

THE Ring

ISSUE TWO - 2021

All the news and achievements
from MacIntyre



MacIntyre

Providing support...your way



IN THIS ISSUE:

OUR LATEST NEWS

Fantastic Ofsted results for our children's homes and introducing our new Director of Education, Kevin Rodger.

COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN

As lockdown restrictions continue to ease, we take a look at what people we support have been up to.

DYING TO TALK

Our new National Lottery funded project is underway and we have all the details inside.

Welcome

from Sarah Burslem

I am writing this introduction on the eve of 19 July, known as England's 'Freedom Day'.

It is important to us that the people we support do not experience greater restrictions than others at this time, whilst continuing to ensure that MacIntyre is a safe place to live, learn and work.

When navigating complex situations like these, I am so grateful that we have over 50 years of experience moving forward with ambition and optimism. This is something we have drawn upon over the past 16 months.

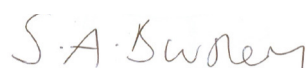
There are several contributing factors to this success. Our shared values, also known as our DNA, helps us to focus on achieving the very best outcomes for the children and adults we support. Secondly, we have a can-do and solution-focused attitude. This attitude was first adopted by our founders, who created something new and alternative when they started MacIntyre.

Thirdly we have resilience and optimism that comes from feeling part of a great organisation, understanding that we have to break new ground when the country and the sectors we operate in are facing real challenges.

From a practical perspective, we will be retaining all of the current infection controls, including wearing masks in all of our settings. We will also be retaining our robust testing measures and continuing with the very successful vaccination uptake.

Each person drawing on our support and their families will receive the support that they need to take this next step in a way that makes sense to them.

Beyond these practicalities, we will face the ongoing challenges associated with both the virus and other sector issues with the same values-driven approach, can-do attitude and resilience.



Sarah Burslem, Chief Executive Officer



Contents

Our latest news	3
Coming out of lockdown	6
Introducing Dying to Talk	7
Dementia Friendly Gardening	8
Families Events and Resources	9
Spotlight on our supporters	10
Long Service Awards	11
MacIntyre Lottery	12

Have a story to share?

Do you have a story to share about someone supported by MacIntyre? Perhaps someone we support has achieved one of their goals, grown in confidence, or dared to try something new?

If so, we would love to hear from you.

Contact the Editor:

Heidi Warnes

heidi.warnes@macintyrecharity.org

01908 230100 or 07834 168140

Our Vision

For all people with a learning disability to live a life that makes sense to them.

Our Mission

We will support a sense of well-being 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.

602 South Seventh Street
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK9 2JA

Tel: 01908 230100

www.macintyrecharity.org
Registered Charity No. 250840

 hello@macintyrecharity.org

 [providingsupport](https://www.youtube.com/providingsupport)

 [@meetmacIntyre](https://twitter.com/meetmacIntyre)

 facebook.com/MacIntyreCharity1

 [macintyre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/macintyre)

 [@meetmacintyre](https://www.instagram.com/meetmacintyre)



Latest News



An 'Outstanding' for Woodland View

We are delighted to announce that one of our children's homes was recently judged to be 'Outstanding' following an Ofsted inspection.

Following this full inspection in May 2021, the Ofsted report said:

"Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: outstanding. The staff provide outstanding care to children. The manager models to the staff the importance of advocating for children. The children feel valued, respected and safe."

Our thanks to the manager Luke, the whole staff team and the young people who live at Woodland View for this outstanding achievement.



'Good' for Hillside and MacIntyre School

We also received the news that two of our children's homes in Bedfordshire and Wingrave have been rated Good by Ofsted.

About our children's homes in Bedfordshire Ofsted noted: "The children benefit from a range of stimulating activities that support their interests. Taking part in these activities builds children's confidence."

Of our Buckinghamshire children's homes, Ofsted reported "Children, including those who communicate non-verbally, are encouraged and supported by committed staff to learn and use other methods of communication, for example, sign language or symbols.

Congratulations to our teams!



Welcoming Kevin Rodger

We're excited to welcome Kevin to our Senior Leadership team where he will oversee education and children's services.

Speaking about his new role, Kevin said:

"I have dedicated my career to making a difference to peoples' lives and feel particularly passionate about helping young people reach their full potential.

What drew me to MacIntyre was the passion of everyone I spoke to about the important work MacIntyre does and the people it supports.

It was also clear that we shared similar values and a belief that every child should be able to live and learn in an ambitious, child-centred and nurturing environment regardless of their background or circumstances.

My long-term aim is simple: to help colleagues and every young person we support reach their full potential. I hope to bring my experience of growth and business development to the table, alongside my determination, ambition and drive to deliver outstanding outcomes for the people we support."

Around MacIntyre...



Celebrating Ben's Birthday with Pride

"It was brilliant and I felt like a celebrity! I got lots of presents and had a really good time."

Ben has been supported by MacIntyre most of his life. With support from our team in Milton Keynes, he has become a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community and wanted to express this.

With his 50th birthday on the horizon, our team worked with Ben to organise a party he wouldn't forget...

The Good Things Foundation donates 150 tablets

Throughout 2020 we made it our mission to tackle digital exclusion among the people we support, so we were delighted when a funding application to The Good Things Foundation for 150 tablets was successful

This donation has since made an incredible difference. As a result, 150 people we support are now using their own tablets to connect with family and friends and are enjoying taking part in MacIntyre's online activities.



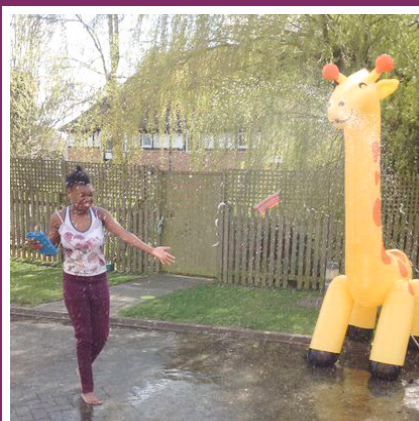
Photo Gallery



Luke from Hampshire was supported to attend an outdoor yoga session with his friend Richard and it's safe to say he enjoyed it, look at that smile!



It was Shared Lives Week recently and our Shared Lives team shared this fantastic photo!



We love MacIntyre School and Children's Homes new giant inflatable giraffe!



Messages from lockdown

People we support in Derbyshire have created a colourful display of messages written for their loved ones during lockdown.

The display, which can be found in Chesterfield, features a host of handwritten messages to friends and family members, capturing each person's thoughts and feelings during the most recent lockdown.



Supporting Jo

A MacIntyre staff team in Worcestershire have been praised for their commitment and creativity during the pandemic, which has had a positive impact on Jo, who we support.

For Jo, 2020 was meant to be a year of celebration. With a milestone birthday on the horizon and a much anticipated holiday planned, it was set to be a good year.

When restrictions were introduced in March 2020, like many of the people we support, Jo's busy schedule suddenly came to a halt.

Activities Jo enjoyed, such as attending a day centre and socialising with friends, were no longer an option. Staff supporting Jo feared the impact staying at home and listening to the news would have on her confidence.

Quick to act, our team in Worcestershire began to replicate the activities Jo loved at her day centre, creating a busy schedule for her at home to shift her focus. Activities included, but were not limited to, gardening, seated exercises and baking.

Referring to the support Jo has received over the past year, her mum said: "We want to say how amazing the staff have been during this year-long period of the pandemic. Jo has been entertained and occupied throughout and remained settled and calm despite not going to all her much-loved activities."



Celebrating Families Week

In May we launched 'Celebrating Families Week', sharing stories directly from the families of people we support, hosting several online workshops and sharing content from our specialists.

You can find all of our new resources and stories on our website.

If you would like to get involved with Celebrating Families Week 2022, please contact: nicola.payne@macintyrecharity.org



Saying goodbye to Cheshire

Late last year we were sad to give notice to Cheshire Council, the funders of services in the area. We had been providing support in the Chester West and Chester Council area for approximately 30 years.

It was a very difficult decision which followed months of discussions and negotiations with the Council, our decision was the only way of achieving alternative and fit for purpose housing solutions for people.

We supported a number of the people who had drawn on our support to move to new and more suitable properties that afforded full tenant rights.

We were able to ensure that there was a continuity of support for people as most members of staff transferred their employment to the new provider organisations last year, with a few moving in the spring of this year.

Sarah Burslem, CEO, said "We send our best wishes to everyone who we had supported in West Cheshire, to their families and to our colleagues; we have loved being part of your lives."



Coming out of lockdown

As the lockdown restrictions continue to ease, we are delighted to be seeing so many people we support safely return to doing activities they love and spend quality time with their loved ones.

Community Connections

Since restrictions have lifted, our Great Communities team in Warrington have begun to safely meet in person once again and have even completed their first 'Walk and Talk Friendship Group', with many of the group meeting face to face for the first time.

The team's most recent project also includes a brand new Eco Project. We can't wait to see how it progresses!



Matthew's 50k Challenge

Matthew, a young man who is supported by MacIntyre No Limits, has raised an incredible £968 for Epilepsy Action.

Throughout May Matt, who has personal experience with epilepsy, completed the charity's walking challenge.

Writing about his experience, Matt said:

"For Epilepsy Awareness Week, I walked 50k to raise money for Epilepsy Action with support from my family, friends and MacIntyre No Limits staff. I ended up walking 61k and have raised £968. It was great fun!"



Phillip's First Pint

Phillip ventured out to his local pub in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, for the first time since they reopened. He loved it and is excited to become a regular again!





Introducing

Dying to Talk

In March 2020, MacIntyre was awarded a grant from The National Lottery to fund a new 18-month project.

The project, which is known as Dying to Talk, launched on March 1 2021. Through this unique venture, we will aim to help the people we support, their families and MacIntyre staff understand and feel supported talking about death.

Why do we need a project like Dying to Talk?

As a society, talking about death is something we tend to avoid. With many people with a learning disability living longer, we are seeing more people we support experience grieving a loved one for the first time, in addition to coming to terms with their own mortality.

There is limited information and resources specifically to help people with a learning disability understand and come to terms with death and dying, which is something we want to change.

At MacIntyre, we want to ensure our teams feel equipped to support people to have vital conversations around death, to identify a person's wishes and develop tools to improve end of life care for each person we support.



Launching the pilot project in Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire, our Dying to Talk Team will aim to work with MacIntyre staff, the people we support and their families to create training sessions and resources to help people to talk about death and dying.

Meet the Dying to Talk Team

Our Dying to Talk Team includes....

- Sarah Ormston, MacIntyre's Health, Wellbeing and Dementia Manager
- Rhian Dudley, Dying to Talk Project Lead
- Nicola Thurgood, Dying to Talk Project Administrator



The project also includes Health and Wellbeing Assistants Rosie Joustra and Rachel Silver, both of whom are supported by MacIntyre.

For further information on the Dying to Talk project, contact: health.team@macintyrecharity.org

Spotlight on our Specialists



Building a Dementia Friendly Garden



Over the past year, many of us were drawn towards nature as a way to escape, taking walks in our local neighbourhood, seeking out wooded areas, or taking up a spot of gardening.

For people with dementia, gardening can be a fantastic way to stimulate the brain and create a calming environment.

MacIntyre's Learning Disabilities Admiral Nurse Jane Nickels shares her top tips for creating a garden that is safe and fun for someone with dementia.

Is your loved one supported by MacIntyre? Do they have a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of dementia?

If you would like to receive advice or discuss any issue concerning dementia and your loved one, you can complete the form below.

Jane's Dementia-Friendly Gardening Tips...

- A garden can be a great place to be more active
- Work with the person to choose their favourite plants
- Plants can provide auditory and visual stimulation
- Think about growing edible plants – fruit, vegetables and herbs from the garden may help to stimulate a flagging appetite.
- Check fences and boundaries in the garden to ensure they are appropriate and safe.
- Fit handrails next to garden paths
- Ensure walking areas are clear
- Consider having raised beds for ease of access

To find out more information about dementia and to be contacted by Jane Nickels, MacIntyre's Learning Disabilities Admiral Nurse, please fill in this form.

How would you like to be contacted?

- ☐ By phone
- ☐ By email
- ☐ By post

Please send your completed form to:
MacIntyre, FREEPOST RLXH-YZTA-ZGYB
602 South Seventh Street, Milton Keynes MK9 2JA

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Spotlight on our Specialists



Upcoming Events for Families

Do we support your loved one? From online events to new resources, there are plenty of ways to get involved.

August

Time for a Cuppa - 26 August at 2:00pm - Online Event

September

Let's Come Together - 7 September at 7:30pm - Online Event

Meet MacIntyre for Siblings - 25 September at 10:30am - Online



Sign up to our monthly email updates!

Receive the latest news, useful resources and updates from our Family Engagement Consultant Nicola Payne straight into your inbox. To sign up, contact: nicola.payne@macintyrecharity.org

To find out more information about support for families and to be contacted by Nicola Payne, MacIntyre's Family Engagement Consultant, please fill in this form.

How would you like to be contacted?

- ☐ By phone
- ☐ By email
- ☐ By post

Please send your completed form to:
MacIntyre, FREEPOST RLXH-YZTA-ZGYB
602 South Seventh Street, Milton Keynes MK9 2JA

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

A spotlight on.... our supporters

We really would not be where we are today without the continued support of each and every one of our fundraisers, Corporate Partners and lifelong supporters.

We have been overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and generosity of so many of our supporters over the past few months. Every single gift is already making a real difference to the people we support.

We'd like to say thank you to everyone, including:

The Good Things Foundation - The Good Things Foundation donated 150 tablets for people we support. These tablets arrived in May and have now been distributed so more people can now keep in touch with friends and family and take part in the online activities which have been taking place each day while some usual activities have been suspended.

The Street Foundation - The Street Foundation made a donation to enable us to refurbish the kitchen and café at MacIntyre School in Wingrave.

Arnold Clark Community Fund - The Arnold Clark Community Fund donated £500 for an allotment project in Shrewsbury.

The Torus Foundation - The Torus Foundation made a donation to support our Great Communities project in Warrington.

Move with MacIntyre - Everyone who got involved with Move with MacIntyre in March and raised over £2,600

Chris Walthew - Chris Walthew who raised over £2,000 when he virtually ran from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for MacIntyre. The funds raised have been used by our No Limits team in Milton Keynes to take part in some climbing wall activities which have been fantastic for the young people to build confidence and gain team working skills.

Allica Bank - who have chosen MacIntyre as their Charity of the Year and have so far raised nearly £3,000 from a variety of events including:

- Everyone who joined the virtual Bingo night in February
- The Race the Thames team who virtually rowed the length of the River Thames on indoor machines between 22 - 29 March
- Jen Read who ran 70 miles along Hadrian's Wall in 16 hours, 29 minutes and 25 seconds!
- Emma Wilkins and Irina Balmus who are taking part in the London Landmarks Half Marathon in August

Thank you to every person and every company who has made a donation to support MacIntyre.

Thank you for the gifts we have received In Memory and gifts in Wills in the past few months.

Thank you to everyone who asked for donations to MacIntyre in lieu of birthday gifts.

Good luck to...

- London Landmarks Half Marathon team on 1 August
- Bedford Running Festival team on 4 September
- London Marathon team on 3 October
- The team from the Haddons in Milton Keynes who are taking part in a sponsored bike ride in July to raise funds for the local hospital, specifically for activity packs for patients there who may have a learning disability.



Congratulations

...to all our colleagues who celebrated their MacIntyre anniversaries recently!

5 years

Andrea Hartley
George Chipangura
Briony Patterson
Tanya Rickard
Christopher Larsen
Simone Sinclair
Amy Kennedy
Katarzyna Kordjaczynska
Antoinette Bannister
Lauren Foster
Deborah Renton
Elvira Naidoo
Sarah Cook
Janet Cooper
Elizabeth Davis
Susan Marsh
Ian Street
David Jones
Jaynee Whiting
Adebayo Sanniowo
Shelagh Kokic
Gail Kenny
Joanne Bolton
Christina Pipe
Natasha Aspinall
Tracy Jones

Caroline Carter
Michael Wilkinson
Cassandra Geraghty
Sarah Colley
Christopher Webling
Christine Harris
Steven Pearson
Hollie O'Connor
Clare Cherry
Barry Stopher
Deborah Sciberras
Tammy McNeill
Sandra White
June Mills
Susan Purchase
Catherine Mayhew
Carly Morrissey
Julie Kirk
Caroline Carter
Patience Lartey

10 years

Ian Harris
Carole Whatmore
Maisie Walters-Hill
Augustus Chennis
Julie Burns
Jessica Brookes
Neil Lyon
Ethan Ngulube
Natalie Burgess
Caroline Stephens

15 years

Philip Twomey
Angela Kilner
Janine Thrower
Keeley Foster
Gillian Tuck
Valerie Buchanan
Gloria Rodriques
Cheryl Astley
Joanna Gondek

20 years

Jonathan Corfield
Carol McCarley
Vanessa Martin
Martin Eagan
Mary Rowley



giftaid it

Increase the value of all your donations for the last 4 years by 25% by filling in this Gift Aid declaration which allows us to claim back all the tax at no extra cost to you!

☐

I am a UK taxpayer and want MacIntyre to treat all donations I have made for the last 4 years and all future donations as Gift Aid donations.

Signature

Date

Name

Address

Postcode

You must pay income tax or capital gains tax at equal to the tax reclaimed from the HM Revenue & Customs by MacIntyre in the tax year. Please send your completed form to:

MacIntyre, FREEPOST RLXH-YZTA-ZGYB
602 South Seventh Street, Milton Keynes MK9 2JA



MacIntyre
Providing support...your way

Lottery

The latest winning numbers

February

First prize of £500: 270

Second prizes of £50: 220, 37

Third prizes of £25: 131, 467, 317, 93

March

First prize of £500: 409

Second prizes of £50: 449, 376

Third prizes of £25: 1, 177, 17, 38

April

First prize of £500: 113

Second prizes of £50: 117, 130

Third prizes of £25: 351, 402, 384, 444

May

First prize of £500: 309

Second prizes of £50: 163, 246

Third prizes of £25: 245, 432, 214, 155

June

First prize of £500: 44

Second prizes of £50: 485, 71

Third prizes of £25: 157, 374, 184, 257

Not signed up yet?

The MacIntyre Lottery costs just £5 a month per number. You can play as many numbers as you wish. Every penny raised from the MacIntyre Lottery goes directly to benefit the people we support. You can even nominate your favourite service to receive your donations.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact: **Claire Kennedy**

Tel: **01908 357012**

Email: fund@macintyrecharity.org

All winners will be contacted directly by the Fundraising Team. All winning numbers are published here in each issue of The Ring and on MacIntyre's website.

The MacIntyre Lottery is licensed by the Gambling Commission under the Gambling Act 2005. MacIntyre is committed to responsible gambling. It is an offence to gamble under the age of 16.



MacIntyre
Providing support...your way

Please send me more information about:

- ☐ MacIntyre Lottery
- ☐ Making a regular gift
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Support for families
- ☐ Volunteering
- ☐ Leaving a lasting gift
- ☐ Dementia and Learning Disability
- ☐ Other (please specify)

☐ Please do not send me further correspondence

I want to help make a difference to the lives of the children, young people and adults supported by MacIntyre

- ☐ I enclose my gift of.....
- ☐ I enclose my cheque made payable to MacIntyre
- ☐ I have completed the Gift Aid Declaration overleaf

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please send your completed form to:
MacIntyre, FREEPOST RLXH-YZTA-ZGYB
602 South Seventh Street, Milton Keynes MK9 2JA