



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Leading Sherborne youth charity welcomes new Chair**

The Rendezvous, which has provided vital support to young people aged 13-25 since 1997, has appointed a new Chair of Trustees. Paul Copp, who was born and raised in Long Street, Sherborne, was officially welcomed during the charity's AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Paul, who lives in Marston Magna, comes to the charity following a successful 30-year career in sales management with a global tailoring business. He has a lifelong passion for helping young people succeed through sports coaching and mentoring.

Paul said: "I'm delighted to join such a dedicated team of staff, volunteer tutors and wellbeing volunteers at The Rendezvous, whose record in helping young people overcome the challenges of anxiety, isolation and lack of opportunity is second to none. I look forward to bringing my own experience and mentoring skills to the team, as we work together to empower the lives of young people in our community".

Chief Executive Helen Da Silva Wood also spoke with enormous gratitude for the contribution over five years of outgoing Chair, Stephen Uden while thanking his wife Ingrid who has also been an invaluable volunteer at the charity.

Demand for the charity's youth services increases year on year but funding is harder than ever to secure. The Rendezvous welcomes approaches from local businesses and organisations who might consider supporting this life-changing work. For further information, contact Chief Executive Helen da Silva Wood e: [hdasilvawood@therendezvous.org.uk](mailto:hdasilvawood@therendezvous.org.uk) or Community Fundraiser Fiona Franklin e: [fiona.franklin@therendezvous.org.uk](mailto:fiona.franklin@therendezvous.org.uk)

To discover more about the work of The Rendezvous visit: [www.therendezvous.org.uk](http://www.therendezvous.org.uk)

*ENDS*

23/9/2025

## EDITOR'S NOTES

The Rendezvous (Reg. Charity No. 1162722 since 1997) offers targeted mental health and wellbeing support, nurture groups, accredited English and Maths qualifications, help towards college, employment or volunteering, general advice and information, plus support for young parents.

Over the last academic year 2024/25, 150 young people aged 13-25 accessed life-changing mental health, wellbeing or learning programmes through The Rendezvous – both in Sherborne and its outreach projects in Yeovil and Gillingham. Fifty percent of those supported went on to college, apprenticeships, work, or were helped to stay in education. The remainder are still receiving support towards qualifications, whilst developing the coping strategies to help them engage in life.

For further press information or image opportunities, please contact:

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