



Hands on learning that helps drive change

GASP Motor Project provides hands-on courses in basic motor mechanics and practical engineering for young people aged between 14 and 19 years, who are living in Surrey and the surrounding area.

By teaching practical skills in a safe and supervised professional environment, GASP can help young people to change their behaviours, appreciate the value of teamwork, and prepare for the world of work. We empower them to progress through education, training and employment, gain confidence and self-esteem, and facilitate a successful transition to adult life.

Through our work, GASP also supports the advancement of crime-resistant communities, diverting young people at risk of anti-social behaviour and providing alternatives to problematic alcohol and drug misuse.

Our GASP Purpose and Vision

- To help young people **change behaviours** and support them in making a successful transition to adult life
- To support young people to progress through **education, employment and training**
- To prepare young people in a practical way for the world of work
- To enable young people to experience the **value of teamwork**, focusing on personal, social and emotional development



“These young people – who have previously struggled in traditional educational settings – have responded very positively to a practical motor workshop environment, through the expert tuition provided by the GASP team.”

Mike Blower, Divisional Manager for ISSP, Groupwork and Bail and Remand at Surrey Youth Justice Service (2011)

What we deliver

Our accredited daytime programmes are delivered from a purpose built workshop by a skilled team, and tailored for disaffected, disadvantaged and under-achieving young people, and those with special needs.

The programmes provide an alternative learning facility for young people who are at-risk and marginalised, the Surrey Youth Support Service, Special Schools and other organisations that cater for students with special educational needs (SEN).

GASP also delivers an accredited mobile service for those organisations that need daytime sessions to be delivered at their premises. This was launched in May 2012.

The GASP workshop evening sessions are aimed at those in mainstream education. They are available to young motor enthusiasts and those who want to understand the basics of motor mechanics in the years before they start to drive. Sessions can be tailored to support those working towards Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold Awards, and other youth engagement programmes.

The GASP trajectory

GASP Motor Project was launched in 2005 as an evening activity for young people in and around the locality of Gomshall, Albury and Chilworth, Shere and Peaslake. The concept was formulated by the local police officer, who recognised the need for a diversionary activity for – amongst others – young people joyriding and torching stolen cars in the area. It had the support of Surrey Probation and the local church.

A custom-built motor workshop in Gomshall provided an ideal place for local young people to attend evening sessions, learn basic motor mechanics and drive the go-karts that they built ‘off-road’.

The introduction of morning sessions on the Gomshall site in 2010 allowed the charity to expand and deliver GASP to a wider cohort of young people. It also included a partnership with the (then) Surrey Youth Justice Service.

In July 2012 GASP moved to a larger custom-built workshop built for us by Northumberland Estates at the Sand Pit site in Albury.



Hands-on alternative learning

GASP is now widely recognised in Surrey as a provider of non-judgmental, caring and practical support. We provide a hands-on, specialist and personalised learning environment within a focused and disciplined framework. We work locally to support young people across the county.

As a niche provider for young people requiring specific behavioural and/or technical development, there is increasing recognition that GASP delivers a vital learning and development experience to client groups.

Our track record has demonstrated an ability to provide alternative learning to a wide range of students and to open up new possibilities for them. Much of our work focuses on disaffected/under-achieving young people who are at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), and those with SEN.

Client organisations have also acknowledged that GASP has helped in changing attitudes and reducing re-offending for some individuals.

Supporting GASP

GASP is a success story with well proven, positive outcomes. Our charity relies on ongoing funding to ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of young people throughout Surrey. There is demand for us to expand our services, but we can only do this with increased financial support.

Will you help? We welcome financial support – small amounts or large – from organisations and corporations, charitable trusts, grant-givers and individuals.

We are keen to have a dialogue, to tell you more. GASP delivers hands-on learning that helps drive change; please help us to keep the show on the road.

Alternatively, if your organisation – and the young people you work with – would benefit from the sessions run by GASP, then please contact us:

GASP Motor Project

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“This project gives us new practical skills – GASP is different from school because it’s all hands-on. I have gained confidence and self-respect – it’s not like they are telling us what to do, they are helping us. In the future I really want to have my own business: this has given me one more skill that I didn’t have.”

Young person who completed 10 sessions at GASP as part of a court order



Chief Executive: Andy Finch

Appointed as CEO in September 2011, Andy is former Head of Public Affairs at WH Smith, and Regional Director at Business in the Community. His work has focused on developing innovative, education-based programmes which address disadvantaged young people. His experience of partnering with the corporate, public and charitable sectors in these programmes is helping to shape the future direction of GASP as the charity grows both its reach and impact in these challenging times.

Workshop Manager: Barrie Birchmore

An aeronautical engineer by training, Barrie joined GASP as a volunteer for evening sessions in 2007. In 2009 he was appointed Workshop Manager and actively positioned the charity to roll out daytime sessions from 2010. With enlightened patience and quiet enthusiasm he engages with widely varying cohorts of young people, adapting his delivery to match their abilities and behavioural demands. He leads the team of paid workshop assistants and volunteers who expertly deliver the programmes to young people.

Founder Patron: Anthony Cassidy

Anthony retired from The City in 1998, and was instrumental in the formation of GASP in 2005. He chaired the Management Committee until the appointment of our new CEO in September 2011. Anthony has been actively involved in all aspects of the management and development of GASP since its formation and, on standing down as a director, he is delighted to be appointed the charity's Founder Patron.

Trustees

Sally Varah DL (Chair)

During her year as High Sheriff of Surrey 2008-2009, Sally Varah was impressed by the outcomes achieved by GASP in its work with at risk and marginalised young people. As Surrey's Chief Probation Officer, her late husband, Michael, had supported the foundation of the charity and respected the changes in behaviours that GASP brings about.

Louise Blakeborough

Louise has worked for 30 years in healthcare communications and brings her marketing communications and public relations expertise to GASP.

Robert Brown

Robert offers his experience running a sizeable business as Managing Partner of a Surrey firm of solicitors, and his expertise as a lawyer, including 12 years as Deputy District Judge.

David Davis DL

A Chartered Civil Engineer and a member of Surrey County Council for 16 years, including two years as Council Chairman, David blends professional engineering and management skills with an extensive knowledge of local authorities and awareness of the social problems in the county.

Peter Lebus

Peter contributes many years of practical and hands-on business experience as a GASP Trustee, after a career running a project management and design company.

Lady O'Connor DL (Louise)

A former Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Education at Roehampton University, Louise brings her experience in secondary schools, Further Education and Higher Education to our GASP course provision and accreditation.

Michael Taylor

Michael is the GASP Treasurer. He is a qualified chartered accountant with many years' experience working in the charity sector in management and trustee roles.

Richard Wheeler

An experienced business leader with almost 30 years' experience with BP – and currently an adviser to a variety of small and large firms – Richard shares his expertise as a professional practitioner in developing business strategies and implementing change in organisations.

“The atmosphere at GASP is relaxed and non-threatening and allows a trial and error approach, which suits the learning styles of many young people. Within a number of weeks, their insecurities are visibly reducing and individuals begin to demonstrate increased confidence, motivation and self-assurance.”

Correy Larwood, Officer working with Surrey Youth Justice Service, Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Team (2011)

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