

## Our projects

- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Learning and Employability [The Future is Yours]
- Advice and Information
- Groups: Nurture groups - Anxious to Awesome; Bekah's Kitchen Table  
Young parents groups
- Outreach

## Locations

### Sherborne

- The Rendezvous Centre
- Gryphon School
- Cheap Street Church Hall
- Home visits [Young Parents]
- Streets and parks [outreach]

### Yeovil

- Morley House [Learning]

### Gillingham

- Gillingham School
- Gillingham Youth Club & Community Centre
- Home visits [Young Parents]
- Streets and parks [outreach]

## Our leads

- Chief Exec - Helen Da Silva Wood
- Mental Health - Jemma Turner
- Learning & Volunteers - Julie Bartle

## Our team

- 12 core staff [5hrs+ pwk]
- 3 sessional/project staff
- 35+ volunteers | 30 tutors  
5 wellbeing | 2 admin | 1  
learning | 2 young parents

## Our board

- Stephen Uden [Chair]  
Alison Hoffman, Julie  
Warren, Linda Bygrave,  
Martin Singer, Natalie Giles,  
Tony Smith [Treasurer]

## Awards

### High Sheriff of Dorset's Award Contribution to the Community

- Jemma Turner

## Our year 2023-2024

We have had a busy and successful year working with nearly 300 young people across the area. The impact of the Covid lockdowns on the young people in our communities continues to be seen with so many timid, fearful and extremely anxious about engaging with life. In 12 months the numbers of young people we see who are U16 not on school roll has doubled. Now 80% of our learners and those seeking mental health and wellbeing support are U19. We are proud of the work we do with these young people and the transformations we achieve, helping young people to gain the qualifications they need and the confidence and self esteem necessary to take positive next steps towards independence and adulthood.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

1000hrs+

targetted 1:1  
sessions

With an increase in demand, the team have been stretched. Keeping waiting lists to a minimum is an ongoing struggle but rarely go beyond 2-3 weeks which is in part due to the additional capacity provided by our small group of Wellbeing Volunteers. Anxiety and school-based issues remain prevalent.

### Learning & Employability

54 learners

U16.....17

17-19.....28

19+.....9

The academic year started with a bang that has yet to let up. We are, without doubt, providing an effective local solution to a national problem and our volunteer tutors again proved themselves to be our greatest asset. Without them the project could not run and these young people would simply 'fall between the cracks.'

### Groups | Young Parents, Anxious to Awesome, Bekah's Kitchen Table

49 young people  
300hrs+

From growing beans to cooking healthy meals our weekly young parent groups and targetted nurture groups [Anxious to Awesome and Bekah's Kitchen Table] have continued to provide opportunities for young people to build social confidence and start to reintegrate with their peers in a relaxed way.

### Advice and information

47 cases

125 meetings

Work is predominantly with young parents and focussed on the resolution of housing and benefits issues and learning to manage on a small budget. We have also provided sexual health advice and advice on healthy relationships. whilst keeping young people safe by reporting safeguarding concerns appropriate.

### Gillingham Youth Collective | The National Lottery Community Fund

40+ Media Makers

100+ Youth Club

115+ Park event

We are the lead organisation this fully-funded collaborative project with Gillingham Youth Club provides skills and personal development opportunities for young people. Our work focusses on the use of media to build confidence and encourage self-expression and delivering an annual youth community day..

### Funding 2023-24

Income: £311,063

Grants: £229,311

Donations £35,282

Other: £1,747

Deferred: £44,723

Expenditure:

£234,819

We have had a solid year, successfully raising new funds whilst carefully managing existing costs. We are always mindful of the future and with three main grants ending in March 2025 we appointed a Community & Partnerships fundraiser in March 2024 to help us develop new and sustainable income streams.

Free reserves: £30,308

Designated emergency reserves:

Restricted reserves: £94,787

£90,000 [All as of 31/3/24]

**I used to be such a horrible person, just be nasty and disruptive for no reason. I'm not like that anymore. I am nicer to people and make much better choices now - *Girl U16***

**31** moved on positively:  
**17** to college  
**5** apprenticeships  
**8** into work  
**1** nursing degree  
*More expected summer 2024*

I could feel myself getting angry and then I did what you taught me and reminded myself that I am in control. It worked - *Girl 16-19*

I don't talk to anyone like my friends or family, I don't feel comfortable. The only person I talk openly to is you - Boy U16

**When you started working with my daughter she was not able to go to school due to her anxiety. She is now back in school full time and has got an amazing friendship group. Without the Rendezvous' help I don't know where we would be today - *Parent of school refuser***

I can now get my own bus ticket instead of getting someone else to do it for me. I use the coping strategies that you taught me - *Girl 16-19*

**I love coming to group - *Young parent 19-25***

**I feel much more confident in myself. It's a good feeling - *Girl 16-19***

Coming here has helped me so much  
- Boy 19+

Since starting to volunteer here, I have given up my other volunteering role as the way that you do things here means the volunteers are supported and looked after.

- *Volunteer, Wellbeing*