



Business leaders, educationalists and funders were among those who attended the Business Breakfast at the McLaren Technology Centre.

McLaren steps up for GASP

McLaren recently hosted an exclusive Business Breakfast to profile the life-changing work of GASP. The aim was to develop training and work experience opportunities that support those students who attend GASP sessions on their 'progression pathway' to participate in education, training or employment (PETE), and to sustain future funding.

David McNulty, CEO of Surrey County Council, joined us in welcoming over 20 business leaders, educationalists and funders

to profile how our charity delivers courses that help to re-engage and support some of the most vulnerable young people in the county. Senior representatives from Allianz, Charters Peugeot, Cranleigh Freight Services, ExxonMobil, John Dennis Coachbuilders, the Kier Group and Squires Group attended, together with FE Colleges and charitable trusts. Guests also enjoyed a tour of the McLaren Technology Centre.

Commenting on the success of the breakfast event Sally Varah, GASP Chair of Trustees said: "We are hugely indebted to McLaren for championing GASP. It is very gratifying that this global company's very positive endorsement of our work has now encouraged those organisations that attended to explore how best we can collaborate to maximise the benefit for the young people who learn with GASP.

"This includes customised workplace visits, work experience opportunities, the provision of equipment, staff volunteering, project funding, and the possibility of apprenticeships. It has also enabled us to continue to develop our links with further education colleges and potential funders."

The schools and special units who refer young people tell us about the quite extraordinary difference that learning with GASP can make to their students' skillsets and personal development. Thanks to McLaren, we could showcase to our guests that, by supporting the work of GASP, their own organisation might have a real impact on the lives and the future of marginalised young people.

Community Safety Fund grant for new mobile

Kevin Hurley, Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, paid a return visit to GASP in late June to officially hand over our new mobile unit. The purchase of the bold yellow Ford Transit Jumbo van – sign-written with the GASP logo – has been generously funded by the PCC Community Safety Fund. A further grant from Surrey County Councillor Keith Taylor's members' allocation has meant we can buy overalls, work boots, tools and safety equipment to kit out the unit.

Commenting on the Community Safety Fund's support for GASP, Mr. Hurley said: "We recognise the fantastic work this charity does with those who are disadvantaged or disaffected, re-engaging them with learning and providing transferrable skills to help support them into adult life. We are delighted that the funding of this new mobile unit will allow GASP to significantly expand its operations and work with an increasing number of young people across Surrey and beyond."

GASP first started the mobile service in Spring 2012 and is now delivering well in excess of 100 mobile sessions each year. "Increasingly we are being asked to work with groups of up to six young people at any one time," explains our CEO, Andy Finch.



Police and Crime Commissioner Kevin Hurley (back left) with teachers and a student from the North West Surrey Short Stay School, and staff from GASP.

"To do that successfully we must be able to transport a range of small vehicles, engines and equipment that interest and engage the young people, and ensure they are learning throughout our sessions. The new unit enables us to do that and GASP is hugely grateful to the Community Safety Fund."



Thanks to funding from Toyota GB, six students from the Park School at Woking have benefited from a 10-week workshop based accredited mechanics programme, with outstanding results.

Amazing results on Park School, Woking course

The Park School in Woking has 100 secondary aged students, all with varying degrees of learning difficulties. Thanks to generous funding from Toyota GB, GASP has developed and delivered a customised 10-week 'workshop based' mechanics programme – offering AQA Unit Award accreditation – to six of these students, with outstanding results.

Led by the GASP Workshop Manager, Barrie Birchmore (above), the programme focussed on work with small vehicles. He explains:

"The students worked on quad bikes and go-karts, ride-on mowers and scooters. Developing their mechanics skills along the way, they were encouraged to 'have a go' at a wide variety of tasks. Not only were the young people highly motivated and keen to attend the course, they were a delight to work with. On the final session they had the chance to drive GASP go-karts at Dunsfold aerodrome, an experience that they will remember for a long time."

The school was delighted with the progress and development of the students whilst at GASP. The course was used to incentivise other learning and to help refocus the students if they were finding things difficult. In one instance a student's literacy rating remarkably went up two levels in the space of three weeks.

Matthew McCarthy, Assistant Head at the Park School commented: "The affect your amazing course has had on our young men has been incredibly positive. They are always keen to come to GASP. Two students gave a 10-minute presentation on the GASP course to our Governors. The Head Teacher had never seen them so animated and enthusiastic about anything. One said he would like to look at a career in mechanics now. This shows us how powerful your course has been."

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The Park School



TravelSMART in Surrey

GASP will be delivering courses in Redhill and in Merstham for the first time, as part of the government funded TravelSMART initiative. The AQA Unit Award accredited courses will target young people who

are either Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or at risk of becoming so. The programme will be specifically designed to assist them in improving their employability skills. Each course will run for 10 weeks, and will provide the participants with a good grounding in basic motor mechanics.

To provide a better understanding of what it is like in the world of work, the courses will also include an opportunity for the participants to visit a local business for a behind the scenes tour and to meet staff. GASP is working with the Surrey Youth Support Service, schools, colleges, charities and local service providers, identifying suitable venues in which to deliver the programmes, and recruiting the young people who will benefit most from the experience.

Later in 2014 we are also contracted to run TravelSMART courses in the Stoke/Stoughton, and Westborough areas of Guildford. These will be shorter five-week programmes, focused on providing young people with basic motor mechanics skills.



GASP photographs at County Hall

An exhibition of images by the top professional photographer, David Morgan – showing young people engrossed in motor engineering sessions at the GASP workshop at Albury – went on display in the Great Hall at County Hall, Kingston in mid July. The exhibition was well received by the 80+ county councillors, senior managers and staff, and by visitors to Surrey County Council. This exhibition was premiered at the McLaren Technology Centre and will move to other venues in the autumn. Please contact our CEO, Andy Finch on 07786 939798 if your organisation would like to host the GASP display.

Expanding our accreditation offer

We are delighted to announce that students attending GASP sessions can now gain OCN/Laser Awards (Entry Level 3 and Level 1) in addition to the AQA accreditation we offer. The training material for these Laser Award programmes has been developed with expert guidance from staff at Surrey Youth Support Service and the North West Surrey Short Stay School and we are hugely grateful to them.



The Secretary of State, Chris Grayling, with young people from the North West Surrey Short Stay School, and GASP Workshop Manager, Barrie Birchmore.

GASP students meet Lord Chancellor

Chris Grayling, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, was recently shown how to strip down the engine of a go-kart by young people taking part in a GASP hands-on engineering session.

The Epsom MP was at Brooklands Museum to see the work of Surrey's Youth Support Service and some of those organisations

with which it partners. The new GASP mobile unit demonstrated our work with students who have alternative provision at North West Surrey Short Stay School.

Two students, Ben and Connor, who were learning to strip down a go-kart engine, attracted the interest of the Lord Chancellor. He talked to them – and to our GASP Workshop Manager, Barrie Birchmore – about the range of new skills they had acquired since attending the GASP programme. They proudly shared with him that they had been awarded AQA accreditation certificates for their work at GASP.

Teacher Sally Rafferty accompanied the students and explained to the Secretary of State that attending GASP sessions has a profound impact on them. "Generally, their attendance can be erratic," she told him, "but on the days we visit GASP, they are always in school. GASP improves their concentration, encourages teamwork and, above all, increases their self esteem when they find they can achieve things they never thought possible."

The Secretary of State for Justice expressed considerable interest in the way in which GASP helps improve potentially antisocial behaviour by encouraging disaffected young people to re-engage with education and training, and to gain new confidence in what they can achieve.



Students who attend GASP evening sessions demonstrated a go-kart 'pit stop challenge' for guests at the ExxonMobil Celebration Evening.

Pit stop challenge for HSYA event

As a recipient of funding from the High Sheriff Youth Awards scheme in past years, GASP was asked to participate in the 2014 HSYA Celebration Evening at the ExxonMobil HQ in Leatherhead. Young people from our evening sessions delighted the 120 guests with a skilful go-kart 'pit stop challenge', while former GASP student Sam Evans, now a volunteer sessional, explained what GASP means to him!

In 2010 the then High Sheriff, Rob Douglas, recognised that substantive cuts in government funding could have a negative impact on smaller charities. He responded by introducing HSYA Transition Grants – slightly larger amounts than were usually awarded – to any project that could demonstrate a real need for an injection of funding that, operationally, got it to the other side.

And that was the reason GASP was invited to take part in this year's event, which also celebrated 21 years of the HSYA. Back in 2011, our charity was facing just such a transition. We had built a strong reputation, teaching basic motor engineering to young people – to get them off the streets in rural areas in the evenings. And we knew there was a real need to expand our operations and deliver daytime sessions for young people – on court orders, in exclusion units, or at Special Needs schools – who respond so much better to vocational learning, outside of the classroom.

But to run those sessions, we needed funding to subsidise the groups and to bring new skills and benefits – both practical and social – to these very marginalised young people. The HSYA Transition Grant awarded to GASP then helped to ensure the survival of our small charity, followed by extraordinary growth – as our CEO and Workshop Manager, Andy Finch and Barrie Birchmore, highlighted for guests at this recent event.

Recognising the impact that our work continues to have on helping to reduce or prevent crime, the HSYA has now approved a further grant to fund a GASP programme in Sheerwater at Woking – one of Surrey's most deprived wards. We are working with local Police Community Support Officers to recruit suitable young people, with a focus on those considered to be potentially at risk of entering the Youth Justice System.

"Often you don't realise just how much you are learning at GASP. A mate of mine recently told me his 'ped' (moped) had broken down. First, I found out what was wrong with it. Then I fixed it for him. Best of all though – I charged him for doing it!"

Josh, evening session student, speaking at the HSYA event



Charters Peugeot partners with GASP

Within weeks of the GASP Business Breakfast at McLaren (page 1), Charters Group had brilliantly agreed to host workplace visits for students who take part in our programmes. In early July, five students from Eggars School in Alton were invited to a behind-the-scenes tour at Charters Peugeot in Aldershot. The GASP mobile team has recently delivered a highly successful six-week mechanics course at Eggars – our first contract across the Surrey border. All five students attained AQA Unit Award accreditation and, of those, four have now decided to enrol on a two-year college based motor mechanics course from September.

The GASP course at Eggars culminated in the visit to Charters. There Derek McQueen, Charters Group Operations Director, gave the students an overview of the company and of the opportunities for making a career within the motor industry. Senior managers from both the sales and the servicing and parts team then gave tips on what they look for in a new recruit, and the skills required to make it in the motor trade. With the training and support provided by the company, the students were told that it was possible to advance from stage one of an apprenticeship to master technician level in five years. The young people were then given a guided tour of the state of the art workshop and had the chance to meet technicians working on a wide range of different vehicles. The final part of what was a truly memorable experience for them was an invitation to explore all the new cars on display in the showroom!

Thanks to recent funders

GASP has recently received funding from:

The Betty Riseley Trust

The Coleman Trust

Grant in memory of Andy Stallman

The Henry Smith Charity

High Sheriff Youth Awards

Peter Harrison Foundation

Surrey County Council TravelSMART

Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner's

Community Safety Fund

We are most grateful to all our donors for their generous support.

"The GASP programme has had a really positive impact on our students. During the last academic year, 18 pupils have participated in the course with over 80% receiving AQA Accreditation and four pupils achieving a Laser Level 1 Award. In many cases, pupils who have found it difficult to attend school have excelled in the programme and attended 100%. Two pupils are now pursuing college courses and work experience placements as a direct result of their enthusiasm triggered by the opportunities offered by the GASP project."

Sue Broadest, North West Surrey Short Stay School

'Can Do' project for Special Schools

Thanks to a generous grant from the Peter Harrison Foundation, GASP is to pilot a major 'Can Do' programme with Special Schools across Surrey. From September 2014, this three-year initiative will enable us to roll out a newly developed motor mechanics programme in 12 Special Schools, targeted specifically at often 'hard to reach' young people with special educational needs (SENs). Through structured learning they will develop soft skills – team working, communication, patience, confidence – and basic mechanics skills, and many will gain an AQA Unit Award accreditation to prove it!

The 'Can Do' project will help shape all our future work with SENs. For each of the next three academic years, we aim to work with four Special Schools. The courses – delivered by our team of engineer instructors at the GASP workshop or from our new mobile unit – will each run one day a week for 10 weeks. Between four and six young people will attend each course, so we can ensure targeted individual learning. The programme will be tailored to meet the differing learning needs of individual students and will train and encourage them to recognise that they really 'Can Do'.



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