

Charity Snapshots | September 2025

Another year rebuilding confidence, reducing isolation and improving skills for life

- 150 young people now accessing our free, local and life-changing 1:1 support
- Learner numbers doubled since 2022 - 35 full qualifications passed this year
- Mental health & wellbeing numbers up 40% since 2022
- Volunteer numbers increased by 30%

Our projects

- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Learning & Employability
- Advice and information
- Groups: Anxious to Awesome, Bekah's Kitchen Table
- Outreach (Sherborne)
- Special Projects (Gillingham)

Locations

Sherborne

- The Rendezvous Centre
- Gryphon School (mental health)
- Streets and parks (outreach)

Yeovil

- Morley House (learning)

Gillingham

- Gillingham School (mental health)
- Various venues (project specific)

Our leads

- Chief Exec - Helen Da Silva Wood
- Mental Health - Jemma Turner
- Learning & Employability - Julie Bartle
- Learning Yeovil - Holly Kretz
- Community Fundraising - Fi Franklin
- Gillingham - Sam Craig

Our team

- 7 Core staff [10hrs+ pwk]
- 7 Sessional/project staff
- 60+ Volunteers
- 8 Trustees
- 5 Associate Trustees

Charity Update 2024-2025

In the UK nearly 1 in 8 young people aged 16-24 (948,000)* are NEET — not in education, employment or training. Those without Level 2 English and Maths are 75% more likely to fall into this group and the longer a young person is NEET, the more their life chances shrink and their mental and physical health suffers. Our mental health and learning support offers these young people a lifeline, helping them rebuild confidence, gain qualifications, and move forward in life. In addition to those engaging with us informally, over the last academic year, 150 young people (13-25) accessed our 1:1 mental health and learning programmes. Of those leaving us (50%) went on to college, apprenticeships, work, or were helped to stay in education. The remainder are still with us, working towards Level 2 qualifications and finding the coping strategies that work for them to engage in life.

Trends

Young people between under 19 now make up 70% of our users. Anxiety and school-based issues continue to be the number one reason young people seek our help. This is increasingly recognised nationally as Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA), which is often rooted in depression, trauma, bullying, academic pressure, or family problems. The numbers show no sign of abating — but with our support, young people rebuild confidence, gain qualifications, and take positive steps into college, apprenticeships, and work.

Income

Trusts and Foundations	65%	Local and Community	19%
Council/Local Authority	13%	Other	3%

Challenges

- Demand is rising year on year.
- Staffing is stretched — most of our team are part-time, have second jobs and/or other responsibilities.
- Funding is harder to secure.
- Despite this, we have kept waiting lists low thanks to our growing pool of volunteer tutors and wellbeing volunteers.

Next Steps

We remain committed to providing a local solution to a national problem — tackling youth anxiety, isolation, and lack of opportunity. We are currently reviewing our work and developing a new three year plan that takes into consideration growing demand, staff capacity and significant funding challenges but remain optimistic that with the support our communities we will continue to thrive and make a real difference to young people's lives.

Annual Summer Survey – Feedback 2025

93% young people said we made “a huge amount” or “a lot of difference” to their lives.

This is what they said when we asked them why...

“This is the place I’ve been looking for since I was 13...”

“I would still be in my room if it wasn’t for the Rendezvous.”

“I don’t feel so isolated around people.”

“I’ve been worrying less and less - and passed exams”

*“Bex is AMAZING!!!
Not just to me, to all
the parents and
kids.”*

**“Having Jem every
week has been good
- I can talk about
what’s going on in
my life.”**

**“I do homework – and I never
did that at school.”**

The volunteer’s voice

For me, the best thing about tutoring at The Rendezvous is seeing the change in the young people. On the face of it, we tutors are simply trying to help them with their maths or English, but the effect goes much deeper than this, and the changes in their confidence and self esteem are wonderful to see. -

Volunteer tutor

The numbers...

- 70 young people engage in learning and 70 in mental health 1:1 support
- 70% of learners are 16-19, 21% are under 16
- 32% of school age learners have been out of school for 2+ years
- at least 60% struggle with mental health and/or have special educational needs
- we offer 3500 learning hours each year
- we benefit from 7000 volunteer tutor hours – equivalent to 5.5 fulltime teachers

By the end of the year...

- 94 exam modules passed
- 35 full qualifications – 19 x L2
- 50% continued to learn with us
- 25% gained qualifications needed to go to college
- 15% found work
- 10% joined an apprenticeship
- 80% made solid academic progress
- 70% felt clearer and more confident about their next step

...helping the learners and trying to figure out what will work for them... It’s a great fun team too who are always willing to help – Volunteer tutor

The best part for me is knowing that I am helping someone AND keeping my brain going - *Volunteer*