

therendezvous



Annual Report 2018-2019

Youth Resource Services
(The Rendezvous Sherborne) Ltd
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Patrons: Jill Warburton, Ollie Devoto, Ben Hardy
Rev. Dr Christina Le Moignan
Chair of Trustees: Andrew May
Registered Charity No: 1162722
Registered Company No: 07592624

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About us

Our vision

We want every young person in the area to have the resources they need to be happy, healthy, to make positive choices and live meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Our mission

To help young people to help themselves by providing advice, information and support, learning opportunities and positive life experiences to the young people in our communities who need it most.

Our values

- Inclusive: to provide services and support for all young people irrespective of ethnic or cultural background or sexual orientation – no one is ever turned away
- Positive: to be resolutely optimistic that lives can change for the better
- Non-judgmental: to work with young people without judging the choices they may make whilst helping and supporting them to make better choices
- Holistic: to take a holistic approach to each young person, working positively and proactively to engage other services who can provide additional specialist support in order to achieve the best outcomes for each young person

Objectives

- To provide the right services to the right people at the right time in the right way
- To meet the needs of young people by being current, relevant and professional
- To be financially sustainable
- To continually improve our governance

Facilities

- Coffee bar and soft seating area
- Counselling room
- Training room
- Music studio
- Offices

Chairman's Report

We have had another excellent year with significantly improved outcomes matched with successful income generation. This has given us the confidence and financial muscle to expand our services outside our heartland of Sherborne. We could not have embarked on this expansion without a strong balance sheet as it would not be right to start up something new which we could not sustain. You can read more about our work in Gillingham in Helen's report. We continue of course to strive to improve our services and commitment to Sherborne and its surrounding villages.

Each year, like all charitable organisations, we plan to match our expected revenue with our projected expenditure and for the past few years we have met our targets and broadly achieved breakeven. However in both the last two years we have also received substantial legacies which have significantly boosted our reserves. As we prepare our next long-term strategic plan these unexpected legacies will enable us to develop and test new initiatives at a time when funding is harder to come by. I cannot emphasise too highly how grateful we are to these supporters who remember us in their wills; many are Friends of the Rendezvous during their lives or have heard about our organisation from the Friends.

All organisations need to evolve to meet the changing needs of their beneficiaries, otherwise they risk becoming irrelevant. However, the pace of change can be very challenging to staff and volunteers as well as trustees. Although our core offer providing Advice & Information, Learning and Education and Young Parents support remains the same, the young people who need our services now have much more complex issues and geographically our services are needed in a larger area as local services elsewhere close or lose their funding. We continue therefore to evaluate where our core services, which are of proven efficacy and which we know are effective at improving lives can be replicated. We continue as well to strengthen our ties with other organisations who can offer complementary services as we clearly need to refer young people onto specialist services where necessary.

As always I am immensely grateful to Helen, our CEO, who is instrumental in driving us forward and to her amazing team of part-time staff and volunteers. I would also like to thank our Friends for continuing to support our cause both morally and financially and my fellow trustees, who give their time and expertise so generously. We have also had tremendous support from our four patrons especially Jill Warburton who is connecting us to other local organisations.

We continue to receive our core funding from the many local trusts and charities, who support our work each year, most notably the Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation, the Valentine Trust, the Elizabeth & Prince Zaiger Trust, the Sherborne Country Fair, Give Life Live Life, Sherborne and Gillingham Town Councils and all the many businesses, fundraising organisations and individuals who are so generous with both their time and money. We have also received welcome support from trusts and other national funders, notably Henry Smith Charity (due to end in December 2019) and BBC Children in Need.

There are the first glimmers on the horizon that the Government are accepting that austerity has gone too far and that services to support young people have been particularly hard hit. Hopefully this will result in statutory funding becoming available. If this happens, I am confident we can win our share based on our track record and the successful outcomes we achieve. We shall see!

Andrew May
Chair of Trustees

Summary of activities (2018-2019)

Over the last twelve months life at the Rendezvous has been challenging, exciting, surprising and on occasions tough as the continued impact of austerity and the proximity of County Lines activity have come into play bringing urban drug dealers to rural areas. Young people are having a tough time and the changes in youth culture, an increasingly academic curriculum and the stress that accompanies a generation of young people living in uncertain times and the prevalence of social media simply adds to the pressures they feel.

In last year's report we talked about the perception some people have of youth work being an easy job and the realities that lie behind the seeming ease with which the Rendezvous team engage young people who are struggling with difficult circumstances. This can be of their own making but very often it is the result of instability where there should be stability in their lives, neglect where there should be support, anger where there should be calm, and negativity and pessimism where there should be optimism and excitement about their future. Family relationships are complex and not always healthy, friendships and peer groups can be difficult to negotiate. Life can seem bleak for the brightest young people as well as those struggling to fit in and to find their path in life. On top of this, young people's brains do not fully develop until they are 25 meaning they unwittingly rely on a part of the brain to make decisions that is associated with emotions, impulses, aggression and instinctive behaviour (the amygdala). With this potent mix of neurological change and negative circumstances, high pressure and uncertainty the negative impact on themselves and on others can be high.

This year the Rendezvous team have faced situations that would have been unthinkable only a handful of years ago and on a daily basis they are listening to young people's life stories and problems that in turn horrify and break your heart. But it's not all bleak. The end of the 2018-2019 financial year gives us an opportunity to review our body of work as a whole and to look back, feeling proud that we are not only still in one piece but we are in good form. No longer just a listening-ear providing sage and friendly advice but a multi-skilled team who can be proud of the work they do.

Our mental health work goes from strength to strength with Jemma Turner, our senior youth worker, spending 8-10hrs a week in school providing one to one support during term time. Counselling has proved a useful addition to our range of support and we were grateful to the Sherborne Town Council for funding for a pilot primary school counselling project in January 2019 which aims to help prevent the escalation of problems arising in later life.

Meanwhile our learning sessions are flourishing under Julie Bartle's guiding hand with 28 learners studying for an English or Maths qualification over the year (and in some cases both). She has recruited and retained a fantastic group of volunteers who give up their time during term times to tutor young people on a one to one basis and we really can't thank them enough for all that they do.

Our advice and information work with young parents led by Sarah Childs is also going from strength to strength. Our Sherborne group and one to one support programme will be fully funded in 2019-2020 thanks to the National Lottery's Community Fund and with things secure in Sherborne Sarah is charged with setting up a new group in Gillingham. Our newest recruit, Jemma Rogerson, is meanwhile making sure that we are up to date with the sexual health guidance we give.

Over the years the number of young people attending our informal drop in sessions have reduced – something that is reflected in other youth settings across the region and the country. We've been reviewing this area of our work and considering changes that may be needed to ensure that we continue to operate safely and ensure the best outcomes for young people. We're all looking forward to a reinvigorated programme in the autumn. At the same time our outreach work in Gillingham has been positive and lunchtime outreach sessions in Sherborne have helped us meet more young people.

With the absence of any other similar provision in Dorset and South Somerset there is a lot of unmet need and the pressure to deliver more is high. However, we cannot deliver more without increasing costs and appointing more frontline staff. Local funding is not sufficient to cover our costs and grants are harder to secure. We could stay the same and hope that we can find other funding streams or we could expand to help more young people and potentially access funding streams that are open to larger organisations.

We are a long way from where we were five years ago. We are financially stable and have a clear range of services, and inhouse skills and expertise. We are less dependent on a physical space and now take those skills and expertise to young people in their homes, in schools and on the streets. Whichever route the charity decides to take, you can guarantee that the whole team will continue to do the best they can for every young person in need and to secure the future of the charity.

Helen Da Silva Wood, Chief Executive

Did you know?

*“Deprivation appears to create **a greater dependency upon information, advice and guidance** services particularly in relation to benefits and debt which can have a considerable impact on the lives of young people.”*

***Education Deprivation - 27%** of the Sherborne East population feature within the top 20% most deprived nationally*

***Housing and Services deprivation – 61%** in Sherborne Rural ward are in the top 20% most deprived nationally in terms of Housing and Services because of the area's remoteness and poor transport links*

***Living Environment Deprivation – 28%** of Sherborne West households are in the top 20% most deprived*

***Free school meals - 18%** of children in Sherborne West have free school meals (**17% in Sherborne East**) 13% in Dorset overall*

*In Dorset **only 17%** of young people from disadvantaged households go on to university education*

West Dorset has the most foodbanks in Dorset.

Ref: 2015 English Index of Multiple Deprivation; Hidden Dorset – Dorset Community Foundation; Dorset Council

Stories from the Rendezvous

Ellie – school refuser

Situation – Ellie attended a private school out of Sherborne. She had been bullied in a previous school and the bullying started again at her new school. In year 11 she became a school refuser and dropped out of school. Her mother contacted us desperate to know what she could do to help her child.

Intervention – Ellie came to us and joined the English and Maths programmes which she attended weekly. She lacked confidence and self-esteem and so we also arranged for her to meet one of our youth workers on a weekly basis for support.

Resolution – Ellie was with us for nearly nine months and passed both her English and Maths Level 2 exams (GCSE equivalent). Working with the youth worker her self-esteem picked up but she began to disengage and would not think about her future. We contacted her mum and said we were unable to do more unless she engaged. By working together Ellie re-engaged and with our youth worker's help has made an application to the local college to take more Level 2 qualifications and is excited and looking forward to starting in the autumn.

Simone – young parent

Situation – Simone was a young mum with one child who had previously been referred to us by the Health Visitor team at which point we had given her housing advice and helped her get back to work. Now pregnant with her second child, she had financial problems, her relationship was breaking down which was causing her poor mental health and anxiety and she was re-referred.

Intervention – she met with our Young Parent lead on a weekly basis and was given social emotional support, advice on maternity benefits and rights, food bank referral, bills and budgeting.

Resolution – Simone now has a payment plan in place for council tax, she has food to feed herself and her family, she had the confidence to talk to her employers about her pregnancy and her rights. Now on maternity leave, she is coming to the group regularly, is more confident, feels stronger and supported which can only be a good thing for her and her children.

Jack – identity struggles

Situation – Jack left sixth form with no confidence, low self-esteem and high levels of anxiety. He was unable to plan for the next stage of his life because he was struggling with his identity and receiving no support from his family.

Intervention – Jack received help whilst taking his A levels but when school came to an end they referred him to us for help at which point he began to see a youth worker on a weekly basis.

Resolution – Jack's road will be slow but we were able to secure him a referral to the Exeter transgender clinic and refer him to SPACE for specialist gender identity support and the Face Forward programme to provide intensive support to build his confidence. His family have begun to accept him for who he is and we see positive changes in him. We continue to provide him with a regular outlet to discuss his progress, air his worries and keep him optimistic and buoyant for his future.

“Being there for me, even when I was away at Uni, really helped. I wouldn't have got through without you.”

Young person - anxiety and eating disorders

Mental Health & Wellbeing

In the face of declining statutory support our youth workers are playing an increasingly valuable role in supporting our young people.

Young people who are struggling with their emotions or finding it difficult to cope with their circumstances often prefer to work with youth workers over specialist mental health workers. Young people find youth workers easier to relate to and unlike formal services such as CAMHs (Children and Adolescent's Mental Health Service) youth workers have the flexibility to get to know the whole person and suggest strategies to improve their wellbeing that suit that individual and the sessions are not limited. This is important as it can take a long time for young people to feel comfortable enough to be able to open up.

Senior Youth Worker Jemma Turner leads our mental health support programme. In addition to her own caseload at the centre, Jemma continues to be a regular face at the Gryphon School where she works with an average of seven young people a week and provides a valuable additional free resource for the school. Although the predominant age group seeking help are those in year 11 (15-16) we have seen a worrying increase in 13-14 year olds seeking help, with exams being a major issue with the older group and anxiety extremely high with girls.

Young people continue to self-refer for help but we are receiving more referrals from parents, GPs, CAMHS workers than ever before and have even been contacted by support workers based in Southampton.

Counselling - Complementing our core youth worker offer, our small counselling provision has helped us support 14 young people with higher level needs. We are extremely grateful to Lucy Beney who provided long term counselling for 2 young people at the Gryphon School on our behalf. Lucy came to us as a trainee counsellor and is now qualified and developing her own practice. Helen Inman our counsellor in residence helped us develop a comprehensive resource pack for trainee counsellors and we are now members of the BACP (British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists). Helen has provided over 150 hours of counselling for young people to 25 and is delivering a further 3 sessions per week as part of a pilot project in Sherborne Primary School.

You've given me back my daughter. Thank you. You were the only ones who've made a difference.

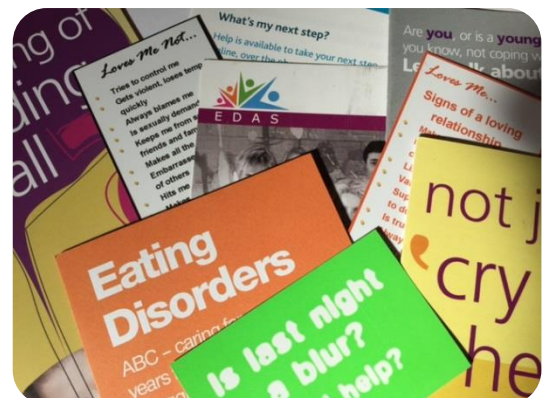
A parent

Mental Health Lead: Jemma Turner
Mental Health Counselling: Helen Inman

Focus: 1:1 mental health and wellbeing support particularly regards anxiety, anger, stress, self-esteem and self confidence

Offer: 1:1 support by self-referral or referral, at the Rendezvous or in school settings

Plans for 2019+
 Maintain and develop free programme
 More staff training
 Develop mental health community programme from primary to 25.



Advice & Information (A&I)

There has been a decline in demand for pure advice and information. We attribute this to online services having improved, simplifying the process of accessing information, support or form filling means more young people can do things for themselves and the fact that with 'austerity' there are less services available to young people (fewer benefits and no housing benefits for the young nor affordable housing mean young people don't need help with them).

However, the decline does not mean there is no need at all and we continue to offer a lifeline to those who are struggling to deal with government agencies - when the statutory support systems work they can work very well but when it goes wrong or there isn't a box that fits your circumstances then it can go horribly wrong. Universal Credit is a particularly difficult system to navigate when there are problems. As a result, people come to us with complex situations that take a great deal more time to resolve (average 5hrs). The main beneficiaries of our advice and information service are now predominantly young parents (to 25).

A&I: Jemma Turner (Housing specialist) / Sarah Childs (general and young parents)

Focus: advice and information, housing, health, benefits, debt

Offer: drop in service or by appointment

Future plans: to be able to maintain the service for all young people

Young Parents

Our Sherborne Young Parents Support programme is thriving. The programme resolves issues and improves the circumstances of young parents who are struggling and vulnerable whilst encouraging them to join our regular support group where they can meet other young parents, gain confidence and build their own peer support networks.

The group sessions have been running for twenty years and the programme continues to be led by youth worker and ex-nurse, Sarah Childs, who is supported by two volunteers. The programme achieves excellent outcomes for young people and over a 12-month period we worked with

- 20 young parents of whom 13 were referred by the Sherborne Health Visitor team.
- 14 young mums and dads attended the group sessions – nine of them on a weekly basis.

Through the one to one support programme we were able to resolve 24 practical problems

- 7 housing
- 8 benefits,
- 2 referrals for healthy start vouchers
- 2 parental contact negotiated
- 2 Children's Social Care issues (one safeguarding)
- 2 debt and budgeting
- 1 return to work

2019-2020

Sherborne Young Parents Support Programme – fully funded by



A&I Young Parents Lead: Sarah Childs

Focus: advice and information, social and emotional and mental health, social isolation and peer support

Offer to young parents:

Parent support group (weekly)

1:1 home visits (Health Visitor referral)

1:1 support

Plans for 2019+

Expansion of the programme to areas with no similar provision – eg Gillingham

76% of those young parents who engaged with us reported improved wellbeing.

Learning

Our English and Maths learning programme is growing. Now we have between 8-10 young people attending on Monday and Friday afternoons and the centre's atmosphere is one of energy, purpose and on occasion trepidation for those about to sit an exam. Students working alongside their personal tutor are crammed into every available space; overflowing from the training room into the counselling room and offices, the coffee bar and even the music studio.

Our learning programme was originally set up to benefit those young people 16+ who failed to achieve GCSE Maths and/or English whilst at school for myriad reasons including: undiagnosed special educational needs (particularly dyslexia), physical or emotional problems that resulted in them failing to sit their exams, family circumstances and chaotic environments.

However, in the last two years we have seen a leap in the number of young people under 16 who are seeking tuition and now nearly 50% of our learners are under 16. They are not young people who have been permanently excluded from school nor are they children of parents who are making a lifestyle choice and opting for home education. These young people are suffering from poor mental health. They may have extreme anxiety, be school phobic and become school refusers or in some cases be unable to reintegrate into mainstream education after a period in an eating disorder or a specialist mental health unit. Parents are often in great distress and their children too may want to learn but cannot cope with school settings.

Learning with us suits our students. They work with a tutor on a 1:1 basis and can start to learn with us at any point in the year. They learn at their own pace and can sit the exam at the Rendezvous when they're ready (we are a registered OCR examination centre).

Over the last year we had 28 learners in total improving their English or Maths with us (with nine young people studying both subjects). Over the year 14 qualifications were passed ranging from Entry Level English and Maths through to Level 2 English or Maths which has GCSE equivalency and can be accepted by most universities. Sixteen learners are still studying with us and of those who have moved on two have already started apprenticeships, one has a job, five have moved on to FE college and one school refuser has now gone back to school.

They are great at talking you through questions and help you structure your answers properly in preparation for exams.

A learner

Lead: Julie Bartle

QA: Carol Johnson

Offer to young people:

- Tutoring – 1:1 and small groups,
- English and Maths Entry level through to Level 2 English and Maths
- Careers and employment – support and specialist referrals
- Links to local businesses and college

Plans

- To expand the programme
- To introduce a formal mentoring aspect to the sessions to develop post-study goals

If I get an answer wrong I don't get embarrassed.

A learner

Youth Work | Sherborne



Friday afternoon at the Rendezvous is synonymous with food and what has become known as 'Bekah's Kitchen'. The centre becomes a hive of activity as volunteer Bekah Wit-Tower engages young people to help plan and cook something tasty that they eat together. Not only do they learn cooking skills but they improve their ability to work as a team and their communication and social skills. Over time they've cooked stews and Bolognese, Fruity Friday focussed on eating healthily, the most unlikely customers have engaged in cake baking and they needed a production line to create enough mini pizzas for over 100 people attending a jazz concert in the church. Alongside this young people continue to be able to relax and socialise, to unload and gain advice from youth workers who are there to help and guide them.

Open Access team: Jemma Turner, Sarah Childs, Jemma Rogerson, Bekah Wit-Tower

Focus: informal youthwork

Offer: open access drop in 13hrs per week

Future plans: to establish best practice

Youth Work | Gillingham

Funded by Gillingham Town Council our outreach programme in Gillingham has been running since September 2017. Lou Donovan and Bekah Tower-Winter were recruited in January 2019 to work with Jemma Turner to deliver the outreach programme in the town.

Lou and Bekah have continued to build on Jemma's good work and developed positive relationships with different groups of young people in the town. They are there to listen, to question and to challenge

misconceptions and behaviours. They have endeavoured to broker relations between Waitrose and groups of young people choosing their carpark to hang out in, regularly run pizza evenings and in the New Year we trialled the use of a mobile outreach van. Unfortunately, with the van based in Wimborne, logistics proved too difficult for this to be a long-term viable option for the project, but we are grateful to SWRAC for the loan of the vehicle.

On a formal note and in response to the increase in county line activities across the region the team take part in regular multi-agency meetings involving schools, police, children's services and other organisations working with those at risk.

Gillingham Outreach Team: Jemma Turner, Lou Donovan, Bekah Wit-Tower

Focus: youth engagement

Offer: detached youth work

Future plans: to develop a planned programme of activities and build local youth support volunteer team



The year in numbers

376

young people

159

The numbers of young people receiving 1:1 support

92%

reported improved wellbeing after talking to someone face to face

83%

Resolved their problems as a result of Rendezvous support

14

English and Maths exams were passed

15

Housing problems resolved including addressing rent arrears, tenancies, being put on the housing register

22

volunteers

24

home visits

38

Outreach sessions
Gillingham & Sherborne

2500 hrs+

individual tutoring

90 hrs+

Under 11s
Counselling
Sherborne
Primary School

13

Hrs per week open access drop in

2

Young people returned into education

620 hrs

1:1 support

4

Emergency mental health referrals made

8

reduced levels of self-harm

6

part time staff

42

Young Parents support group meetings

24

took part in drugs awareness sessions

73 out of 79

reduced their levels of anxiety

3

parents per month seeking support for their children

1

young person prevented from running away

16

presented with suicide ideation – 100% were successfully assessed and risk managed

13hrs

open access sessions per week

8

gained confidence making a music video and took pride in positive feedback when it was screened at Ted-X Sherborne.

300hrs+

Counselling (13-25)

Special Projects

Fit for the Future

We were delighted to be invited to be part of the first Sherborne Ted-X event that ran in 2019. With the focus of the even, 'Fit for the Future' we were fortunate to find funding from West Dorset District Council to produce a short music video written and performed by some of the young people at the Rendezvous.

TED^x Sherborne
x = independently organized TED event



The video was screened during the day and received a lot of positive feedback, although the young man involved continues to believe he 'can do better'. As a result, he makes regular use of the studio to prove his point. We're hoping to be able to do more of the same next year.

Network First

Our annual sixth form careers event, Network First took place for a third year at the Gryphon School Conference Centre in November. Using a 'speed dating' approach to introduce young people choosing a non-university pathway to 26 local employers and business people. This surpassed our goal of increasing business participation in the event by three. Local businesswoman, Rebecca Burns, was the key note speaker talking about building her business as inspiration.

The date has already been set for next year's event and we're looking forward to an even bigger and better turnout.

Early intervention – counselling in primary school

Primary schools have always found it difficult to find support for children with significant needs but who don't meet thresholds for accessing statutory support. With thresholds rising and needs of primary school age children on the increase we were well placed to seek funding for a pilot project to deliver counselling in the local primary school. We secured funding from Sherborne Town Council and set up a 6-month pilot project with Sherborne Primary School running from January to July 2019.

Feedback to date has been extremely positive and the sessions have provided children (7-11) the opportunity to work with a Counsellor to help express their emotions and feelings, often through play, about their terribly sad and often terribly difficult circumstances.

Moving forward we plan to develop the work into a larger project that puts the mental health of all the children and young people in the Sherborne area first. We will be developing an ambitious project plan to draw together the mental health support we do at secondary school age through our youth workers and counsellors and the new work at primary school age to build what we call an 'Emotionally Connected Community'. Watch this space!

Tampon Tax Community Fund

Funding from the Tampon Tax Community Fund (managed by Dorset Community Foundation) has given us funding specifically to support and empower young women to gain confidence and an understanding about healthy relationships. We have also refreshed our membership of the condom distribution scheme, hold a stock of chlamydia testing kits and have referred young people on to GPs and specialist clinics for help with long-term contraception, pregnancy and STIs.



Volunteers

Volunteers clearly gain great satisfaction and personal reward from volunteering with us but their contribution to the Rendezvous should not be underplayed. Their input and the value they bring to the roles they perform is huge, giving over 2500 hours of their time every year.

Without our bank of volunteers young people would not get the qualifications they need to find work or go to college, they would not be able to have an in-depth and focussed meeting to resolve problems without a volunteer at the young mum's group entertaining their babies, they would not be able to learn to cook and have the opportunity to eat communally were it not for volunteer run 'Bekah's kitchen' on Fridays.

Our volunteers give up their time to work with young people. They build positive relationships with them and fill an important role in young people's lives. They listen, they're patient, they're non-authoritarian and like our staff – they do not judge.

Working with young people is often challenging but the breakthrough moments make it all worthwhile.

The moment a young person passes a Level 2 maths qualification having failed GCSE maths four times can be as emotional for the volunteer as it is for the young person; seeing the look of exhilaration on a 19 year old's face when they're presented with the only certificate they have ever received for learning makes the hours and the frustration worthwhile. For other volunteers it's the feeling they get when someone finally remembers automatically to say please and thank you after months of prompting and knowing that they have played an important part in helping them learn to modify behaviours to get on in life.

Tutors – our academic tutors have done an amazing job this year working with 28 young people. New for this year is the introduction of half termly subject review meetings which give an opportunity for everyone to share good practice and work together to resolve any issues.

You don't have to thank me – I get far more from volunteering than I give

A volunteer

Lead: Julie Bartle

Focus: recruiting volunteers who believe in our mission and values and are suited to the roles they perform and providing them with the training and support they need to do that

Volunteer roles:

- Tutoring (Entry Level and Level 1 & 2 English and Maths, OCR)
- General support – coffee bar
- Event and activity support including studio
- Administration

Plans for next year

- Delivery of mentoring services
- Expansion of the service

All of the tutors are really nice and easy to talk to

A learner

Thank you to all our volunteers for their ongoing commitment, enthusiasm and support

Coffee bar & Bekah's Kitchen – volunteer Bekah has made the kitchen her own with her regular Friday cooking sessions passing on cooking skills and helping them learn to work together. Each session ends with them eating together. Meanwhile long-standing volunteer Ali Berry is there on Mondays.



Young Mum's – the volunteers at young parents group have been a real help again, running arts and crafts sessions and entertaining little ones giving their mums a moment's respite.

Network First – the annual careers event we run at the Gryphon for sixth formers not going to university could not happen without our volunteers. Sue Prescott has done an amazing job coordinating and mapping the complex event and we are sorry that her new responsibilities as treasurer are likely to take her away from this in the future.

Community Fundraising Team – our new team have set up a calendar of fundraising events and have had great fun running whist drives, car boot sales and collecting on the streets of Sherborne.

Other – Tom, one of our newest volunteers, has been a real help putting his practical skills to good use, fixing doors and building shelves.

Networks and affiliations



VCS (0-19) Forum



North Dorset
Family Partnership
Zone



Alastair Powell
Ali Berry
Alison Hoffman
Audrey Winterbottom
Bekah Wit-Tower
Carol Johnson
Emma Harris
Eveline Terry
Flora Huins
Hannah McFarlane
Helen Devonshire
Hugh Griffiths
Judy Griffiths
Justine Hart
Lucy Foster
Niki Lewis
Paul Blake
Peter Childs
Sue Prescott
Tom Lingard
Tony Smith
Vicki Addey

Funding

This year we have again done our best to work smartly and efficiently and, although funding will always be challenging, as an organisation we are in a good financial position. We have increased our reserves and built a fund to reinvest in the charity to secure our future.

Being a local charity working with relatively small numbers of young people can work against us in terms of grant funding but there are certainly benefits in being a long-standing local organisation with roots in the communities where we work. Support from local donors and community organisations make a great contribution towards our core costs.

The Friends of the Rendezvous continue to work hard and we are grateful to all those involved. We have also set up a small new community fundraising team which has raised money through car boot sales, street collections and quiz nights.

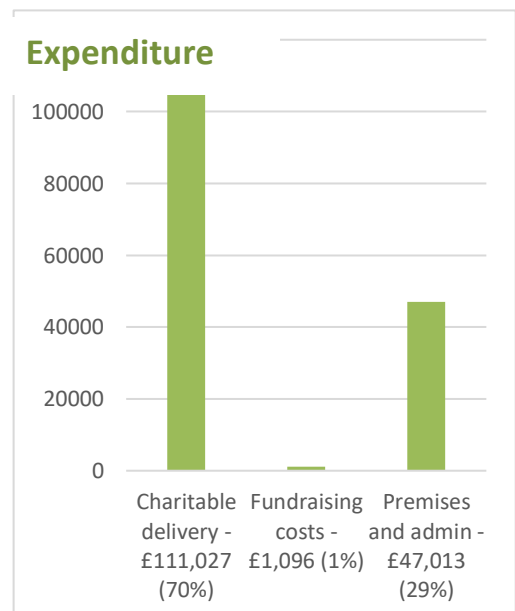
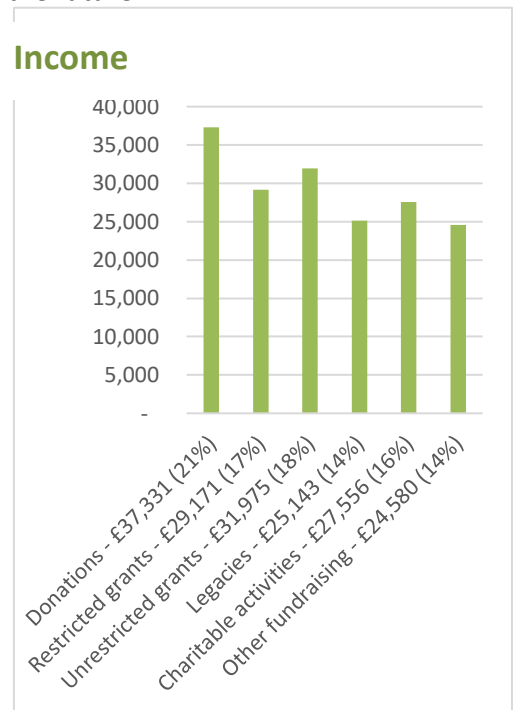
The Sherborne Country Fair and the Sherborne benefice Faith In Action Committee continue to support us and we were delighted to be chosen as a beneficiary by the Classics at the Castle annual event organised by the Rotary Club. Local business support is growing. We are the long-term charity partner of the clothing store 'White Stuff' but have also benefitted from Mountain Warehouse and Café Nero raising funds for us. We have been grateful to receive regular donations from Battens Solicitors which have offices in both Sherborne and Yeovil and the Eastbury care home. We are now members of the Chamber of Commerce and are grateful to Jane Wood, owner of Oliver's Coffee House and Chair of the Chamber, for her ongoing support.

Unfortunately, local funding is not sufficient for us to cover all our costs and we will always need to raise additional income. We are again extremely appreciative of the ongoing support of regular funders including Garfield Weston Trust and local trusts, Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation and the Valentine Trust who have all supported us for several years. Project funding from BBC Children in Need continues and we were delighted to discover in March that the Community Fund will cover the costs of the Sherborne Young Parents' Support programme and that the Daisy Fund, managed by the Dorset Community Foundation, awarded us funding towards the costs of setting up a third learning session in Sherborne.

Multi-year grants make a big difference to the charity. Our ability to develop our mental health work and the support we have been able to provide at no cost to schools is the result of three-year funding from the Henry Smith Charity (due to end in December 2019). This

grant covered 35 hours of youth worker salary and we will continue to look for other grants of this nature although they are increasingly few and far between.

Larger organisations than ours have fallen by the wayside this year (most notably Waves in Weymouth run by Children Society) but we are ambitious, tenacious and optimistic for the future.



Friends of the Rendezvous

There are over a hundred Friends, a large number for a comparatively small charity and also an indication of the reputation which the Rendezvous enjoys in the community. Much of the Friends' income derives from the monthly and annual donations of its members. We are grateful for the increasing amount of money received from the legacies and memorial-service collections of Friends who are no longer with us.

The Tuesday and Friday coffee mornings, led by principal cake-makers Sandra Atherton and Marilyn Davies, remain popular despite stiff competition from numerous other 'coffee-shop' outlets in Sherborne. Often Friends and other supporters drop by to make one-off donations, to offer to host an event, or to request a membership form for themselves or others. Our position in the centre of town enables the Tuesday and Friday slots to be used to host a variety of groups offering guidance and support: among them the young offenders' team; learning for young people and adults; and First Point advising people of all ages on housing and benefits.

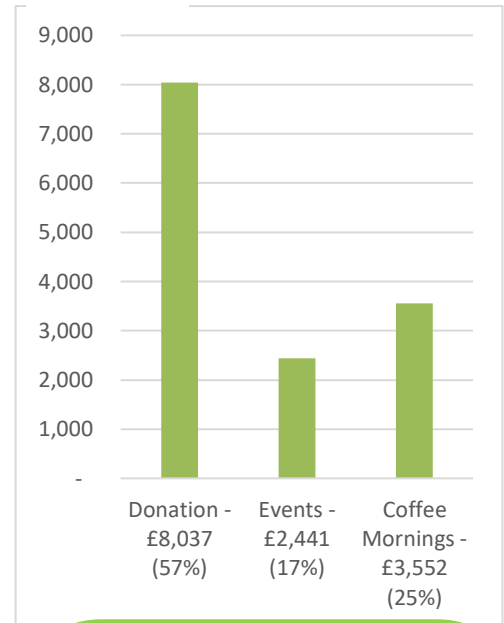
Raymond Wood continues to organise one or two jazz concerts a year on our behalf in Cheap Street Church. Refreshments are generously provided by church members as well as our own team. At the last concert, we involved the young people who take part in the centre's Friday afternoon drop in cooking session, 'Bekah's Kitchen'. They worked with Rendezvous volunteer, Bekah Wit-Tower, to make pizza slices for the interval which received many positive compliments. Each concert raises as much as £1500 and we are grateful to stalwart sponsors such as Battens Solicitors and Gilyard Scarth Estate Agents. Sadly, the latter firm closed in January after years of generous service to many in the community.

Others who have supported us during the year include Blackmore Vale Lions and Sherborne and Yeovil Soroptimists.

As always the Friends respond positively to requests from staff for financial assistance for young people with particular and pressing needs.

Prof Bob Eccleshall
Chair of Friends and Vice Chair of Trustees

Income



Support the Rendezvous

Join the Friends of the Rendezvous and make regular donations

~

Make a one off donation (via our localgiving page)

~

Run a fundraising event on our behalf

~

Nominate us as your workplace charity of the year

~

Volunteer your time as a tutor or help with administration behind the scenes

~

Join our community fundraising volunteer group

Contact us to find out more
www.therendezvous.org.uk

Governance

Legal Status

- We are a Company limited by guarantee and registered under the Companies Act 2006. The Company Registration Number is 07592624.
- We are a Charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Charity Registration Number is 1162722.
- We are governed by our Articles of Association, which outlines our objectives and powers.
- The Directors of the company are responsible to the Members.
- The Directors are also Charity Trustees as defined by the Charities Act 2011.

Trustees

- The Trustees meet six times a year and are responsible for formulating the strategy and policies for the charity as a whole.
- During the year there were on average eight trustees with a range of skills which are related to the aims and work of the charity. The ideal number of trustees is considered to be between seven and ten with a broad mix of business, educational and youth work skills.
- Potential trustees are assessed by the Nominations Committee and approved by the full Board. All are asked to submit to a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check. New trustees undertake a trustee induction programme to familiarise themselves with the charity.
- A Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GPC) has been established under the chairmanship of the Treasurer.
- The Trustees review the major risks facing the charity on a regular basis, including the adequacy of financial reserves, the appropriateness of financial controls and the operational, reputational and business risks facing the charity. As far as possible the Trustees believe that appropriate measures have been taken to mitigate these risks.

Board of Trustees

Chair	Andrew May
Vice Chair	Professor Robert Eccleshall
Vice Chair	Linda Bygrave
Treasurer	Sue Prescott
Trustee - <i>Schools</i>	James Gower (resigned 05/06/18)
Trustee - <i>Training & Qualifications</i>	Carol Johnson
Trustee - <i>Young People</i>	Pempy Wallington
Trustee - <i>Marketing & Fundraising</i>	Julie Warren
Trustee - <i>Community</i>	Roy Catchpole
Trustee	Penny Graham
<i>Secretary to the Trustees</i>	Vacancy

Staff Team

Chief Executive Officer/Centre Manager	Helen Da Silva Wood
Finance & Business Administrator	Jo Lowndes
Lead – Advice and Information	Jemma Turner
Lead – Social and Emotional	Sarah Childs
Lead - Employability, Learning & Volunteers	Julie Bartle
Youth Support Worker	Jemma Rogerson

Sessional Staff

Outreach Worker	Lou Donovan
Youth Support Worker	Sam Dawes

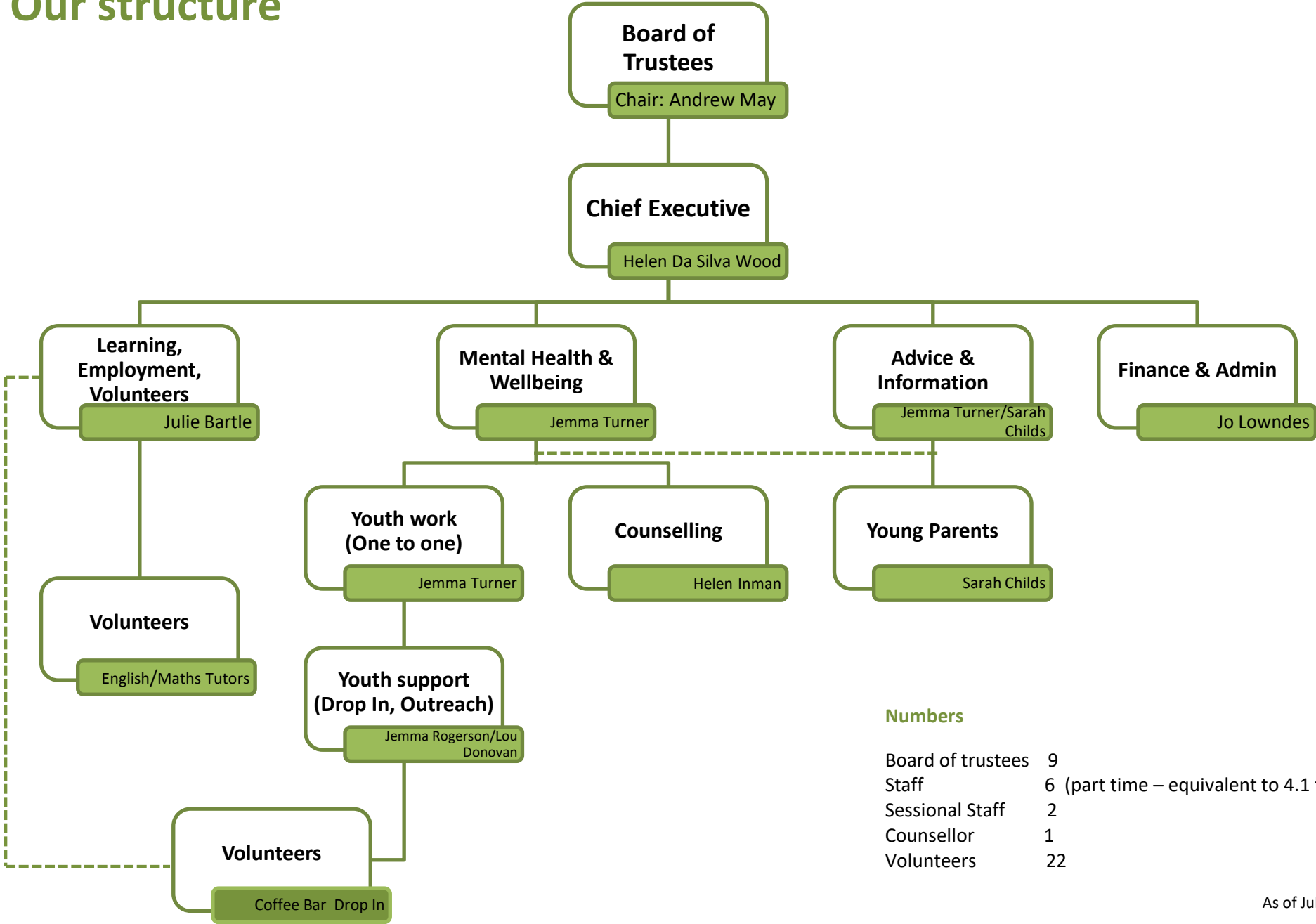
Counselling

Counsellor	Helen Inman
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Friends of the Rendezvous

Chair	Professor Robert Eccleshall
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Our structure



Numbers

Board of trustees	9
Staff	6 (part time – equivalent to 4.1 full time)
Sessional Staff	2
Counsellor	1
Volunteers	22

Organisations we work with or have close links to

Schools

Gillingham School
Gryphon School
SAST SENCO Group
Sherborne Primary School

Councils

Dorset Council
Gillingham Town Council
Sherborne Town Council

Statutory services

CASH – Contraception and Sexual Health Service
Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service
Children
Sherborne Health Visitor Team
Gillingham Health Visitor Team
Gillingham Police Team
North Dorset Family Partnership Zone
Sherborne Police

Voluntary sector

Dorset Youth Association
Dorset Community Association
Sherborne Foodbank
Somerset Community Association – SPARKS

Other

Cheap Street United Reform and Methodist Church
Future Roots (Rylands Farm)
Sherborne Chamber of Commerce
Gillingham Library

Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2019	2018
Incoming resources				
Donations, grants & legacies	94,449	29,171	123,620	135,768
Charitable activities	27,281	275	27,556	24,076
Other fundraising activities	24,289	-	24,289	12,195
Investment income	291	-	291	34
	<u>146,310</u>	<u>29,446</u>	<u>175,756</u>	<u>172,073</u>
Resources expended				
Charitable activities	73,754	37,273	111,027	100,873
Other fundraising activities	1,096	-	1,096	1,322
Premises & administration	46,813	200	47,013	43,157
	<u>121,663</u>	<u>37,473</u>	<u>159,136</u>	<u>145,352</u>
Net movement in funds	24,647	(8,027)	16,620	26,721
Total funds brought forward	<u>101,456</u>	<u>32,509</u>	<u>133,965</u>	<u>107,244</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>126,103</u>	<u>24,482</u>	<u>150,585</u>	<u>133,965</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019

	2019	2018
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	<u>3,377</u>	<u>52</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	4,900	2,030
Stock	366	170
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>180,534</u>	<u>135,886</u>
	185,800	138,086
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>38,592</u>	<u>4,173</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>147,208</u>	<u>133,913</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	150,585	133,965
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY		
Unrestricted funds	126,104	101,456
Restricted funds	<u>24,481</u>	<u>32,509</u>
	<u>150,585</u>	<u>133,965</u>

Working with young people to give them...

Help

to resolve practical problems with
housing, benefits, debt, employment

Support

to improve their social, emotional
wellbeing and mental health

Tuition

to gain the qualifications they need
to go to college, start an
apprenticeship, find a job

Hope

for the future