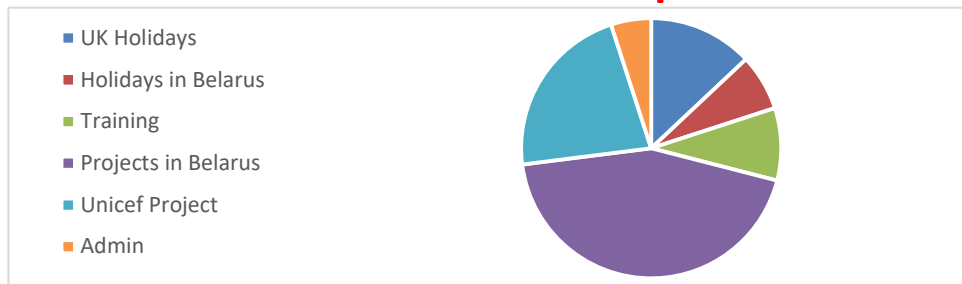
Particular thanks to **Godel Technologies** for their incredible support for our work in Belarus where they support our Hospice Team, Family Home 2000 and the provision of computers and other equipment for special schools.

We are also very grateful for all the individuals who have made generous donations or organized amazing fund raising events. Sallyanne Banks of the Endon and Stoke group organized a sponsored walk up Snowdon which raised over £3,500!



*We are very grateful to everyone who volunteers their time for CCP – running our local groups, hosting the children in the summer, going to the Holiday camp or Zhuravichi, volunteering in the shop or on the market stall, or giving their time and expertise to deliver training or to support educational visits.*

## **This is how our funds were spent in 2018:**



## **\*\*\*\*\*New Website!\*\*\*\*\***

In December Brian Hardwick and his son Robert created a wonderful new website for us. It is very lively and easy to find your way around and Brian will be regularly updating it.

**Have a look!**

**[www.chernobyl-children.org.uk](http://www.chernobyl-children.org.uk)**

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