

# Community Connectors

## Creating opportunities for people to grow in their local communities

The Community Connector service is a permanent service consisting of one general manager, 3 deputy managers and 26 Community Connectors covering the whole of Derbyshire.

### **What is the Community Connector Service?**

It is a service designed for adults of any age and young people from the age of 14 years with a learning disability and/or who are autistic.

It aims to support people to grow, develop and reach their potential by connecting them with local opportunities to reach the individuals full potential, goals, and outcomes to live fulfilling and inclusive lives in their communities.

The Community Connectors work with and alongside people with a learning disability and/or who are autistic and their families for a period for up to 12 weeks with a view to find and create meaningful and sustainable opportunities for the person within their local communities.

### **Our vision is:**

- To connect people with a learning disability and/or who are autistic to opportunities that will enable them to live the most independent lives where they want to live and how they want to live with the emphasis on inclusion and diversity.
- To meet their individual aspirations whilst building stronger relationships within their localities using a thriving community approach.
- To co-produce outcomes by linking individuals to opportunities in their area to help prevent isolation to support inclusion and community diversity including work and volunteering.
- To develop new and maintain existing relationships/friendships during the day, evenings, and weekends.
- To be actively involved in promoting digital solutions to enable people to be more independent and to narrow the digital divide.
- To support people to get access to opportunities in and around their local communities by for instance providing travel training

The focus will be on joint working with all stakeholders to stimulate and grow the community offer, connect people to opportunities across the county, map and identify shortfalls, overlap or and championing the Thriving Communities approach, working in partnership and develop positive working relationships with stakeholders and services such as health, housing providers, care providers, disability employment and advocates. Alongside this, the service will work with commissioning bodies, such as health, public health, PVI, and Education.

### **Our Role and Responsibilities:**

- Working with people with a learning disability and or who are autistic with the focus on working in partnership with people and encouraging choices, participation, considered risk taking and helping the people we work with to develop confidence and potential by building on existing strengths were appropriate for the person.
- Provide Travel Training where appropriate to increase choice and independence using a systematic approach and completion of relevant documentation including applications for transport when alternatives can't be sourced.
- Support with people with their readiness to work in paid employment and or voluntary opportunities.
- Compile, implement, monitor, and review risk assessments for all the people we support.
- Be responsible and contribute to support planning through the CC service plan. This process should be carried through with the focus on and fullest participation of the people we support and in consultation with carers and other professionals where appropriate.
- To capture people's outcomes in relation to the referral in SMART Goals
- Enable people to build new relationships, develop new friends

### **How the service works:**

- A referral form on Mosaic needs to be completed or a referral needs to be made to Call Derbyshire.
- There are a series of questions on the form that help to determine the individuals' goals and aspirations.
- The questions also determine a person's eligibility to access the service.
- Once it is established the person is eligible the referral goes to the Connector Manager who allocate a Community Connector in the area the

person lives.

- The Community Connector contacts the person and sets up an initial meeting. This is usually a home visit and creates a plan.
- The Community Connector then has up to 12 weeks to broker an opportunity in their local community that allows them to reach their goals.
- Community Connectors work 5 in 7 days and will cover evenings and weekends when necessary.
- Re-referrals will be considered

Our aim is to support our colleagues to find creative and exciting opportunities for people with a learning disability and/or who are autistic.

All referrals to Community Connectors are outcome based and not for specific named service providers. We will explore all opportunities to meet the needs and aspirations of the people we support. Community Connectors help people to understand their strengths and capabilities, and the support available to them in the community and through other networks and services.

There is NO direct referral into DCC LD day service, this includes any direct contact with the day service or via a referral to the Connector service asking for a specific DCC day service, whether people already receive a DCC service or not. The reason for this is to ensure we explore all support in the local community to ensure people are integrated and included in society as well as increasing independence and confidence. We are aspiring for 'blended' or 'varied' support plans... different experiences and opportunities to meet new people to enrich people's lives.

We are excited to work with you to support people to live their best life!

We want people to live their best life, whether the support includes social time, education, employment, relationship building, and digital inclusion being seeing a range of support (blended offer) and being included in their community. We know that you, as colleagues in P&P want this for people you support too, so let's work together to achieve it!

### **A few pointers to help the process:**

- If colleagues identify that a person needs support with finding opportunities to meet their Goal & Outcomes, a referral can be made to the Connector Service. However, please can we ask that you don't specify a service but rather provide the outcome the person wants to achieve, and we'll do the rest! As we all know, it's important that we work with people

without being service led.

- Parents, carers, and health colleagues are also unable to make specific DCC LD service requests, the route for support would be a referral to Community Connectors. It is the same process for everyone.
- It is the role of the Community Connector to look at all opportunities (including non-specific learning disability groups or opportunities) within and around a person's local Community to meeting their Goals & Outcomes.
- For a very small number of people, community-based opportunities are unsuitable due to complex level of need and a building base is needed. This may be using one of our DCC day opportunities as part of the support plan (but not exclusively) and would only be identified after exhausting all options and opportunities with Community Connectors before bringing to an MDT for decision making.
- This is the only way of a DCC building based service being agreed that will include people having an outcome focused strength-based support plan with SMART goals that are reviewed regularly

Should you require any further information please contact:

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