



AutismInitiatives

# ***SOCIAL ENTERPRISE REPORT***

2024/25



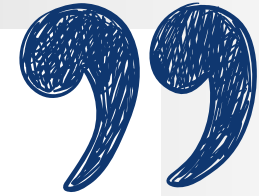
Supporting young people to develop their goals, grow and achieve

**It is thought that children with Special Educational Needs attend mainstream schools due to a combination of factors, including legal rights, a belief in and a Government drive for inclusive education, the desire for social interaction and academic opportunities.**

Mainstream schools can provide a wider range of subjects, qualifications and opportunities for interacting with peers with and without additional needs.

It is reported, however, that young autistic people experience high rates of persistent absence and are reducing their engagement at school.

Schools are reporting and children telling us about their increased isolation, reduced social connections, academic delay, increased anxiety, low confidence and self-esteem, feeling helpless.



**THANKS AGAIN  
FOR ALL THE  
SUPPORT YOU  
HAVE GIVEN ERIN  
OVER THE LAST  
COUPLE OF YEARS.  
IT'S BEEN  
INVALUABLE TO  
HER DEVELOPMENT**



***INTRODUCTION***





**A supported work placement within Social Enterprise is designed to complement a young person's education, regardless of their current setting. This will often enable or support them to gain transferrable skills and strategies.**

We recognise the demands of the classroom for some young autistic people, who find it increasingly difficult to remain in full-time education and provide the opportunity to support a young person's wellbeing, engagement in a new environment, doing new things with new people, and a sense of achievement.

**The benefits and outcomes for young people include:**

- A positive impact on attendance
- Increased confidence and self esteem
- A sense of purpose. The recognition of a job well done, increase in self-belief and ability to achieve
- Improving Quality of Life
- Learning work skills
- Supporting engagement by learning outside the classroom in a real world working environment.
- Successfully working alongside others and creating connections



# OUR OFFER



# Peter's Story

**Peter attends mainstream school and is diagnosed with ADHD and autism.**

He was struggling with some of the classroom pressures of sitting for certain lengths of time without distracting others or being distracted.

He was reported as disengaging with school and having less and less concentration.

Peter had personal motivation to complete school as he wanted to achieve enough qualifications to go on to attend agricultural college in sixth form.

School made a referral as he was identified as needing something different to support his engagement. Having access to learning outside the classroom in a real-world working environment would have a positive impact upon him when in the classroom.

**Peter's placement at We Grow Co has been highly positive. With a gregarious and proactive attitude, he took on increasing responsibility as he became more familiar with the enterprise.**

He gained independence in completing tasks and has also taken the lead in identifying tasks that need attention, effectively delegating them within the team. This demonstrates significant growth for Peter, who is hardworking, fun and focused. He understands the importance of workplace responsibilities and ensures tasks are completed in time. Peter's positive attitude is an asset both to himself and We Grow Co.

**Peter was able to be more focused in school while attending two half days a week at We Grow, reducing the demands of the classroom environment. He is now on target to take his GCSE's.**

**School have reported increased engagement and that he is less distracted.**

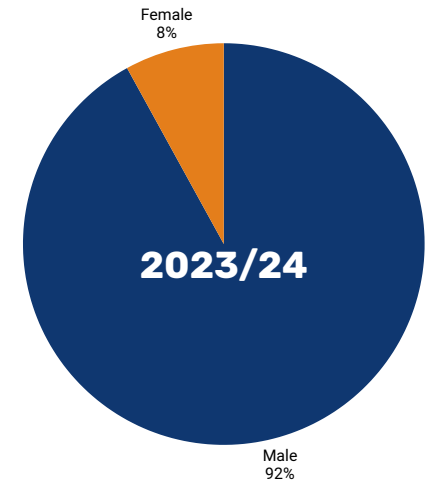
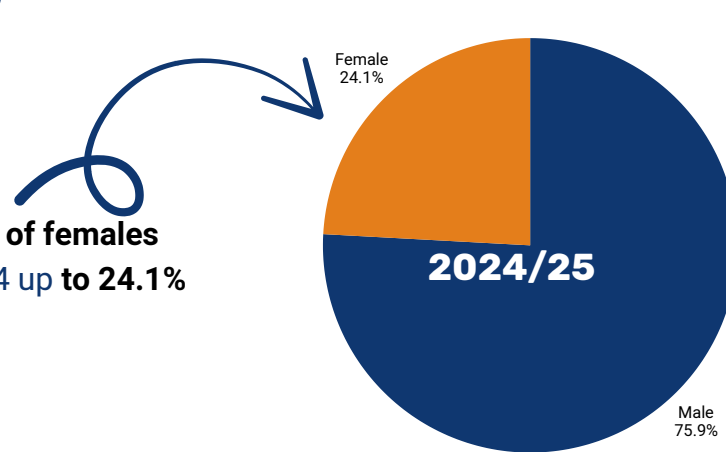


# IMPACT

Data that tells a story ...

We've increased the numbers of females supported from 8% in 2023/24 up to 24.1% in 2024/25

24/25 - 29 People supported  
23/24 - 25 People supported



education providers worked with



Number of hours support we have provided  
24/25 - 3133 hrs  
23/24 - 3041 hrs

Attendance at social enterprise work placements  
24/25 - 84%  
23/24 - 78%



Sustainability (% of young people who choose to complete their placement)  
24/25 - 100%  
23/24 - 88%



# ***FUTURE PLANS***

## **OUT OF TERM TIME PLACEMENTS**

We recognise the need for young people to have access to a space which offers structure and purpose during planned breaks from school.

We successfully piloted out of term time placements. Young people worked together on special projects that were active, engaging and valuable, eg a chicken coop refurbishment to improve welfare.

**We plan to further develop these opportunities across other non term times and to increase the numbers of young people attending.**

## **INVESTMENT IN FACILITIES**

We will continue to invest in our sites, in particular We Grow where we will be building a brand new herb garden that will provide year round herbs for customers as part of their veg deliveries.

A Great Little Place cafe will see upgrades to their cake display counter and kitchen equipment, broadening the range of activities available to young people and providing tasty new treats for our customers.

# WHERE WE OPERATE



## **A GREAT LITTLE PLACE**

An award winning café in the heart of Southport town centre that bakes amazing cakes, sells delicious food made onsite from local fresh produce within the beautiful surroundings of The Atkinson. They also provide external catering and celebration cakes.



## **MECYCLE**

A licensed café and bike shop in Ainsdale open 7 days a week including some evenings. Serving barista coffee, locally made cakes and a selection of fresh sandwiches, soup and specials. They welcome bike donations and refurbish bikes for sale alongside new bikes and accessories.



## **WEGROW CO**

A veg box scheme that has green credentials located in the Churchtown area of Southport. Growing a range of salads, vegetables and herbs on site and using local family growers to support their range. Customers can benefit from the delivery scheme, or visit the farm shop onsite.



We Grow Co.



# LET'S TALK!



*EMILY JORDAN*

emily.jordan@autisminitatives.org

07733 815 263



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