

A bit of background...

In 1981

SCUDA was formed by a group of committed parents and professionals, concerned at the lack of understanding of dyslexia at that time, They increased awareness amongst teachers by holding two Study Days a year and raised funds to buy books and resources to help parents to help their children, train assessors and arrange specialist teaching. A founder member of SCuDA, Phyll Palmer, worked for 20 years on their behalf and was awarded the MBE in 2003.

In 1991

SCuDA was invited to set up a teaching centre within a local secondary school. Situated in the basement of Alfred Barrow School, over 60 pupils a year came for weekly 1:1 lessons with a member of our team of dyslexia-trained teachers. This partnership with the school was very successful and mutually beneficial, addressing the pupils' needs whilst giving us a home! Our teachers also built a reputation for providing specialist private teaching to children from other schools and neighbourhoods in Cumbria which they continue today.

In 2000

SCuDA obtained the first of its grants from the Lottery and this facilitated:

- A full time administrator and part-time manager for the Barrow centre
- A drop-in centre in Kendal
- Touch Type Read and Spell courses in two centres
- Summer ARROW courses
- Activity days for children
- Awareness courses for parents
- Twice yearly study days

The Cumbria Advanced Certificate in Specific Learning Difficulties, funded by Cumbria County Council, has for many years enabled teachers to gain a qualification in identifying and teaching dyslexic pupils. The core course team are all SCUDA members.

In 2003

A second successful Lottery bid meant that we were able to expand our services to take on a Training and Development Worker for Adult Dyslexics. This role meant that we could provide much needed support to employers and employees, the criminal justice system, adult trainers, and students.

From 2006

With the end of our major grants and the closure of Alfred Barrow School we have had to apply to other trusts and have succeeded in attracting small grants to keep us going at a reduced level. We have found a new teaching centre in Barrow at Cambridge Primary School and have recently located our admin service to Kendal.

SCuDA continues to offer a comprehensive assessment service to people of all ages, to provide specialist teaching and support to many people. Inspired

by the many original thinkers whom we meet and work with, we remain optimistic for the future!