



MacIntyre

Providing support...your way

MacIntyre in Derbyshire



An introduction by Bee Gosai

Head of Lifelong Learning and Communities

Hello, I'm Bee Gosai, and I'm proud to be Head of Lifelong Learning for MacIntyre in Derbyshire.

The first time I came across MacIntyre, something just clicked. I remember reading the job advert and thinking, 'this is it, this is where I'm meant to be'. The words on the page spoke straight to my heart: that people deserve not only support, but lives filled with meaning, freedom, and choice.



I've always believed that everyone should have the chance to live a gloriously ordinary life, one that feels real, joyful, and full of possibility. A life where you're seen for who you are, not defined by what others think you can't do. When I discovered MacIntyre, I knew I'd found a place that shared that same belief, an organisation that champions learning and living as a lifelong journey, not something that ends when you reach a certain age or stage.

Right now, my focus is on building and strengthening Lifelong Learning across Derbyshire. It's about bringing people together – colleagues, families, and the people who draw on our support – to shape what our support looks and feels like, and to celebrate everything that makes MacIntyre unique.

My dream is to create places that feel like home the moment you walk in: warm, welcoming spaces filled with laughter, colour, and life. Somewhere people can grow, discover new interests, and be surrounded by others who believe in them. Because support, to me, should never just happen to someone, it should always be built with them.

As people's lives change, so should the support around them. Whether that's adapting to new health needs, finding ways to boost confidence, or supporting someone to follow a new dream, I want our services to move with people, not against them.

Today, our teams in Derbyshire support more than 130 people through our Lifelong Learning hubs and Outreach programmes - each person with their own story, their own voice, and their own path.

And truly, this is just the beginning.

Bee Gosai
Head of Lifelong Learning & Communities
MacIntyre

In Derbyshire we offer:

- Lifelong learning hubs for adults aged 19+ at
 - Holmewood
 - Queen's Park
 - Staveley Healthy Living Centre
- Outreach support

Meet the team

Lisa Duffy - Service Manager, Holmewood Hub

Hello, I'm Lisa Duffy, Service Manager for MacIntyre in Derbyshire. I have worked for MacIntyre for 26 years. I began my career with MacIntyre supporting people in their homes in Leicester, where I spent 8 very happy years.

I moved to the Peak District in 2008 and transferred to our Lifelong Learning division in Chesterfield. I now live in Staffordshire, but continue to commute to Chesterfield every day! I'm often asked why I spend hours travelling to work, why don't get a job nearer to home?! It's simply because I still love my job and can't imagine working anywhere else where you get paid to make people happy! I still get a buzz supporting people to live a gloriously ordinary life.



Clare Rawson - Frontline Manager, Queen's Park



Hi, I'm Clare, and I have worked for MacIntyre for nearly 19 years, managing a variety of services within Derbyshire. I have been at Queen's Park since it opened in 2018. My role is very varied and no two days are the same. I feel privileged to be part of a fantastic team and being able to support people to achieve their goals and aspirations.

On a personal level, I enjoy spending time with my husband and two sons. My perfect day is walking in the Peak District with my dogs. I enjoy gardening and working on our allotment. I love baking, particularly for our Summer and Christmas Fayres at Queen's Park.

Helen McMahon - Frontline Manager, Staveley Hub

Hi, my name is Helen and I am the Frontline Manager based at the Staveley Hub. I have worked for MacIntyre for 17 years and started as a Support Worker before becoming a Senior and now Deputy. I enjoy the variety of my job and like to be involved on a practical level.

I oversee Staveley Hub, we have 10 staff at the Hub and each brings their own skills and talents. I try to develop these talents to ensure the people we support are part of a purposeful service that is meaningful to them.



The Hub offers a choice of opportunities which range from adaptive Karate, yoga and bowling (both Crown Green and Ten Pin). We are based within a Healthy Living Centre and are able to access their facilities. The hub is part of the local community and as such we like to contribute to the community where we can –including being part of the local church community garden.

MacIntyre in Derbyshire - Lifelong Learning

MacIntyre's Lifelong Learning is more than just somewhere to go, it's a place where people's skills, gifts, and interests shape days full of connection, learning, and purpose.

Across Chesterfield, people are supported to try new things, meet others, and be part of a supportive, welcoming community at our three Lifelong Learning Hubs, each their own personality and opportunities:

- **Holmewood** has been a cornerstone of the area since 2006
- **Queen's Park** sits in the heart of the town, just a short walk from Chesterfield's centre
- **Staveley**, our newest hub, brings fresh energy and opportunities at the Staveley Living Centre.



Days in Lifelong Learning are never the same.

Across Chesterfield people can get involved in a broad curriculum, delivered in various vocational and community settings, including local community spaces, our learning hubs and our community hub at Monkey Park.

People explore nature on walks and hikes, discover the joy of arts and crafts, try adapted sports, or keep active with yoga, meditation, and fitness sessions. They enjoy day trips to stately homes, horse racing, or simply exploring local trails.

For those who love hands-on learning, there's pottery with our very own kiln, gardening, or even basic vehicle maintenance and checks.

Every experience is about learning, having fun, and feeling part of something meaningful.



Mark attends our Learning Hub at Holmewood and also has Outreach support once a week where our staff support him to do his weekly shop and go out and about in his local neighbourhood.

“
'MacIntyre have helped me to become more independent. I like MacIntyre staff because they are helpful and they make me feel happy.
-Mark
”

Here's what the people who work at Lifelong Learning in Chesterfield had to say:

“
'I came to LLL to give something back, I have found with encouragement and allowing the people we support to push themselves, they push me too! I try not to put barriers in their way and encourage a can-do attitude. It's important to realise that everyone has a passion/interest and it's up to us to take the time to ask and find out what that is, then support the person to do it.'

-Alan

“
'Lifelong Learning provides new experiences and enables people we support to fulfil their aspirations. I enjoy seeing people engage and this gives me a warm feeling of achievement in my job.'

-Cathy

Lifelong Learning at MacIntyre

What Lifelong Learning means to me:

“Watching people we support live a Gloriously Ordinary life, seeing each person develop and thrive in each aspect of life makes me feel like I have ambition to help others.

-Martha

“It allows people we support to be themselves and supports them to take part in different activities and also interact with the community and most importantly have fun.

-Jason

“It means people we support have their say and we work alongside each other in co-production through things like the shout our group.

The Victoria and Stuart Project was an important group to be involved with and grew my confidence and the person we supported. Most importantly it was fun.

-Mika

“It means giving the people we support the encouragement to succeed with a gloriously ordinary life.

- Liz

My MacIntyre Journey – Julie

Hello, I'm Julie; I live at home with my brother. I have Cerebral Palsy which affects my health, mobility and speech.

I have a walking aid to support me to get around buildings but require a wheelchair for longer distances and when out. I am an avid football fan and support my local team Chesterfield FC.

I attend MacIntyre 5 days a week. It gives me a sense of purpose and I love the social aspect of being with friends. I enjoy being out in the community, I also enjoy visiting places of historic interest with the History Group. MacIntyre gives me the opportunity to swim which I really enjoy. I have the opportunity to go bowling - both ten-pin and Crown Green. I love Karate and this helps me with my mobility.

I am involved in the advocacy /Shout out group, I love that this makes me feel heard and that people are listening to me. I am able to choose the activities that are right for me on that day – sometimes I am in more pain and like that I can choose my activity depending on how I feel.

We go to the seaside for the day every year and I really enjoy going to the pantomime each Christmas. Most of all I love being out of the house and being with friends.



Volunteering Opportunities



Volunteering within our local communities is another way that Lifelong Learning helps people feel valued, skilled and connected to the world around them.

People supported by MacIntyre in Derbyshire take part in projects that make sense for them and their interests. We believe in building partnerships, trying new things and showing what true inclusion looks like in action.

We help to run the café at Monkey Park, providing a warm and friendly space for the local community.

We volunteer at Charlie's Place which is a local animal sanctuary providing care for sick or abandoned animals.

We connect with our local communities by volunteering at our local Food Bank, litter picking and community gardening projects.

Working at Monkey Park

A local resident wrote to us and said 'Thank you for providing the delicious soup and crumble. More importantly, thank you to your hard working colleagues.

“ I love working at Monkey Park because I like making new friends from different hubs like Queen's Park and Staveley. Plus, I've recently learnt how to use the coffee machine / barista machine which I've been wanting to do for ages. I've always wanted to work in a proper café.

-Becky



“ I like that I can make posh coffee by myself! I like talking to the customers and making money!

-Rav



Gussies Kitchen

Gussies kitchen/pantry is a community shop that supports those experiencing food insecurity, whilst maintaining independence.

In January 2025 MacIntyre partnered with Gussies and started collecting leftover vegetables and bread that hadn't been taken by their members and would otherwise be sent to landfill.

Once collected the food is taken by the people who draw on our support, to Monkey Park (a local café). They then decide what can be made with the ingredients. This is then served to the community on a Tuesday. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are welcomed.

Stories from Lifelong Learning - Sharon's Story

Sharon has been attending Queen's Park three days a week since 2016. She has a son called David and is supported to live independently by another local organisation.

Sharon has a particular interest in jewellery making and is a regular contributor to the craft stall at our Summer and Christmas Fayres.

Sharon is part of our I4T team and presents workshops to external organisations, promoting Great interactions and health and well-being. Through I4T she has been involved in numerous fund raising projects for our local hospice and this is really important to her. Sharon told us "It means a lot to me to be able to help the hospice and I will continue to do this"



Sharon has some fabulous ideas and with support she contacted our local Tesco store and introduced a crisp packet recycling scheme. She set up a collection point within Queen's Park for everyone to use and then delivers them to Tesco. This creates funds for local charities. Sharon is also part of the aluminium can recycling project.

Sharon was recently asked by her link worker what else she would like to achieve, Sharon told her that she did not get a lot of opportunity to cook at home and was only ever involved in the food preparation, never the cooking. Sharon has since joined a small group within the Hub who provide cooked meals twice a week for their peers and is now involved in creating a monthly menu, including gluten free options, sourcing the ingredients and cooking the meal.

When asked, Sharon said: "Spaghetti Bolognese is my favourite, the spicier the better!" Sharon is also working towards her food hygiene certificate.

Sharon is part of a team who volunteer at the local food bank. Sharon helps to unload the boxes from the delivery van and sets up the tables and chairs for the community café.

Sharon said "I enjoy helping people".

Queen's Park is now a designated food bank collection point and Sharon enjoys contributing to this and encouraging others to do the same.

Sharon was asked what some of best things about coming to MacIntyre were, she said "I have met my two best buddies at MacIntyre, we meet on a Sunday for a cup of tea and a chat. We are hoping to go and get our Christmas nails done together. I love the banter that I have with the staff. It's brill"

Sharon said that if she did not come to Queen's Park she would miss everyone, she would be sad and would have to stay at home, which would be difficult for her.

When asked what her next goal is, Sharon said "I want to go abseiling!!" Watch this space...



MacIntyre's Inspired 4 Training Group



Inspired 4 Training (I4T) is a group of people with learning disabilities who use their own life experience to teach and inspire others. I4T has been running for 17 years, and is part of the Lifelong Learning provision in Derbyshire.

The aim was to establish a group of people who, with support, train others including staff teams and others who have a learning disability including external partners and organisations.

The group aims to demonstrate that people with a learning disability have training skills and extremely valuable experience to offer.

The group embodies all strands of MacIntyre's DNA and the Everyone Everywhere principle by:

- Challenging themselves to create workshops using endless creativity
- Engaging with the local community to deliver these workshops and teach everyone that they have lots to offer
- Recognising that some of their knowledge is particularly helpful for other people with a learning disability and are keen to pass that on.



The workshops offered are Great Interactions; Looking After Your Mouth (Oral Healthcare; Looking After Your Eyes; It's All About Me Me Me (one page profiles)

Aside from workshops, the group works with Beyond Words, proof reading books prior to publication. MacIntyre I4T have close links with local NHS health teams. They are Oral Health Champions for People with Learning Disabilities in Derbyshire.



MacIntyre's Inspired 4 Training Group

Chesterfield Speaks Up

This is Chesterfield's Self Advocacy Group, it is quite a new - and very enthusiastic - group who believe that their voices need to be heard, respected and included in decisions being made.

The group meet a minimum of four times a year and have talked about subjects including Keeping Safe on the Internet, Wellbeing and Safeguarding. The people in the group will grow in confidence, share experiences and push for change whether it is in the workplace, at home, in the local community or maybe nationally.

“ Seeing the work you do with the people in the I4T team and how they are supported, gives me hope for my little girl's future

-Ashgate Hospice Nurse



Family and Supporter Meetings

MacIntyre was established in 1966 by the parents of a disabled child. Their vision was for everyone with a learning disability to live a life that makes sense to them.

Since then, working with parents, carers and families has been at the heart of our approach to supporting children, young people and adults with a learning disability and autistic people.

We work closely with families and wider circles of support to exchange knowledge and expertise. This enables us to learn more about the person, and their lives outside of hubs but also gives families and supporters a chance to get to know us at MacIntyre too.

Regular meetings are held at each hub and everyone is welcome. It is an opportunity for families to seek peer support, make connections and just get to know one another in a welcoming space.

In the past we have welcomed local MPs and cabinet members from the local authority, to listen to views and concerns.



MacIntyre in the Derbyshire Community

MacIntyre's Big Plan was co-produced and co-authored with people who draw on our support, their families and our staff teams. The Big Plan articulates an important question: "How can we all meet people near where we live to make things better for everyone?"

Our answer to this question is Everyone Everywhere. We know there are many MacIntyre people who are part of their local neighbourhoods and we know that good things happen when we connect with others around us.



Everyone Everywhere is about making these connections a more intentional part of our day-to-day, knowing and being known locally, challenging ourselves to do better and sharing stories to inspire each other.

"How Can We Help?" One of the key messages of Everyone Everywhere is about seeing ourselves, our organisation and the people who draw on our support as contributors to our local neighbourhoods. We know that when we help others, participate and get involved, we feel part of something wider and feel valued.

So how can we make Everyone Everywhere a reality? We are asking our staff and people who draw on MacIntyre's support to find out what's happening locally; to identify one thing they are interested in, then go and find out more.



Kathryn Yates, Culture and Communities Manager says:

“It's about getting out of our normal 'bubble' and seeing what interesting things are going on in our neighbourhoods.

People with a learning disability have their own gifts, skills and passions, just like everyone. Too often there's an assumption that people with disabilities are the ones that need help. The people we support are out to disprove that theory! How can we not only be actively involved within the community, but use our gifts, skills and passions to help others?



Being out in the Community

Gail and Ricky at Charlie's Place

Gail and Ricky, who go to Queen's Park Lifelong Learning Hub in Chesterfield, love animals and staff saw the shout out from Charlie's Place, a local animal sanctuary, for volunteers to work during the week.

The team at Queen's Park encouraged Gail and Ricky to apply. It was a full application process but they were both thrilled when they got the news that they had been accepted and were very keen to start their induction process.



Gail explains "I had to write an application form, then we had a meeting. They told us about the clothes we had to wear and the rules that we had to follow. There are horses, chickens, goats and a hedgehog."

Gail and Ricky are expected to work as hard as they are able, to help keep the animals happy, healthy and well. It's hard physical work but they love working as part of the team.



Gail says "I put hay in the big bags for the horses, if I didn't help them they could be poorly"

Gail and Ricky are really pleased and proud to make a difference. Gail says "I was pleased Charlie's Place trusted us to work on our own. They are pleased with us and they say thank you for all the hard work you do, that makes us proud"

Gail and Ricky go once a week to Charlie's Place, but their work for the animals doesn't stop there. As with all charities, financially things can be hard, so Gail and Ricky were supported to organise a sponsored walk which all three Hubs joined in and raised a fantastic sum. They are learning that community matters!

“We simply couldn't manage on a Wednesday without Gail and Ricky
-Charlie's Place

About MacIntyre

MacIntyre was founded in 1966 by the parents of a child with a learning disability. Today MacIntyre provides learning, support and care for more than 1,400 children, young people and adults who have a learning disability and/or autistic people.

Our Vision

Is for all people with a learning disability to live a life that makes sense to them. We are proud of our past and ambitious for the future.

Our Mission

We will support a sense of wellbeing through a celebration of each person's unique gifts, talents and contributions, the quality of our relationships and ensuring the promotion of real opportunities to connect with others.

Our Purpose

People who draw on MacIntyre's support have gloriously ordinary lives, living the life they choose, using their gifts, skills and passions to contribute and connect to the people in their local neighbourhood. MacIntyre invests in, and helps shape, neighbourhoods to be inclusive and welcoming spaces for everyone.

“
The MacIntyre DNA is the way that we talk about the essence of MacIntyre.
Sarah Burslem, CEO

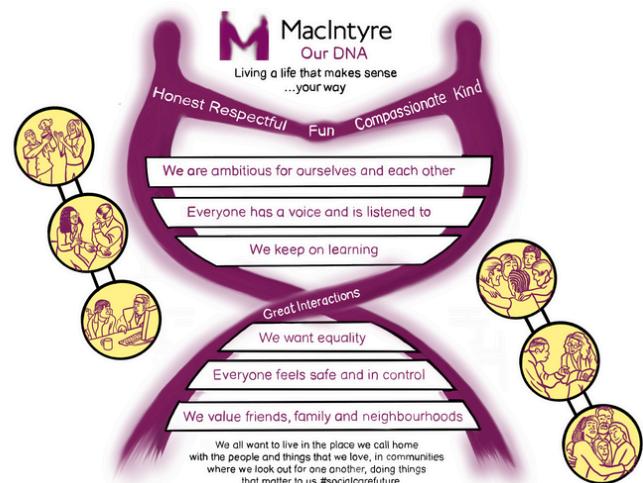
Our values, defined in the MacIntyre DNA, are shaped by our founder Ken Newton Wright's visionary belief in "the learning potential of people with learning disabilities, their value as individuals, their right to equality and their importance to society".

MacIntyre at a glance



Across MacIntyre we offer:

- Support for children in our registered children's homes
- Education for young people aged 10 to 19 at our special school in Buckinghamshire
- Post-16 education for young people aged 16 to 25 who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Lifelong learning for adults
- Support to live at home



We are proud to work with like-minded individuals and organisations, including being part of the Social Care Future movement and a collaborative with five other not-for-profit organisations who are calling for change in social care, together known as 'More Than A Provider'.



“
“We all want to live in the place we call home, with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for each other, doing the things that matter to us.”

Social Care Future

Our Staff

Our vision is to be bold, innovative and ambitious in our national and local recruitment activity, that supports new ways of working, so that together we are able to attract, recruit and retain the best skilled, engaged and dedicated workforce for today and for the future.

MacIntyre Staff Networks and Recognition



MacIntyre Employee Pathway



Meet Rob one of our Award-winning staff, who was voted 'Newcomer of the Year' at our annual Marjorie Newton-Wright Awards:

Rob joined MacIntyre in June last year. From day one, Rob has embraced MacIntyre's DNA and has a 100% positive approach in everything he does. His can-do attitude is a breath of fresh air. Rob is consistently enthusiastic, reflective and full of ideas about how we can support people in the best way possible and achieve the best possible outcomes for each person. Although Rob has only been with MacIntyre a short time, he just 'gets' it, and has displayed such a good understanding of MacIntyre's 'Everyone Everywhere' journey. Rob always ensures that all our community engagement projects are planned and co-produced with people who draw on MacIntyre's support.

Rob has been involved in supporting people with our community litter picks, street cleans and weeding, and supporting people to work at Monkey Park Café, setting up 'the porridge club' (to encourage people to eat a healthier breakfast), supporting people to participate in 'Walk Derbyshire' community walks, supporting people as part of our Outreach team. Rob supports a number of people on a one-to-one basis and his care and thoughtfulness is just wonderful to see.



Here's what his colleges and people Rob supports had to say:

“
We need more Robs! He is amazing, we need to keep hold of him. He is just super enthusiastic and full of ideas!
-Carol

“
He's very caring. He is funny and he makes me laugh all the time.
-Paige

“
He's helpful. He helps me with our vehicle checks. He helps me to cross the road safely. He's very kind to me.
- Nathan

“
Nothing is too much trouble for Rob. He goes above and beyond, both for the people we support and his colleagues.
-Manda

Contact MacIntyre

Wondering how we could support you or your loved one?

Curious about working with us across Derbyshire?

Please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you!

In the meantime, follow us on Facebook: [MacIntyreDerbyshire](#)

Or get in touch with

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Providing support...your way

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