

Boomerang Community Centre SCIO SC047467

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

**Creating a better everyday life for the people in our community**



**Boomerang Community Centre**

**10 Kemback Street Dundee**

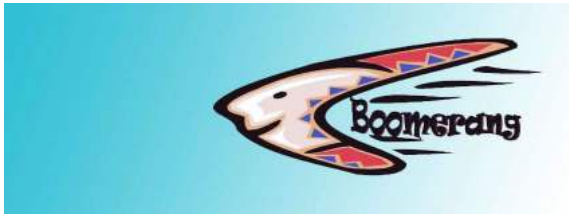
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Boomerang Community Centre SCIO  
SC047467

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

The Boomerang Community Centre SCIO

## VISION STATEMENT

Our vision at the Boomerang Community Centre is to create a better everyday life for the people in our community.

- To provide a safe, caring, friendly, listening environment by working in partnership.
- To bring people together to connect, signpost and improve social interaction.
- To provide delicious, nutritious meals made with seasonal food.
- To inspire people to grow and develop resilience.
- To improve mental and physical wellbeing by providing opportunities to remain fit and healthy.
- To help people enjoy life by providing affordable solutions.
- To strive to strengthen the community and reduce the harmful effects of poverty.
- To ensure all staff, volunteers and members feel respected and are treated with dignity.



Boomerang Community Centre SC10 SC047467

## **Message from the Chair**

### *Welcome to the 23-24 Annual Report*

*This time last year I took on the challenge of Interim Chair and was elected at the AGM to stay on which was an honour and privilege to have been elected by the Board of Trustees once again.*

*I would like to welcome our new Centre Manager Carrie Reid to the team, I hope she is settling in well in her new job role and we all wish her well for the future. The Board of Trustees are looking forward to what the next year will bring to the organisation.*

*I would also like to say a big thank you to our previous Centre Manager Gill Bain who has went on to pastures new. Gill had an uphill climb when she joined Boomerang and has been a great asset to the centre which has gone from strength to strength under her leadership.*

*I would like to say a big thank you to our trustees for their continued support, hard work and timeless dedication. The staff, volunteers, CLD students and all our funders and our partnerships, I can't say thank you enough, this centre would not run the way it does without you all and for that I am extremely grateful. We are funded by Dundee City Council, Henry Smith and the National Lottery to name but a few.*

*Activities at Boomerang has increased over the past year with lots of new groups suitable for all ages e.g. family cooking, adult cooking, Christmas cake decorating, and the re-starting of the model club to name but a few. We strive for our place to be a safe and happy environment for our participants to come along to. We focus on our members wellbeing, and still hope to create and continue to provide a safe, friendly and caring environment to connect people together and to reduce the awful effects of poverty and social isolation in our area. In 23/24 we will still be facing an economic climate and hardship faced by all those who use Boomerang's services.*

*Boomerang is still in a good financial position and can continue to work in this still uncertain time due to the cost-of-living crisis.*

*Thank you to everyone who makes Boomerang Community Centre the place it is today.*  
*Kelly Barnes - Chair*



**Boomerang Community Centre SCIO SC047467**

## **Partnerships/Engagement**

In the year 2023/2024 we welcomed many organisations into the Centre and held two networking events. These Events allowed us to know what was going in the Community and especially the Maryfield area of Dundee which made us be able to signpost the members of the public to the various organisations.

## **We Are with You**

We Are With You currently use the space at Boomerang to meet their clients on a one-to-one basis to work with them on their journey to recovery. They provide free and confidential services, without judgement, to adults facing challenges with drugs and alcohol.

***" Having the space at Boomerang it's not just about the privacy its meeting in a community space and helps me feel supported and feel re-connected and its great it is not a clinical environment". – Attendee***

## **KEEP WELL NURSE**

Bev, the Keep Well Nurse, has had regular drops ins at the Cosy Café throughout the year.

## **CONCERNS ADDRESSED**

Hunger/Food shortage	Hypertension	Weight management
Clinical measurements	Bowel screening query	Loneliness
Social issues	Chest infection	Drug dependency
Benefit query	Medication queries	Incontinence
Blood results	Podiatry	Menopause
Outstanding blood tests	Smoking cessation	Housing
Mental health crisis	Alcohol dependency	Toothache
Homelessness	Urine infection	Residential rehab

## **HEALTH BENEFITS**

- Blood pressure checks as required.
- Monitoring of weight with ongoing dietary advice.
- Holistic health assessments.
- Timely assessment of physical ill health.
- Identification and onward support to address unmet health needs.
- Motivation to make lifestyle changes and continue with these changes.
- Referral and signposting on to various agencies and partner services including GP, community pharmacy, recovery drop in café, men's drop in cage, community centres and food larders.

## **SUMMARY**

- ❖ Colourful laminated posters were displayed throughout Boomerang advertising the session dates and times.
- ❖ Positive, pro-active and trusted working relationship with staff, volunteers and service users continues.
- ❖ Feedback from service users who have attended a session have expressed the importance of them continuing. They reported that they are aware when the sessions are being delivered, trust is built up between the service user and the nurse and any health concerns they may have during the drop-in clinics can be addressed timely.
- ❖ Nurse has close links with GP's and has been in contact with surgeries on the service users behalf on a few occasions. This has been extremely useful as it remains challenging at this time to see a GP.
- ❖ Close working links with other agencies that also attend, or support Boomerang continue which promotes a person centred, seamless and holistic approach to care.
- ❖ By providing a locality-based nurse led clinic, this resulted in positive health and wellbeing outcomes in line with the Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership (DHSCP) Strategic and Commissioning Plan as well as addressing community priorities within the Local Community Plan (LCPP)
- ❖ Three nursing students were able to attend the drop in sessions resulting in them interacting with several service users.
- ❖ Room availability during the drop in clinic times has been sporadic therefore moving forward this would require to be agreed as it is essential a private room is available where confidential conversations can be had.
- ❖ The 7 sessions were delivered on the same days as the food larder and the isolation cafe which has resulted in more people being in the centre. This has worked well and has been agreed to continue until the end of 2024.

***“I find Bev very friendly and approachable and very re-assuring. I feel very comfortable and having this space to talk helps build trust and a closer relationship”.  
– service user Boomerang.***

### **Andys Man Club**

On average one man every two hours takes his life in the UK. Andys Man Club meets at Boomerang weekly on a Monday evening, they are a men's Mental Health Group available to men over the age of eighteen years. The group meets to try and break the stigma that its ok for men to talk about their mental health and how they feel. That's why ANDYSMANCLUB was born.

They have a set of questions they ask, and this gives the opportunity for the men to share any problems that they may have. Numbers for the Boomerang group vary between 20-30 men per week.

Within the Boomerang Centre they get to use the same space regularly for free which provides a stable environment for their attendees. They also have a break and although they provide tea bags, biscuits etc we allow them to use to use our facilities, and this helps keep costs down as Andys Man Club is a donation-based charity.

## **Community Champions**

For many years we have had a good relationship with the Community Champions at Asda Kirkton, Asda Milton and the Community Champion at Morrisons. The Community Champion from Asda West volunteers in the Cosy Café once a week providing valuable support to the team and has become a well-known and liked face at the Centre.

## **Nilupal Foundation**

In partnership with Maggie from the Nilupal Foundation we had “Food for Thought” Projects running again. These Projects prove to be very popular, and the participants do an hour of mindfulness then are shown a cooking demonstration and they take the ingredients home to cook a healthy meal. This course also helped people to learn to prepare healthy meals on a low budget not only for themselves but the whole family.

***“This class has benefitted me in learning new techniques and cuisines, to meeting new people and having fun. My confidence has also increased, and I am now cooking healthier meals for my family”. – Attendee***

## **Development Work - Engagement (Cosy Café)**

The Community police team attended our Cosy Café, “Coffee with a Cop”, to be available to our service users in an informal way and remove some of the fear and stigma. We were very grateful that they came in and everyone enjoyed talking to them.

We also welcomed various organisations into the Cosy Café helping people with benefits advice, gas and electric enquiries, scams and fire safety at home.

Our Cosy Café has seen a huge increase in numbers with **2457** attending and as well as getting refreshments etc people have met new friends and have been signposted to various organisations and have also started some of the activities we have here at Boomerang. This has resulted in an improvement in their mental health and wellbeing and social isolation.



## **Community Outreach and Engagement**

We welcomed Amy McLaughlin as we received funding from The Rank Foundation for a Time to Shine Intern this year. Amy has joined us as our new Outreach and Engagement Worker and has been getting out and about to promote everything that goes on at Boomerang which in turn has brought new people along to the Centre.

Information leaflets have been created about the services and opportunities available to hand out at various local networking Events. Amy has also contributed to the Facebook page, our most popular social media, and ran the X and LinkedIn Accounts. A Survey was also conducted at the start of the year to assess which areas we were doing well in, and which we could improve on.

She also helped in running the youth art group and youth games group every Wednesday and Friday evenings and this has allowed her to build trusting relationships with the young people and help them develop healthy friendships.

Also, as part of the "Time to Shine Leadership Programme", she was lucky enough to attend a residential conference in Leeds which was an opportunity to meet her cohorts, network, and build skills. This has been instrumental to her development work here at Boomerang.

Training opportunities were also offered to all the staff such as Suicide Prevention, Boundaries, First Aid Training and Child Protection.

A quarterly newsletter also went out to all our members at the centre keeping them all up to date what was happening at the centre.

## **Community Larder**

Our Community Larder has also seen a huge increase in people accessing it. Individuals pay a small fee for 8-12 items and depending on availability we can provide a variety of tinned and frozen foods, bread, fresh fruit and vegetables which are free, cleaning products and a range of personal hygiene products.

In the year 2023/2024 **6026** people accessed the Larder. Our volunteers in the Larder are very dedicated into the smooth running of it and have a listening ear to the people who attend.

Faith in the Community, Neighbourly and Fareshare Go has seen an increase in food donations to the Larder as well as local Churches, Schools etc donating food items.

We were in partnership with Fans Supporting Foodbanks Dundee through the month of November who collected food and monies for our Community Larder at the Dundee FC and Dundee United games and the fantastic sum of £1329.69 was raised from the bucket collections. Some of our staff and volunteers went along to assist at one of the collections.

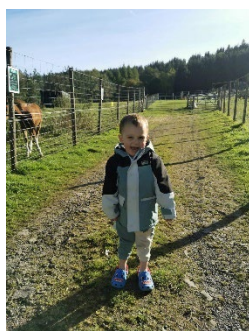
## TODDLERS

It has been a busy year for our toddlers Stay and Play group. We enjoyed a trip to Auchingarrich Wildlife Park in October 2023; this was partially funded by Cash for Kids which meant we were able to keep the cost minimal to be more accessible for our families. We were able to see many different animals and even got the chance to feed some goats! We had **26** children under the age of 5 attend this trip and **24** adults. This gave families a chance to spend time together without worrying about struggling financially to afford days out. It was also a chance to encourage the children to learn about different animals and to explore learning in a different environment.

We held our Halloween party on the 31st of October 2023, which was enjoyed by around **40** children and their Carers. We played lots of games, did lots of dancing and had many yummy food and treats! This again was free to make it as accessible as we can for families who are struggling.

November and December 2023 were particularly busy months for us. In November we had the Creative Learning Team come in to do a messy play workshop with our families, we decorated biscuits and made some Halloween crafts! We are hoping to continue this partnership going forward and are currently planning some sessions for the coming months. We were also very lucky to have had a performance of the Snow Queen from Shaper Caper. This was enjoyed by **20** families who were able to sing, dance and laugh together! We were grateful to have been able to see this show with no cost to Boomerang or our families, making it more accessible for our attendees.

In December we took a group of families to the V&A for their Get Set Yeti Exhibition which allowed the children to play a game of eye-spy inside the Tartan exhibit for free. This was engaging and allowed families who may not have been able to access the museum before a chance to explore it! We also hope to do more of these events this year. We also had our 2 Christmas parties on the 13th and 14th of December, where **50** children got the chance to meet Santa and received a present and selection box that were all gratefully received. We were so lucky to have had so many amazing donations in the lead up to these events! On the 22nd of March we had Vicki Armstrong from the DCA come in to do a messy play session, this was very well attended with over 20 families joining in the fun! We also had our Easter Parties in March 2024. We held 3 Parties and had just over 60 children attended! We ate lots of yummy food, played lots of games and, of course, did our Easter Egg Hunt! All children got to take home an Easter egg too which would not have been possible without the donations we received from Embark, Dundee Bairns and the general public. We have recently started putting on activities within our conservatory area, this was with the aim of making the sessions slightly more structured this includes using counting blocks for numeracy skills and picture cards for word association thus encouraging their learning and development, these have been received well and we are looking forward to seeing how these progress in coming months!



## **YOUTH PROVISION**

We have two very busy youth provisions. We have our youth art group that has been running since March 2023 and this year in January we started our youth games group.

We have been fortunate to have support for our art group in the form of an art tutor who graduated from Duncan and Jordanstone Art School and she has been helping our young people learning different techniques and skills such as papier Mache and collages. We are also currently working on making dolls from scratch using Clay and wire and will shortly be onto making clothes for these dolls. It has recently been confirmed that our art tutor will be funded again which is great news and we are looking forward to seeing what else our talented young people can create! Our art group has been our longest running youth provision and is being regularly attended by a core group of **12** kids, we have worked on various projects and even hosted our first art showcase in collaboration with Boomerang's adult art group where our young people were able to invite their families to come down and look at all the work they have been doing which was a massive achievement. Youth art group also had a visit from the Dundee Jazz Festival committee in November who came in to do a messy play workshop. Our young people had to paint and create pictures based on the sounds made when the bass instrument was played! They did both an individual and group project and had lots of fun painting (including painting their own faces!!). We are hoping to do more partnership working with our art group in the coming months.

***“It really is amazing how much you guys do and how well the staff know our kids, the work that Boomerang does and the family events they put on really do change lives” – a parent from the Art group.***

Our Games Group began on the 31st of January 2024, and this has been well attended this far! We have seen Just Dance Competitions, competitive games of Connect 4 and lots of fun and laughs! This group has grown in attendance, we have 12 children attend weekly and encourage friendships, teamwork and collaborative learning through games and activities. We have also been lucky with the weather recently which has enabled us to utilise the green space around the centre with a short walk to Baxter's Park with the group. By having this space, we can play larger group games such as hide and seek which further encourages teamwork and friendships. As there is a wide range of ages attending and also a mix of genders it can be a challenge to find activities that suit all, but having Baxter's on our doorstep has definitely helped us to navigate these challenges. We are looking forward to seeing how this group progresses in the coming months!

We are also looking forward to starting a study club after the school holidays as lots of our young people will be moving up to a new class. This group will enable young people to have a safe and quiet environment for studying, where staff can help with homework or provide support for any issues the young people may be having. We have good partnerships with the adult literacy team who we have received support from previously with both literacy and numeracy skills and this has been beneficial to not only our staff but to the people we are supporting.

## **HOLIDAY PROVISION**

In August 2023, we had 6 whole weeks' worth of fun! On Mondays we went on trips locally around Dundee, we went to Camperdown Zoo, Discovery, Blackness Road Fire Station, Dundee Science Centre, The Unicorn and Dundee Transport Museum. These trips were generously funded by Help for Kids. This enabled children who wouldn't be able to take part in these activities due to the financial implications to come along and have fun and make friends. We also had 6 weeks' worth of different themed activities every day that encouraged learning, self-directed play and artistic skills. As these were fully funded by Dundee Bairns, we were able to put these activities on for free. This enabled children from all backgrounds to take part. These were well attended with **12** different children attending per day. These included children from ethnic minority families, those in single parent households and young carers.

***“A really amazing Club and I made lots of new friends”– 6-year-old attendee***

***“I don't really go on holiday so taking part means I get to tell my teacher about all the things I got to do, especially going on the boat! I felt so cool” – 10-year-old attendee***

During the October Holidays in 2023 we had two family-based activities: a family film, and family bingo, these were well attended by families and enabled them to spend time together and have lunch without worrying about the financial implications. We also had two Halloween themed activities which were pumpkin carving, and Halloween games, which was kindly funded by Dundee Bairns! Our holiday provision was unfortunately cut short by Storm Babet as it was unsafe for our young people and their families to come to the centre.



## **FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S COOKING CLASSES**

We have had three 6-week blocks of both family cooking and children's cooking classes.

The very first block we ran was in May 2023, and for the family class we had **3** families attend, and these classes looked at cooking healthy meals for families on a budget.

In our children's cooking classes, we had 5 children who were learning basic cooking skills such as chopping vegetables and what items relate to which colour of chopping board to prevent cross contamination. We were also able to give Asda vouchers to our families to enable them to buy storage items such as herbs to use when cooking at home.

These groups were a massive success and some of the feedback was: -

***“Trying to cook healthy food has always been a challenge for me as it can sometimes be costly, but it's been nice to try new recipes and I am looking forward to trying***

***different things at home with the kids and looking at what items I can buy cheaper – no more branded beans”. – Attendee***

We ran another 6-week block in August 2023, this time we had **6** children attend the children's class and **2** larger families attend. In this cohort we were able to introduce games from the Community Cook It Toolbox, which was games and quizzes around healthy eating and trying to encourage families to consider their salt and sugar intake. This was the first time we had tried this, and it enabled the sessions to be more focussed and added another feature that didn't just focus on the cooking aspect. It allowed the families to work together to sort foods into categories based on sugar content and some of the sugarier foods came as a shock to parents as to how much sugar they contained.

Our final block ran in February 2024, we had **4** families attend, and **5** children respectively. Again, we were able to give out Asda vouchers that enabled families to buy store items and we reintroduced the games as the feedback from the last group said that they were really beneficial to their learning experience. The most common feedback for this group was as follows: -

***“Quality time with my mum”***

***“I really wish I could come back and do more cooking as I learned a lot about weighing ingredients and how to work as a team” - Child attendee***

## **Groups and activities**

### **Lunch Club**

The Lunch Club runs on a Monday to a Thursday at 12.15 pm. It not only provides a weekly nutritious meal but vital social interaction and sense of purpose for those that may be struggling with loneliness, a lack of support and/or lack of food. The people who attend enjoy a two course (sometimes three course) meal. The Lunch Club is the perfect place to meet new people, have a chat and play some games. By attending, lunch club staff and volunteers can ‘check in’ and signpost to any additional support that is available to individuals. Over the last year we have supported **2158** people through the daily lunch club.

Sam our Food Projects Co-ordinator started Boomerang’s “Cake of the Week” in November 2023 where she makes a different flavoured cake each week that our service users can purchase for a small fee. This has gone down very well with our service users and are always very excited to find out the flavour of the cake!

## **Model Club**

Our Model Club re-started in January 2024. This was the first time they had met since the COVID-19 pandemic. The Model Club kindly donated kits and we were also lucky to receive funding from the Dundee Partnership Fund – Community Regeneration Fund grant to purchase further materials which have now been purchased.

## **Conversation Café**

A Conversation Café also started up in January 2024, in partnership with Dundee City Council. This is a welcoming space to practice speaking English, make new friends, learn about other cultures and share your own stories. It is also a way of getting to know your community and simply have fun in a safe and friendly environment.



## **Fitness and Wellbeing**

Our fitness and wellbeing classes such as Chair Yoga, Pilates and Tai Chi continue to be well attended with an average of 30 people attending Pilates each week and over 30 attending the Chair Yoga. Over 10 people attend the Tai Chi. A Clubbercise Class also started up and numbers are increasing each week. These classes are good for people to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

## **Walk and Talk Group**

The Walk and Talk Group in partnership with the Dundee Community Health team is a very busy group, with over 60 people attending on a weekly basis. At a small cost they are treated to a plate of lovely homemade soup, bread, and refreshments.

## **Boccia**

Funding from The Nine Incorporated Trades allowed us to buy a Boccia set and this activity takes place straight after the soup and a roll. This group is also well attended with up to 20 people playing each week. Boccia is extremely beneficial for rehabilitative patients or wheelchair users as pain and discomfort felt from being immobile can be significantly alleviated. Boccia is also a sport which demands skill and accuracy.

***“My mood has improved tremendously since attending the Walk and Talk Group and Boccia at Boomerang. I feel less stressed and angry, and it helps me take time out and I feel more relaxed. My physical health has also improved and my confidence and self-esteem. I love my Fridays at Baxter Park and Boomerang”. – Service user***

## **Film Club**

Our service users meet up on the first Monday afternoon of the month to watch a film. They pick their own films that they wish to watch and have a little refreshment. For those with cognitive decline, watching a nostalgic film can trigger memories and prompt conversation. At the same time adults can use films to learn about the world and keep their brains active.

## **Drumming Group**

The Drumming Group also continued, thanks to the person leading the group receiving additional funding from the Wellbeing Mental Health Fund. This Group meet up on a Thursday evening. They also go out and about in the public playing their drums.

## **Adult Art Class**

The Adult art class meet up on a Tuesday evening and one of the service users was showing the class how to approach a life figure drawing. We also had a session in partnership with the Dundee Jazz festival where the class were doing art whilst the leader from the Dundee Jazz festival was playing music. The SHALA Charity very generously donated £1600 for workshops and materials, which the art class used to purchase new supplies.

## **Womens Confidence Course**

We held a very successful Women's Confidence Course run by Janet MacDonald, the coach, for 10 weeks in the Cosy Café every Tuesday and the women who attended felt that they got a lot out of these classes, and we've had feedback from one of the attendees that their friends and family have noticed a difference in them since the start of the course!

## **Tablet Training**

A six-week course was held in partnership with Dundee City Council training people how to get the best out of their tablets/iPads. A Presentation was held in March and the group were presented with Certificates from Councillor Short and Councillor Lynn. Those who attended these sessions found that it was very helpful and now they can apply their newly acquired skills in their day-to-day life.

***“I am 88 years of age and live in a top floor flat. I was struggling with my shopping but this six-week course has taught me to order my groceries online and delivered to me. It has made such a difference to my life”. – Attendee***

## **Reminiscence Group**

Our Reminiscence Group have had lots of interesting speakers attend including Professor Rob Duck from Dundee University doing a talk on the history and development of the Dundee Waterfront. The group also had a visit to Verdant Works in Dundee and were given a tour. We also had the Tay Valley Family History Society and the famous Dundonian Sheena Wellington attend the Centre and Sheena's topic was “Street Songs” and our group attendees loved the session.

## **Knit & Natter Group**

Our Knit & Natter group meets up every Monday at 1pm. These kinds of groups are for adults who enjoy knitting, crochet, cross stitch and other crafts. The participants can share hints and tips, swap patterns, meet new people and learn new skills.

The group attended all our Fayres in 2023 with the proceeds from their stall going to local charities including a sizeable donation to Boomerang.

## **Tea Dance**

Our Tea Dance group meets up every Tuesday at 1.30 p.m. and is enjoyed by over 20 members. This helps improve their balance, helps to maintain health and fitness levels and helps to maintain a social life.

## **Events**

We held a Burns Lunch on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, where Bill Beckers one of our Trustees came along to address the haggis, we had a Piper to play, and Clepington Primary School pupils entertained us with some Scottish dancing. We were even treated by Murray, who is one of our service users, playing the accordion.

A Valentines Afternoon tea was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February where we were entertained by the "Ukalia Rebels".

In March we held a Mother's Day Afternoon tea which many enjoyed. We had a fabulous performance from singer Paul Sullivan and were also entertained by the Ovarian Cysters.

We held several social events during the year 2023/24 including an Easter, Summer and Christmas Fayres. Dundee University continue to support our childrens's activities at the Fayres, the National Literacy Trust continue to donate new adult and childrens books, the SWE wrestlers came along to meet families and The Makaton Choir came along to entertain us. We had some fantastic donations of eggs for the Easter Fayre from Stobswell/Trinity Church, Embark, Help for Kids and the public. December seen a huge increase in people through the door due to us having a free Santa's Grotto.

We also held quiz nights in the Fort in Broughty Ferry as part of our fundraising efforts for the Centre and again these were very well attended.

A Charity Golf Day was also held in August. Over 20 teams attended on the day and again was a great success. We had tremendous support from many local businesses by either sponsoring holes or simply donating a prize for the raffle/auction on the day. Monies raised went into the running of the Centre.

We held a Charity Bingo night in January, Acari the Hypnotist came along to the Boomerang in February and a Mexican night was held in March. These were very successful and raised a substantial amount of money which goes back into the upkeep of the Centre.

## **Christmas activities**

Christmas was an extremely busy time for all the staff and volunteers here at Boomerang.

We had a Santa's Grotto at our Christmas Fayre which was attended by so many families. Asda supported us with an Empowering Local Communities Grant to put on our Christmas lunch and again the support of Scott and Anne-Harvey Chisholm was much appreciated. We were overwhelmed with donations to the run up to Christmas with donations of monies, food, toys, and more! Our Knit & Natter Group also presented us with a cheque for £500 which was greatly appreciated.

A Christmas buffet was also put on to thank our fantastic volunteers and there was a Christmas afternoon tea for our service users.

Christmas cake decorating classes were also held and our service users done an amazing job with designing their cakes.

Dundee and Dundee United Community Trusts invited some of our service users to attend a Christmas Lunch at Dens Park and Tannadice.

***“My family all live out of town and the run up to Christmas can be very lonely. By attending the Christmas activities improves my mental health and wellbeing at this time of year”. – Service user***



## **VOLUNTEERING**

We had many new volunteers sign up over the last few months which has taught them new skills and valuable work experience. People have made new friends and have said their physical and mental health and wellbeing has improved. They also feel that they have given something back and their confidence has improved. It has also given them a sense of connection to others in the community. It is also a way of them showing commitment to an organisation.

***“When I retired, I moved from the South of England back to Dundee. I have been volunteering for two years at Boomerang and have found it to be a very meaningful experience. Not only has it been for my physical and mental health and wellbeing it’s given me a purpose in life and I have made many new friends - thank you Boomerang”.  
- Volunteer***

### **Volunteers 2023 quarterly breakdowns**

April -June - 17

July-September - 14

October – December - 6

### **Area Breakdowns-**

Kitchen - 16

Toddlers - 6

Cosy Café - 9

Freecycle - 2

Reception - 4

Garden - 2

Drivers - 3

Youth work - 2

Floater - 3

### **Number of volunteers who have completed training-**

REHIS	-	<b>4</b>
First Aid	-	<b>2</b>
Suicide Prevention	-	<b>3</b>
Mental Health First Aid	-	<b>2</b>
First Aid (Heart Start)	-	<b>4</b>
Of minority background	-	<b>8</b>
From other organisations		<b>8</b>

(Dundee College, Princes Trust, Project Scotland – Bella Centre)

Volunteer hours accumulated = **11,989**

**In the first quarter of 2024 we had 26 new volunteers sign up.**

### **Area Breakdowns –**

Kitchen	-	<b>7</b>
Toddlers	-	<b>2</b>
Cosy Café	-	<b>10</b>
Freecycle	-	<b>2</b>
Reception	-	<b>7</b>
Garden	-	<b>2</b>
Youth Art	-	<b>2</b>
Befriending	-	<b>2</b>
Larder	-	<b>1</b>

Of minority background - **23** volunteers

Volunteer hours accumulated within the first 3 months of the year totals = **7,074**

## **MESSAGE FROM ACTING MANAGER:-**

As always, it's been a busy few months here at Boomerang and I must thank the staff and volunteers for their continued hard work.

The main priority over the last year was securing funding for the organisation, improving our partnership working and continuing to introduce new groups and activities, as well as reviewing the policies and procedures.

We have also seen some changes to the Board over the last year, with new Trustees joining the Board, bringing a wealth of experience to the organisation. Kelly Barnes stepped in as the new Chair of the Board and has brought a lot of enthusiasm and dedication to her role.

We continued over the year with our quarterly newsletters which has kept people updated with what has been going on in the Centre and of any future events and this has been well received.

We also continued with our Volunteer of the Month as a way of thanking all our dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to make Boomerang runs smoothly.

We would also like to thank our many funders for their support over the last year, Dundee City Council, Henry Smith, The National Lottery, Maryfield Regeneration Forum, Awards for All, Community, Capacity and Resilience Fund, Community Innovation Fund, Robertson Trust, Garfield Weston, and Northwood Charitable Trust, as well as some smaller grants. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising efforts over the year which has contributed towards the rising costs of the Centre.

I would like to thank everyone for their support this year and for all their hard work and dedication to making Boomerang the best it can be!

Alison Carr  
Acting Centre Manager



## **Treasurers Annual Report**

Boomerang Community Centre (SCIO)  
Scottish Charity SC047467

### **Treasurers Annual Report**

I would first, like to thank all the staff and many volunteers for their contribution to the smooth running of the Centre. The Centre has ten staff, with the recent addition during the year of Amy.

This year has been challenging because the building is beginning to show its age. Additional signage, the upgrade of the garden, replacement of the boiler, breakdowns of the lift and many more small maintenance problems have had to be taken care of.

Overall, during the year, the centre made an increase of £38,440 compared to a decrease last year of £9224. Restricted funds made an increase of £56,210 resulting from five new funding schemes coming on board during the year.

There was a reduction in the designated funds of £54,446 compared to an increase of £17,121 in unrestricted funds.

Maintenance costs were due to: -

Signage £806

Lift maintenance £1,423

Plumbing £5,164

Alarms £4,836

Miscellaneous £4,608

The gas prices rose significantly during the winter months, and it was discovered that the boiler needed replacing. It was found that the existing boiler was too large for what the building required hence a smaller boiler was installed and this should reduce the gas bills.

The electric costs have been shared amongst the various projects in the building, for example Larder, Kitchen, Wellbeing, Toddlers and Room Hire.

The kitchen has raised income comparable to last year due to work the staff have put into achieving this.

The toddlers fund transferred £6,000 to the Youth Fund but left a healthy balance of £6,574.

Income donations of £ 19625 were used to donate £6671 and transfer £5,000 to administration and £8000 to maintenance.

The Larder shows an increase of double the funds at the end of last year. It is partly due to donations and items not used in the kitchen, passed on to the larder therefore reducing its costs and artificially increasing the budget level.

The funding for the Centre is adequate to see it into 2024 and most of the maintenance is completed and should see a smooth running of the building this year.

Robert Wishart

Treasurer