



Statement of Purpose and Function

Our environment supports a wide variety of individual needs and learning styles for the young people that attend the centre. Learning to Listen is largely an outdoor based environment, though we do also have classroom facilities. Based on a 2000-acre estate, we actively use our equine herd, the farm dogs, our small animal population, bush craft skills and the garden to engage with young people ranging from 8 to 18 years old.

We work in a varied way so we can assess what works best with particular individual needs. The team are all qualified transformational/behavioural coaches. They have also undergone extensive training to enable them to work from a therapeutic approach, specialising in trauma, challenging behaviour, and SEN needs. All the team are fully DBS checked.

Our extensive experience enables us to build a deep connection and understanding of the challenges and behavioural patterns that our young people are typically experiencing. The way we work is gentle and importantly pressure free; however, we hold a strong framework of boundaries to ensure that our attendees are emotionally and physically safe in the environment.

We have extensive experience in working with young people that have experienced serious trauma in their lives, we also work directly with many looked after young people, therefore also understand the complexities of those who are not living with their birth parents. Our approach is tailor made for each of our students, as their needs vary so widely.

The work we do very much relies on an incremental step by step approach which, when consistently delivered over a period of time, allows for behavioural changes to happen and integrate in such a way that is sustainable. We invest a lot of time in building connection and trust, before then moving into consciously developing the key areas of building self-esteem & self-awareness. We focus on teaching the understanding of what 'healthy relationships require, whilst recognising the value of

personal responsibility, in conjunction with addressing individual patterns of behaviour that are disruptive through to destructive.

If it is appropriate, we will also identify opportunities to integrate curriculum related opportunities delivered by specialist tutors - (For example Maths, Literacy and Art). The practical and dextral skills and abilities are also key areas we consciously look at opportunities to develop; when young people are working with us practically in our environment, be it riding a pony, caring for our small animal environments or learning how to prepare a vegetable patch for planting, they all represent highly valuable transferable life skills.

We submit periodic reports for each student, taking into consideration on-going assessment, progress and desired outcomes, which can then be used to inform any existing or future educational/EHCP requirements.

We can facilitate placements of up to 12.5 hours per week. Our recommendation as a minimum commitment is for 2 weekly sessions for at least a full term. Our sessions are 2-5 hours long depending on practicalities such as travel time, budget, age, engagement all of which are discussed as part of the referral process and agreed on a case by case basis.

Following the initial period of commitment, we will then review and agree the next steps, which will be also assessing and identifying each individual's engagement and progress and how this is supporting them with their on-roll educational placement and wider aspects of their lives. Typically, the development would be to work alongside another student(s), to then further stretch and build the relationship building capacity beyond the one-to-one scenario. This then equips our students to increase their commitment and engagement back in their educational and home settings.

We also offer group sessions that are designed around our personal mastery programme "The Warrior".

The modules in this programme are:

- Know Thyself
- Leadership
- Adversity
- Teamwork
- Success

The programme can be tailored and designed in such a way that means we can address and work on specific challenges and work towards agreed goals and outcomes.

Fees are charged at £85.00 per hour. (Minimum of 2 hours per session)

We invoice termly in advance and ask for a minimum of half a term's notice period to end the placement.

We have relationships with and have worked with children from a number of different locations, here is a small selection for your information/referencing:

The PSRP at JCoSS in Barnet

Wilbury Junior School in Letchworth

Hitchin Girls/Boys Schools in Hitchin

Knights Templar in Baldock

Active Support in Luton

The Virtual School in Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire

The SEND teams Hertfordshire/ Bedfordshire

The SENAT team in Luton/Bedfordshire

CAMHS

To start the referral process please contact:

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Director:

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