

TOGETHER



**TOGETHER  
TRUST**

Registered charity number 209782

# a year together

2019 - 2020



# Hello from Mark



Welcome to **'a year together'**. This is our opportunity to share the journeys of the people we support and celebrate achievements across our care, support and special education services.

**Relationships are vital to everything we do.** Whether it's how we provide support here at the Together Trust, or how the country has pulled together in these difficult times. The relationships between families, the people we support, our colleagues, our foster carers and those in local communities keep us going in the hardest of times and provide the groundwork for future success.

Like many other charities, demand for our services continues to grow but the challenges around COVID-19 still remain. I have no doubt that **our dedicated team will rise to the challenge and continue to provide life changing support for the children and adults across our services.**

Now more than ever the commitment from our donors, fundraisers and volunteers will be crucial in expanding our services so we can support even more people to live the happy, fulfilled lives they deserve.

**I hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful achievements from across our services, made possible by our fantastic team of staff, volunteers, supporters, trustees and governors.** We look forward to another year together. You can learn more about the Together Trust by visiting [togethertrust.org.uk](https://togethertrust.org.uk)

Take very good care,

**Mark Lee**  
Chief Executive



# Here's what to expect



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# Who we are

## We are the Together Trust

For 150 years we've been championing and caring for people with disabilities, autism and complex health needs. And providing life-changing care and support for looked-after children and care-experienced people.

Today we're one of the North West's leading disability, education and care charities. We help children, adults, parents and carers, delivering individual care, support and education to thousands of people and their families each year.

Who we are

# Our mission

To champion the rights, needs and ambitions of the people we support – they are at the heart of everything we do. We stand by them and we work together for change

Together we

→ care

learn ←

→ support

grow ←

## Our values

### Positive

We take pride in celebrating the difference we make

### Professional

We act in a fair and respectable way that recognises our collective expertise

### Passionate

We encourage creative ideas and inspire one another

### Supportive

We are considerate and caring towards one another

## Our vision

A society where people thrive because they are valued within their communities







**What  
we do**

## What we do

**Everyone deserves to lead a happy life – together, we make that possible.**

At the Together Trust, we deliver individual care, support and education services across the North West.

**Everyone deserves a place to call home**

Whether that's a place to call your own, somewhere to rest and recharge or get stability and support. We're proud to offer warm and nurturing homes for children and young people. We help them grow their independence and shape their own story. All while regaining a sense of belonging.

Find out more about our caring homes at [togethertrust.org.uk/caring-homes](https://togethertrust.org.uk/caring-homes)





## Specialist learning environments

We support children and young people from age 5 all the way to 25 with individual learning plans.

Head to [togethertrust.org.uk/education](https://togethertrust.org.uk/education) to find out more about Bridge College, Inscape House School and Ashcroft School and College.

Ashcroft  
School



Inscape  
House  
School





## What we do

### Be brave, be brilliant, be a foster carer

We've been growing our foster family for over 20 years. If you've got a passion for helping young people succeed, you could be a Together Trust foster carer.

If you are interested in joining our fostering family, visit [togethertrust.org.uk/fostering](https://togethertrust.org.uk/fostering)



### Family support

We've helped a lot of families over the years, and we know that every family is different. Our support includes Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Mediation services and autism sleep clinics.

Find out more about how we help families thrive at [togethertrust.org.uk/helping-families](https://togethertrust.org.uk/helping-families)





## Community support

We put our services at the heart of local communities, whether that's helping adults to live independently, or creating spaces for young people to learn, work and play.

Find out how we help people be valued within their communities at [togethertrust.org.uk/community-support](https://togethertrust.org.uk/community-support)



## Campaigning

We work alongside the people we support to create change and make sure their voice is heard.

Find out where we stand at [togethertrust.org.uk/campaigning](https://togethertrust.org.uk/campaigning)



**What we  
are proud of**





## What we are proud of

### People

Wendy Coomer, former Chairman of the Together Trust, was awarded an MBE in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition of her services in the voluntary sector for young people and the community in Cheshire. Wendy has been actively involved with the Together Trust in a variety of volunteer roles for more than a quarter of a century.

### Fostering

Together Trust's Fostering service received a 'Good' rating following an Ofsted inspection. The report praised our charity's foster carers, emphasising the positive relationships they have built with the children in their care.



## Therapy services

Sleep Tight Trafford shortlisted for National Autistic Society's prestigious autism professional awards as finalists for the national award for Outstanding Health Service.

## Fundraising

We held two fundraising events with the Gorton Ball and the Hilton Hotel Star Ball raising over £40,000 to support our vital services. This wouldn't have been possible without the wonderful volunteers who organised the events.



## What we are proud of

### Residential services

Two of our residential homes received particularly positive Ofsted ratings this year. Lerryn maintained their outstanding rating in April 2019 and Swann Lane moved to Outstanding in September 2019. All other homes were rated good by Ofsted during the reporting period.

Money from Children in Need and the Together Trust meant we could install a wheelchair swing that is now enjoyed by many of our young people accessing the short breaks service at Woodlands.



## Community services

Nathaniel has autism and has been supported by the Together Trust for 20 years. During lockdown he initially struggled with the change of routine and his sleep was really disrupted as a result. But after seeing videos of Captain Tom, Nathaniel was inspired to go by the name of Captain COVID to raise awareness and money to help the NHS. The project helped put a smile back on Nathaniel's face.





What we are proud of

## Bridge College

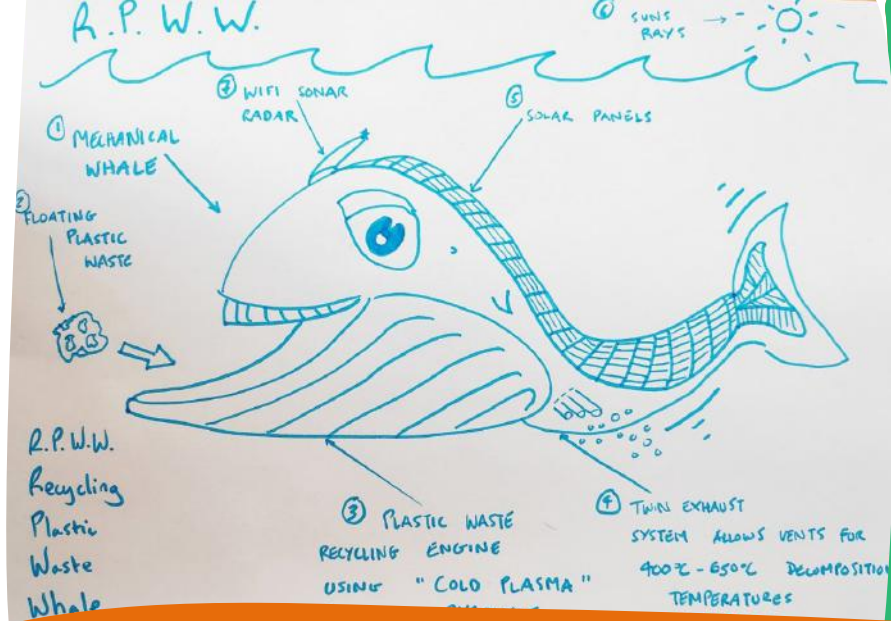
Bridge College was shortlisted for a national Natspec award in recognition for its work supporting students with profound and multiple learning difficulties through the integration of learning and therapy.



## Inscape House School

Jacob Milward, a student and eco warrior at Inscape House School, realised that there was a gap in accessibility in transport at the school he was determined to help solve the matter by campaigning and securing an automatic car to allow all care workers the ability to transport students.





## Ashcroft School

Young people from Ashcroft School won first and second place in Brunel International's Young Inventors competition securing prizes worth £350 and a donation of £500 for the school.

# What we have achieved

April 2019 - March 2020



# 2058



people supported by our services



children supported in homes through fostering or residential care



individuals supported through our community services

# 3000

nights of support were provided to young people with autism and learning difficulties through our short break services

Short break

Wooo!



**£285k**

has been raised through  
fundraising and grant income



We were granted gold  
status for customer service  
across all four principles by  
Investor in Customers.



**244**

young people provided  
individual learning plans in  
our specialist learning  
environments

**222**

students accessed the  
local community as part  
of their learning



**3**

new projects funded by  
our generous corporate  
supporters

# Owen's story

Negative school experiences left Owen deeply anxious about school and left his mum Michelle despairing at an education system which didn't have a place for her son. Owen's autism, selective mutism and social phobia caused him and his mum to feel like he was a problem that couldn't be solved; then **Inscape House School** gave her hope.

**“We had tried mainstream and specialist schools with Owen** but we regularly found that whatever we tried, their systems saw Owen as a problem which they couldn't fix and I was eventually being told to stop contacting the schools. This had a big impact on the relationship between Owen and me which eventually led to a period of around 18 months where he wasn't in school at all; we felt abandoned.





“Many schools we looked at said they couldn’t help, **the difference with Inscape was the door wasn’t shut immediately.** There was a feeling of ‘If we can help we will help’, that offered us hope after years of feeling hopeless. **Everything about Owen has changed, he’s happier and able to live a more normal life.**

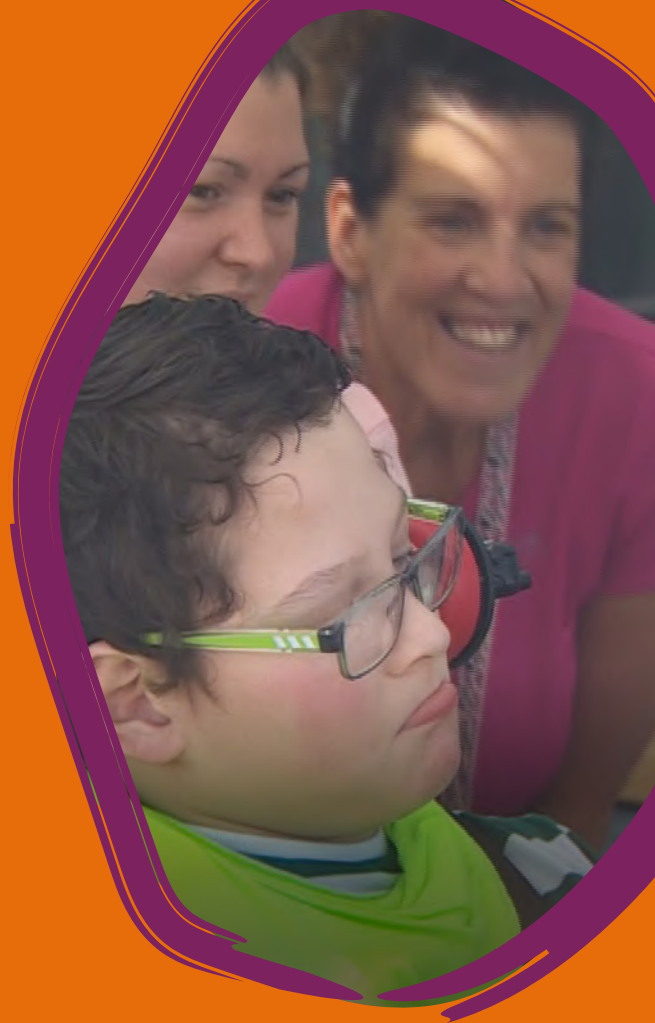
“**Inscape has helped Owen find his voice.** All I’ve ever wanted for him was to be independent, without the support we have got from Inscape, he would have been dependant on me for the rest of his life. Being able to communicate his needs has transformed him, **he’s happier, I’m happier and our family as a whole has benefited hugely.**”

At Inscape House School, we break down barriers to learning for children with autism. Based in Cheadle, we support young people from Year 1 to Year 14. Contact us on **0161 283 4750**, **[inscape.admin@togethertrust.org.uk](mailto:inscape.admin@togethertrust.org.uk)** or visit **[togethertrust.org.uk/inscape-house-school](https://togethertrust.org.uk/inscape-house-school)**

# Ben's story

**Ben has cerebral palsy and autism** and for several years has been supported by Woodlands, a centre for young people with complex needs. When lockdown came, it was suggested that he should move into Woodlands full time. Mum Caroline works for the health service and Ben staying at home would have meant their normal support system would have been stretched.

**Caroline:** "When the suggestion of Ben moving to the centre full time was first mentioned my instinct was, no. Like any other parent, I wanted to keep my son at home with me but **eventually I thought with my head rather than my heart and realised he would be safer at Woodlands.**"







“It is difficult when I’m watching other people doing things for him because they are all the things that I would normally be doing but given the circumstances I can’t. Our situation is nothing special given the world we are living in, there are countless children and people with complex needs who can’t see family and relatives but **knowing that Ben is safe and well cared for at Woodlands makes all the difference for us as a family.**”

To find out more about Woodlands and the Together Trust’s short break services, head to [togethertrust.org.uk/short-breaks](https://togethertrust.org.uk/short-breaks)

# Sally's story



Sally has worked at **Bridge College** for almost 3 years, joining as a drama tutor. For the past 2 years Sally has been working in the admissions team.

The role combines everything Sally loves, most importantly **she helps supports students in their transition from school to college.**

“My role is about making sure we meet the needs of our new students, but **the most important part of the job is relationships.** Leaving school can feel like such a huge thing, full of uncertainty for our students.”





“I first meet our students about a year before they join us. I’ll spend time with them at their school and sit with the students in their lessons. It’s important to have good relationships with schools and teachers to help find out about the students and their learning. Sometimes we’ll bring a few students from the same school in for an assessment or they might come in on their own. We’re lucky at Bridge College to have a multidisciplinary team and I love working as a team to make sure we can support a student from leaving school into independence. **We all work closely together throughout the assessment process to create a learning and support programme that is completely shaped to the student.** ➔

## Sally's story



**“The pandemic has meant we’ve had to rethink how we do assessments and transitions this year.** We’ve had one group of students who I first met before Christmas but because of COVID-19 we had to do our assessments over Zoom and by phoning parents and teachers. **But it still felt like we knew the students when they were finally able to step into the building** just before the summer holidays. It was the first time the students had really been out the house so it was great to get to meet them again so they could see the college before joining in September.

**“It’s been lovely seeing our new students join us this year, I made sure I was there to greet them on the first day. It means a lot for them to see a friendly face and if they need me, they know I’m always there.”**



Bridge College is the first step to an independent, happy adult life for our learners. Based in Manchester, we offer specialist education for students aged 16 to 25 with learning difficulties, disabilities, complex health needs and autism.

For more information contact college reception on **0161 487 4293**, by emailing **[admin@bridgecollege.ac.uk](mailto:admin@bridgecollege.ac.uk)** or visiting **[togethertrust.org.uk/bridge-college](http://togethertrust.org.uk/bridge-college)**





## Michelle's story

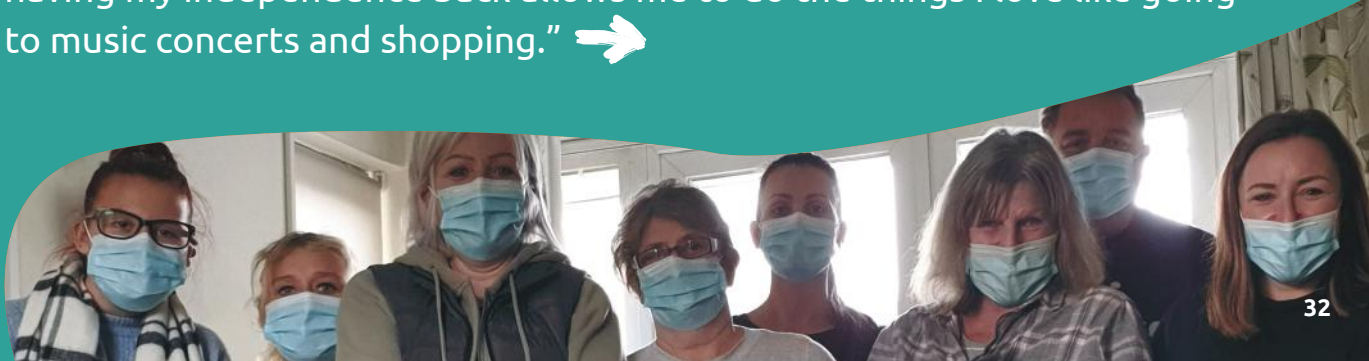
At **Pearce Lodge** we support people with disabilities and complex needs to make decisions about their care and live happy, independent and fulfilling lives. Michelle has been supported by the Together Trust for 2 years.

"I was just your average young mum of 2 bathing my baby daughter in 2008 when **I suffered a stroke which left me unable to move or speak.** Following a period without a diagnosis a nurse in intensive care noticed me blinking.

“It was then confirmed that I had a condition called **Locked-in syndrome** which left my body paralysed but my mind working perfectly. I am only able to communicate by blinking. **Now 12 years on I am being supported in one of the Together Trust’s homes.**

“This year COVID-19 has brought its challenges with my dad, Frank, contracting the virus and me having to be admitted to hospital with a health scare.

“I really miss not being able to talk, go out and party like other people my age but **the residential staff are all really friendly and make it feel like home.** It’s helping me build a closer relationship with my parents and having my independence back allows me to do the things I love like going to music concerts and shopping.” →



## Michelle's story

**Frank, Michelle's dad:** "It's been a difficult year, but **my happiest memory was when we all managed to get out as a family.**

My wife, Linda has asthma so I went for a test and was found to be positive. Michelle was also shielding, after coming out of hospital, so most of our conversations have been through the window. We were scheduled to go back and see her but then Manchester went into lockdown.

**"Michelle's personality hasn't changed since the stroke so I would imagine that my relationship with her is like most others.** She still gets annoyed when I try to second guess what she's saying and I think she answers back too much."







To learn more about our adult residential care,  
call us on **0161 283 4871**  
or go to **[togethertrust.org.uk/community-support](https://togethertrust.org.uk/community-support)**



Beth

Rachel



# Beth's Story

**Beth:**

"I was diagnosed with autism after my 13th birthday and life at that stage was tough. Mainstream school was difficult and I was making bad friendships, bad decisions and was spiralling out of control. When I was finally permanently excluded from school and put into care, I worried that my future was no job and a criminal record.

"Being referred to **Inscape** transformed my life. **They didn't just save my education but they saved me as a person.** I finally had the freedom to be myself and the space and support to be the best person I could be." →

## Beth's story

### Rachel:

"I first met Beth working in the cafe at Inscape. She didn't like me at first and was very wary. But **we found this mutual trust and shared love of food**, I think it surprised her that I let her make decisions on the running of the cafe and left her in charge."

### Beth:

"My first impression of Rachel was that she was really mint. We just clicked straight away. **When I was having a tough day she saw past my behaviours**, made me a brew and instantly made me feel better."





**Rachel:**

“I hope I’ve had a positive influence on Beth helping her to make good decisions and be someone she could trust. **Encouraging her to feel that anything is possible.** During COVID-19 Beth emailed me a lot, worried about things that were happening and asking for advice. Considering that during this period she’d left care, got her own flat and was furloughed from her job, **I think she’s been amazing and I’m very proud of everything she has done.**”


**Beth:**

“**Rachel’s friendship has been really important to me** and helped me achieve my 3 lifelong wishes of **a stable job, place of my own and a car.** Not bad for a 21 year old care leaver!”



# L'Oréal and The Together Trust





**We couldn't provide the life changing services we do without the generous backing of our corporate supporters.** One such supporter is L'Oréal who, alongside being the number one cosmetic brand in the world, place a big emphasis on helping local communities and charities. Sam Berry, Physical Distribution Manager at L'Oréal explained why for **the past 3 years L'Oréal staff have voted to support the Together Trust.** →

**L'Oréal and  
The Together  
Trust**

**“The fact that the  
Together Trust has been chosen  
as our charity for the last few years**  
is testament to the fantastic work they do.  
The families of several of our employees have been  
supported by the Together Trust and our team really  
believe in supporting the charity as much as they can.

“Like most other companies, we find ourselves in busy working  
environments and it’s often easy to become blinkered by our  
day-to-day pressures. It’s important to pause and reflect as a team  
and by supporting the Together Trust it gives us a chance to do  
this whilst supporting a local charity that means a lot to our staff.

**Working closely with the Together Trust has created a real  
feeling of togetherness for our team** - I would encourage  
anyone to get in contact and see how you could similarly  
support!”

**Sam Berry**

Physical Distribution Manager at L’Oreal

# Get involved

We're proud to partner with some amazing companies who share our vision. Together we're making a meaningful difference to the lives of children, young people and adults across the North West.

To find out more about how your company could get involved, call us on **0161 283 4848** or email **[fundraising@togethertrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@togethertrust.org.uk)**








# The Ever Open Door

150 years of the  
Together Trust





**Leonard Killbe Shaw and Richard Bramwell Taylor** founded our charity in **January 1870** as the Manchester and Salford Boys and Girls Refuges and Homes. They aspired to improve the lives of young people neglected by the state. Their work continues to inspire our modern-day values and that commitment to the people we support never falters because they are at the heart of everything we do. Since those early days in the centre of Manchester, the Together Trust has been working to support and champion the rights of young people.



**Thanks to funding from the National Lottery we've been able to explore and celebrate our 150 years** as part of our heritage project in our book *The Ever Open Door – 150 years of the Together Trust*. Special thanks to historian Andrew Simpson who volunteered many months of his time to write this book. →



Unfortunately COVID-19 put most of these plans on hold. However with the support and understanding of the National Lottery and the Arts Council England we've been able to re-start celebrations and would love to get as many people involved as we can.

## Share your memories

We'll be holding virtual events during 2020 and 2021 on our Facebook page for you to share your Together Trust memories from the past 150 years. Did a member of your family grow in our care or did you join one of our community festivals? You might have a story to share, a photograph from one of our events or a piece of memorabilia. Whatever your Together Trust memory, we'd love to hear from you.



## 150 years of changing lives

In early 2021 you'll get to travel back across the decades to 1870 and find out how we've been championing and caring for people across the North West on our digital timeline. You'll get to read stories about the people we've supported and find out about how our work has influenced social policy across the years.

## Stories from care

**We've been providing shelter for young people that need it since 1870.** As part of our 150th celebrations we are capturing the stories of the people we have supported in our homes. We've invited care experienced people to train in interview techniques, so they share record their life stories and experiences in an honest and compelling way. Their stories will be preserved in our archives and will help improve the rights of care experienced people.

Explore our 150 year heritage and look back at the Together Trusts rich history from humble beginnings to supporting thousands of people each year, read how we've shaped care, support and education in Manchester over 150 years. To enquire or reserve a copy please contact [books@togethertrust.org.uk](mailto:books@togethertrust.org.uk) or you can purchase a copy from [shop.togethertrust.org.uk](http://shop.togethertrust.org.uk)

For more information head to [togethertrust.org.uk/150](http://togethertrust.org.uk/150)







# 150 Artists

Thanks to funding from the Arts Council England and support from the Lowry Theatre's Community team **we kicked off our 150th birthday celebrations with an ambitious art project** that culminated in an **exhibition at The Lowry**. The exhibition explored the Together Trust's past, present and future with artworks created by the people we support in a series of workshops.



**Rebecca Finley, 150th Project Co-ordinator:** “Young people and adults at **our day service Newbridge** helped to select the artists to run workshops in our schools, colleges, residential and community services. The artists used our rich archive to create workshops using mediums such as **music, movement and dance, painting, clay, photography and other forms of craft.**”

“The children, young people and adults who took part in the project have created artwork that looks at our history but also reflect what the Together Trust means to them. **We're very, very proud of the work they've created as part of this project.**”

# Your support made a real difference

Support comes in all shapes and sizes, whether it's volunteering time, sitting on our board of trustees, joining our team or donating, every supporter makes a huge difference. Our dedicated team of supporters believe everyone deserves a chance at life and stand together with the people we support.

Thank you to everyone who has donated money, time and gifts to the Together Trust over the past 12 months. **Our supporters helped us to raise a fantastic £285,000 in 2019/2020.**

As a local charity we rely on generous people, organisations and communities to be able to continue to offer support to those most at need in the local area. We are hugely grateful for their commitment to the Together Trust, every donation truly does make a difference to the people we support.





Your support made a real difference

## How your support has helped others

Thanks to the generosity of our donors we have been able to undertake:

### Funded projects

#### Autism Sleep Clinic - Children in Need

In June 2020 due to the success of the Autism Sleep Clinic we were awarded further funding from Children in Need to enable us to continue the project for a further 3 years. This will allow us to run regular workshops and one-to-one appointments for parents and carers of children with autism who have sleep difficulties. Our experts offer practical advice and tailor-made sleep programmes to suit each individual child.



## Tackling inactivity - Sport England

We have received funding from Sport England over the last 4 years to focus on tackling inactivity at Bridge College. The project has been hugely successful and the latest award in March 2020 will allow the project to continue for another year to help more Bridge students get active.




## FUSE - Youth Music

This project was initially funded from February 2019 to August 2020 however due to COVID-19 we have extended the project until July 2021. We were awarded funding for a project coordinator to deliver an exciting cross-service school and college project. Our FUSE music project develops our young peoples' understanding of all elements of music making through working creatively together showcasing their skills and creativity to others.



# Thank you

We are extremely grateful for the generous support received from the individuals, community groups, corporate supporters and grant-making trusts who have chosen to support our work. **Thank you to the donors who have given generously to support our work** either financially or with significant donations in-kind including 





# How you can get involved with fundraising

From climbing a mountain to baking a cake or running a marathon, you can make a difference with the Together Trust. Up for the challenge? The money you raise helps us support children, young people and adults to thrive, and live the life they hope for. Let's make a difference together.



# How you can give to the Together Trust

## Give an individual gift

As little as £10 can buy much needed school supplies for our specialist schools and colleges. Your donations can make a real difference to the lives of local people with disabilities.



## Give in memory

You might want to give to the Together Trust in memory of someone you love. You can also choose to leave a gift in your will. By giving a legacy gift, you can secure vital services and help provide support to those most at need.

## Give while you shop

Did you know you can raise money for the Together Trust, just by shopping online? Help us fundraise at no extra cost to you by shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) or through [giveasyoulive.com](https://giveasyoulive.com)



# Newbridge capital appeal

Newbridge is an inclusive and creative space in Stockport where adults can develop new skills and have a happy social life in a safe, comfortable space.

Our support is shaped to fit the individual. Whether that is developing life skills and work training to simply having fun together and making new friends.

**At Newbridge we support everyone to feel accepted and included for who they are, be valued and respected by their communities and live the life they choose.**



We want to develop this important service that is at the heart of our local community in Stockport so **we can create a vibrant, exciting and far reaching future for the people we support at Newbridge.** We are preparing for a substantial refurbishment of the whole of the ground floor and major changes to the building to allow for flexibility and a wide range of new facilities and services including:

A new sensory room

Independence skills workshop space

Fully adapted IT suite

Outdoor safe break out space

Updated commercial kitchen to promote healthy living, food hygiene and catering skills

3 additional adapted bathrooms to ensure fully inclusivity



Funding this exciting project will ensure that the Newbridge philosophy and our life changing services reach an even wider, and ever more crucial target audience.

# The journey to 2022

## The Together Trust's strategy

As we head to 2022 we will take account of the growth opportunities relating to health and social care devolution in the North West. We will strengthen our existing partnerships and form exciting new alliances. We are a trusted partner to the people we support. Their views shape our future planning and service development. We do this to meet their life-long changing needs.



**Services  
that make a real  
difference**

Deliver high quality, person-centred, effective and cost efficient services to meet the life-long changing needs of the people we support.

**Be a trusted  
partner**

Our personalised services enable people to make positive progress. We help them to influence future policy and provision.

**Grow,  
develop and  
expand our reach**

Maximise our impact so we sustain our future as an organisation. We will grow organically and sustainably to meet changing needs.

**Attract  
and retain a skilled  
and motivated  
workforce**

Dedicated to helping those in need – we work collaboratively and live our values.

To read our latest news, see what events we have coming up or to see our job and volunteering opportunities, visit **[togethertrust.org.uk](https://togethertrust.org.uk)**

Our Trustee Annual Report and Accounts are available via the Together Trust website at: **[togethertrust.org.uk/charity-information](https://togethertrust.org.uk/charity-information)**

A digital copy of this publication can be downloaded at **[togethertrust.org.uk/what-we-do](https://togethertrust.org.uk/what-we-do)**

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Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**



**Investor in  
Customers**  
Gold 2019



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**



# TOGETHER TRUST

We are a charity that champions and cares  
for the rights, needs and ambitions of  
the people we support

[togethertrust.org.uk](https://togethertrust.org.uk)

Registered charity number 209782