



Making an impact



A Note from UKSA's Chief Executive

At UKSA we use the power of the sea to change young lives. Importantly we want to widen access to maritime training and, in doing so, enhance life skills and pathways to employment within the sector. We believe that with the right encouragement and training, anyone can turn their lives around, begin a new chapter and look ahead to a rewarding, long-term career.

In 2017 we celebrated our 30th anniversary and marked the milestone of training 150,000 people since we were founded. While this is an impressive achievement, what meant more to me was hearing the stories behind those numbers and the young people whose lives have been changed as a result of their time with us.

I am delighted that we were able to share some of those stories with our long-term supporters and our Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who joined us at Cowes Week and at Trinity House in London to mark our 30th anniversary and launch our future building campaign. We also shared some #SeaChangeStories on our website, documenting the exiting career pathways our graduates have taken. In January 2018 we were chosen as Charity of the Year by Yachts & Yachting magazine, giving us a new opportunity to share our mission with an even wider audience.

Highlights of last year are included in this report and feature some of the stories that really struck me. I hope you also find some inspiration in this short report and please don't hesitate to get in touch with us to find out more.



Ben Willows, CEO, UKSA



“ I tried new things that I wouldn't usually try and instead of giving up in difficult situations I found ways around it until the goal was met ”

Confidence Masterclass participant

Our impact

UKSA provides life changing opportunities, from developing confidence and life skills, to training for careers in the maritime industry.

UKSA (UK Sailing Academy) is a youth education and maritime training charity based in Cowes, Isle of Wight. The charity was founded in 1987 by Noel and Sylvia Lister who wanted to educate and enrich the lives of young people. Over thirty years on, this remarkable ethos remains at the heart of UKSA. We continue to widen access to maritime training through enhancing life skills and employment within the sector.

“ UKSA was REALLY fun and I loved trying out new things. It's been my favourite trip so far ”

Pupil at Alleyn Junior School

Developing their Skills for Life



Communication



Decision making



Participation



Self-belief



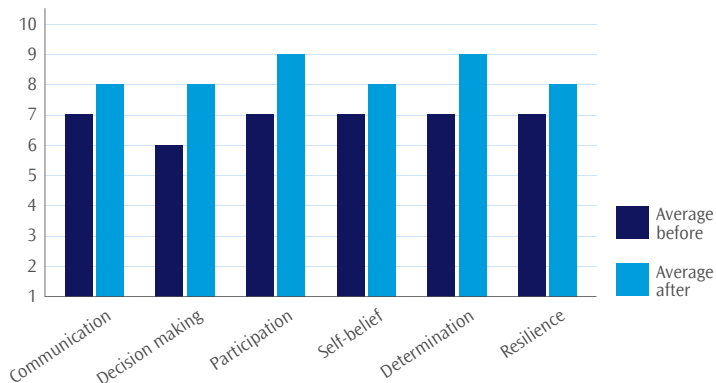
Determination



Resilience

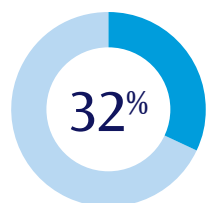
In 2017 we welcomed nearly 6,000 individuals from 158 schools & groups from across the UK. For many of the young people who visit us it is the first chance they have ever had to get on the water and been away from home. For some, crossing the Solent will be the first time they have ever seen the sea.

We offer inclusive courses to schools and groups. Activities are mapped to our **Skills for Life Framework** and the outcomes achieved and insights gathered are shared with schools to measure the impact of the experience on the young people's personal development. The six key soft skills we focus on are: **communication, decision making, determination, self-belief and resilience**. 406 young people from 15 schools and groups completed the Skills for Life questionnaires. As you can see from the results table below, skills improved across all 6 areas.

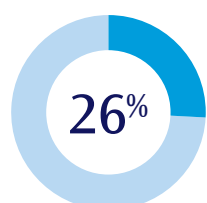


“ Seeing how our children have benefited from being challenged physically, socially and emotionally only goes to prove how important an Outdoor Adventurous Activities opportunity is for the children ”

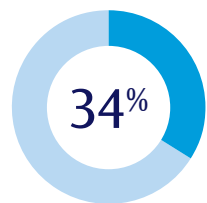
Group Leader Blackheath Preparatory School.



51 schools and groups were funded



40 schools are based in areas of deprivation



27 of the schools had a greater proportion of Special Education Needs students compared to the national average*

*According to Department of Education data.



Case Study
Longlands Primary School, Sidcup

The teachers were looking for an experience that was truly unique for their students; something that would create the kind of memories to carry the children through the rest of their lives.

"It is increasingly difficult to find opportunities that children may not have already experienced in one form or another, however with UKSA it really felt like this was an experience which the children had never had before.

The programme had to include enjoyable activities which the pupils had not experienced, injecting the "wow factor" where possible into each and every moment.

Because many of the children had experienced new challenges for the very first time, many of them returned from their visit wanting to continue participating in watersports activities.

The trip helped to further cement the bonds that an already 'close' year group had through a shared experience and sense of achievement. And the children who attended said that they really felt 'part of something'.

What UKSA offered was truly unique in terms of an experience for our children. Additionally, upon visiting the centre it was evident that all of the money generated by UKSA was immediately put back into the equipment and staff training which meant we had complete confidence right from the word 'go' about the quality of what was being offered and what it would mean for the children who were attending the trip."

Youth Development

“ It has changed me a lot, I feel more confident, I also feel I can do most of the things I thought I couldn't do ”

Confidence Masterclass participant

UKSA is making a positive impact on the Isle of Wight

We strive to ensure our ethos of providing life changing opportunities involves as many young Islanders as possible.

- ▶ 'Test the Water' run by UKSA and funded by private and company donations, gives every Year 6 child on the Island the opportunity to come for a half-day to experience watersports. In its fourth year, this initiative gave 1,550 Island children the chance to get out on the water.
- ▶ For the third year, in partnership with The English Football League Trust, we ran the NCS (National Citizen Service) programme with 127 Islanders aged 15-17 completing the initiative.
- ▶ Our Further Education programmes, run in conjunction with the Isle of Wight College, continue to offer young people from the Island excellent progression pathways. 100% of students who completed their programme this year moved into employment or further education and training.
- ▶ Following the launch of the 1851 Go Sail project in 2016, we went on to deliver 1868 taster sessions to young people living in the Solent Area. 244 of these young people went on to Phase 2 of the programme where they had the opportunity to complete RYA Dinghy Sailing Stage 1 and 2. 100% of those that completed Phase 2 said they felt confident to continue watersports activities in the future.



Funded Youth Development programmes remain a key feature of the work we do. These programmes aim to develop both life and work skills for 14-25 year olds, as well as give a first experience on-the-water. We are able to support young people to access employment or further training, through collaborating with partners in the youth and training sectors.

The impact of our Youth Development programmes is measured using our Skills for Life Framework. In 2017/18, the young people completing our Youth Development programmes recorded an average 31% increase across the six soft skills following the programme. In March 2017 we piloted our Confidence Masterclass working in partnership with Street League sponsored by Aberdeen Asset Management. This unique programme uses sailing and watersports, alongside reflection sessions, to develop the confidence and life skills of participants, with the long-term aim of boosting their employment prospects. Of the 12 young people from London and Birmingham who completed the programme, 10 went onto employment, education or training within six months.

#SeaChangeStories Perry Anderson

Perry admits he didn't like being at school and was on the verge of being excluded. After hearing about UKSA, he thought it would be worth a visit. Perry is now a watersports instructor and has a bright future ahead of him.

"Before I came to UKSA, I was in school studying. Well, I wasn't really studying... if I'm brutally honest I was being really naughty. I didn't like being at school and ended up being moved about a lot. I was one detention away from being kicked out. I felt like the teachers didn't want me there, so I didn't want to be there and I just messed around. I had a lot of energy and I still do... I'm described as being very energetic. So, I put all my energy into misbehaving.

I did a Sports BTEC and that made me realise that I like teaching children, so I tried to find something that was related. I found out about the UKSA Watersports Instructor Traineeship (WIT) and went for an interview. Before UKSA I had never sailed or been on the water really. I thought coming to UKSA would be cool and an adventure.

UKSA identified a natural leadership ability in me, so I tried the Watersports Instructor Traineeship, where I realised I love this and it's awesome! When I got on the windsurf board, I was like, 'Yes! This is it!' I am now a watersports instructor at UKSA. I love seeing children progress from being too scared to even put a toe in the water to jumping in the water and loving it!



Total number of youth development beneficiaries who completed courses in the financial year



A 31% average increase of our 6 key soft skills with the highest in Self-belief at 48%



127 young people aged 16-17 from the Isle of Wight completed the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme.

Professional Training

Call: +44 (0)1983 294941 uksa.org 9

“ WilsonHalligan have a much valued relationship with UKSA which is built on mutual trust and a like-minded, strong work ethic. We are very happy to support this not-for-profit organisation as it is underpinned by some very dedicated and personable industry professionals who provide a great service to individuals, clients and the superyacht industry ”

Liam Dobbin – MD, WilsonHalligan Yacht Recruitment

Launching careers

Training nearly 1,200 individuals in 2017, UKSA has continued to both launch professional careers in the maritime industry as well as enable those in the industry to advance.

We pride ourselves on offering more than qualifications alone. All of our professional training students receive mentoring, industry guidance and industry knowledge sessions, and access to UKSA's recruitment database.

In 2017/18 we advertised 335 opportunities within the yachting and watersports industry to our graduates; we also expanded our network of opportunities, with 47 new employers contacting us to advertise their vacancies. It is our global relationships with captains, crew agents and leading employers in yachting and watersports that makes our industry guidance offering so successful. UKSA graduates have access to this support throughout their careers and this offering is unique to UKSA.

Industry endorsements

"Neilson have been offering overseas activity holidays to the UK public for over 40 years and started working with UKSA over 25 years ago – over the years we have been able to rely on the quality of instructors produced from the UKSA courses and feel confident this joint initiative will be a huge success – allowing more to enter the exciting world of activity holiday delivery".

Pip Tyler – MD of Neilson

"The cadets we have taken on so far have shown a higher skill set and greater dedication than other crew at a similar level".

Don Millar, Viking Recruitment

“ We are happy to endorse the Cadetship and are instrumental in placing many cadets. We find that they are well received by our clients and UKSA is a reliable source of quality candidates ”

Fiona Murray, Recruitment Consultant, Yachting Partners International.

#SeaChangeStories Dan Snook Superyacht Cadet

Dan Snook, put his name down for the Superyacht Cadetship when he was 15. When he was 18 he began Phase One of the programme after being sponsored by Trinity House. Now in his sixth season onboard a 45m sloop he shares his story:

"Beginning Phase One of the Cadetship is the first step into an incredible career. I made a point of starting as I meant to carry on, focusing on what I was looking to achieve via UKSA. Making friends and contacts paid off tenfold when it came to landing my first position – I was grateful for every opportunity that came my way.

I have almost too many amazing experiences to list already, but they include four Atlantic crossings, racing in the Palma Superyacht Cup 2016 and scuba diving in the Caribbean. I was in Bermuda for the Americas Cup 2017, and at the end of Phase Four I graduated


in UKSA's Foundation Degree in Operational Yacht Science at Truro Cathedral.


My plan for 2018 is to gain the Chief Mate 3000gt Certificate of Competency. From there I will be seeking a Chief Officer position in the large sailing yacht sector. At some point I will take a long beach holiday, somewhere far away, with plenty of windsurfing and diving. The end of the Superyacht Cadetship is not the end of my time at UKSA – within the next three years I plan to start the Master 3000gt modules. The UKSA campus has a relaxed environment that allows you to focus on study without any distractions, which is why I chose not to take courses anywhere else.

 376
Started one of UKSA's career training courses

 818
Completed MCA courses


44% of graduates went into the superyacht industry

 25%
25% of students went into the watersports industry

 15%
15% of students went into flotilla

 54 professional training students received funding support, valued over £320,000

“ I am surrounded by like-minded, happy people and am living at sea, in my element and have learnt to accept my past ”



#SeaChangeStories Daisy McDonnell

After suffering some considerable personal adversity, Daisy enrolled on The Prince's Trust Team Programme and received a grant to begin an apprenticeship as an outdoor instructor working with disadvantaged children. She decided then that she wanted to progress into yachting and discovered UKSA. She secured funding from Seafarers UK, The Milo Hanlon Bursary, The TK Foundation and Stephen Thomas Bursary and now has an amazing career ahead of her.

"After enrolling with the Prince's Trust, I became so much happier in myself and managed to gain various watersports and climbing qualifications, and since studying at UKSA I have developed even more new skills, new confidence and new passions.

Since beginning this course I have learned all sorts of things, including jet skis and firefighting. UKSA has a fun and inclusive family vibe with a huge support platform and potential for networking. I am surrounded by like-minded, happy people and am living at sea, in my element and have learnt to accept my past."

Daisy is currently working in the superyacht industry as a Deckhand and based in the Mediterranean.

The future

In 2017/18, UKSA developed a new strategy for the charity. **All Aboard** focusses on how UKSA will achieve its vision of widening access to maritime training, enhancing life skills and employment in the sector. In support of that, initiatives to deliver in 2018/19 will include:

Continued excellence in training and delivery

A central theme to the new strategy is maintaining the level of quality of training courses. Over the coming year there will be audits and accreditations by The MCA, RYA, BCU, AALA, LOC and ISO9001. Almost 10,000 people train with us each year. The health and safety, wellbeing and safeguarding of all our students and staff is our number one priority.

Yachts & Yachting Charity of the Year

UKSA is grateful to Yachts & Yachting for making us their charity of the year. As well as using this opportunity to raise more awareness about UKSA, a new initiative "Opportunities Afloat" will be launched to subsidise school children visiting UKSA whose families might not have been able to afford it without this help. It is recognised that so-called 'disadvantaged' children are falling behind their peers at school and that residential life skills programmes like the ones at UKSA, can help to address this.

Capital Fundraising Campaign

The way that UKSA's site is currently configured means there is a ceiling on the number of young people who can benefit from our programmes. Over the coming three years the large dormitory blocks will be replaced by modern, flexible accommodation. This multi-million pound project will provide flexibility to host more groups simultaneously, improving life skills and offering career pathways to thousands more young people. We are grateful to our Campaign Steering Group for their support in raising the funds needed to make this happen.

Graduate Programme

More than 150,000 people have been trained at UKSA. Many have gone on to enjoy successful careers in the yachting world, as well as other industries. Graduates are often proud of their UKSA experience and many desire to give something back. Be that through advice to current students, career development or fundraising.

Activities & Achievements 2017/18



March 2017

Confidence Master Class in partnership with Street League Sponsored by Aberdeen Asset Management



June

100% of our Further Education students moved on to Further Education, Training or Employment



July

Visit from The HRH Princess Royal & launch of locally sponsored dinghies



August

127 Islanders aged 15-17 completed the NCS programme



September

Esplanade Black Tie Charity Gala raising over £7,000



October

UKSA celebrated its 30th Anniversary at Trinity House, with our Patron The HRH Princess Royal



November

Go Sail graduation at 1851 HQ



December

2nd WightFibre Star Wars movie premier raising £4,458 for Year 6 programme



January 2018

Selected as Yachts & Yachting Charity of the Year



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Registered Charity Number 299248
Registered Company Number:
02251024 (England and Wales)

Thanks to our supporters

We have an active network of supporters and volunteers whose work makes all the difference. We salute all of those friends who raised funds to support bursaries or made personal donations to make sure young people can come to UKSA. We're particularly grateful to those supporters who organised and supported fundraising events for us during the year, including WightFibre, Esplanade and The Barton Estate.

Many loyal supporters have funded us over a number of years. Last year grants were secured from Trinity House, Seafarers UK, The Lister Charitable Trust, The Whirlwind Charitable Trust, Red Funnel, The Daisie Rich Trust, Aberdeen Standard Investments, the TK Foundation and the CHK Charities. We are also grateful to Red Funnel, Spinlock, WightFibre and The Barton Estate who sponsored new dinghies, launched ahead of Lendy Cowes Week 2017. All of these grants have been instrumental in enabling us to achieve our charitable goals and begin our capital campaign.

We are always humbled when a family wishes to remember a loved one by making donations to UKSA in their memory. This includes those set up in memory of Milo Hanlon, William Black and Stephen Thomas. In 2017/18 15 individuals accessed training thanks to these funding and bursary schemes. In the same year, a new programme in memory of Polly Birch was founded. From 2018, "Polly's Challenge" will allow Isle of Wight children who have been on the Test the Water programme to come back to UKSA for a five-day sailing and watersports programme. We hope Polly, Noel, Milo, Will and Stephen would be proud of the adventures they have begun as part of their legacy.

Work with us

This Impact Report highlights the unique and significant work that UKSA continues to do for our beneficiaries with the help of our incredible supporters.

To discuss making a donation or partnering with UKSA, please call **01983 294941**. We look forward to working together to enrich our pathways and create opportunities.

