



MacIntyre

Providing support...your way

MacIntyre in Bedfordshire



About MacIntyre

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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”.

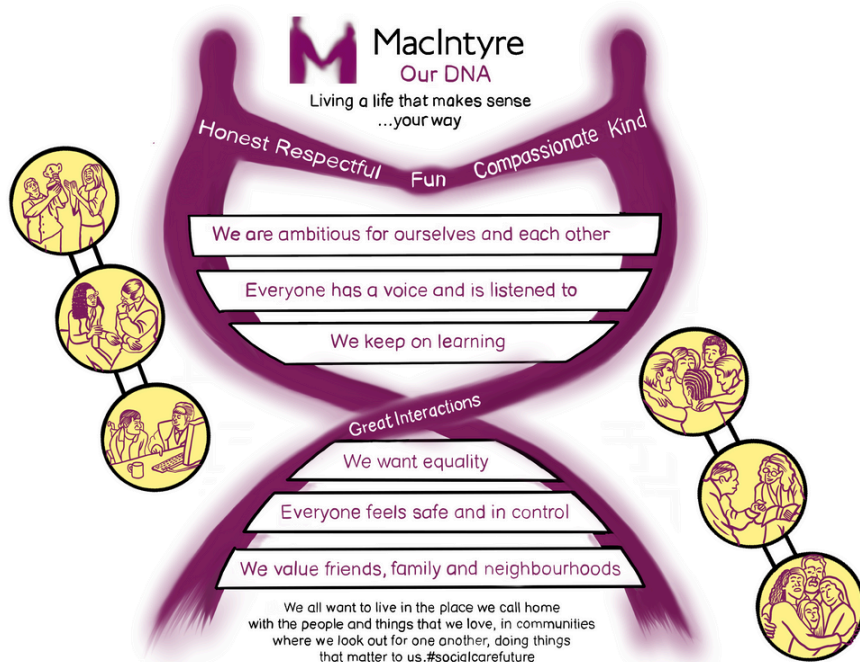
MacIntyre at a glance



MacIntyre in Bedfordshire

We offer support for

- Children aged 10-19 at our specialist School and Children's Homes
- Young people aged 16-25 who have an EHCP through MacIntyre No Limits
- Lifelong Learning for adults aged 19+
- Adults to live in their own home



For Children

At MacIntyre School and Children's Homes we provide highly personalised education and care to up to 40 children and young people with severe learning disabilities and/or autism and other complex needs. We believe that potential is limitless and that every young person can and will 'Achieve Above and Beyond'.

Within the grounds of our special school in Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, are two purpose built Ofsted registered children's homes, providing 52-week care for up to 20 children.

Exceptional relationships and Great Interactions™ are at the core of everything that we do. We support young people to gain independence skills and prepare them for adulthood by acquiring skills and experiences, so that they may take their rightful place in society, feel valued and are contributing members of their community.



Each young person has an individual curriculum to enable them to develop their skills in the key areas of need identified in their EHCPs. Preparing young people for a life beyond school means that learning must be functional and relevant to each young person's future. It is important that learning is delivered in a way that is meaningful and in a real-life context. This means learning happens everywhere and supports the generalisation of skills across all environments throughout the waking day.

Learning at School, Home and in the Real World makes up the 24 hour curriculum across school and children's homes. Our environments are designed to help young people learn and practise skills that will help them manage their emotions, behaviour, and attention. They are structured in a way that promotes self-regulation. Young people have access to space and tools that can help them regulate their behaviour.

MacIntyre School and Children's Homes

We adopt a highly person-centred approach whereby young people are supported to make choices and advocate for themselves in a way that makes sense for them. All staff are trained in understanding and supporting language and communication difficulties, developing resources to enable them to make choices, express wants and needs, and comment on the world around them. All young people have a voice and are supported to use it. Children at MacIntyre School and Children's Homes lead busy and active lives full of activities that enhance social development and expand their interests.



The Health and Therapy team work together to support the health, wellbeing, and learning of the young people across the School and Children's Home. The team covers a range of therapeutic support practices, including; Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Intensive Interaction and Positive Behaviour Support. Additional therapeutic provision can include; Psychiatry, music therapy, art therapy, and rebound therapy. We take a multi-disciplinary approach to supporting the whole life of each child.

“The school's personal development programme is first class.”
Ofsted Report 2024

“This school is a lifeline for our child and the family.”
Parent

“Staff skilfully help pupils learn to use a range of helpful strategies and suitable devices that enable them to become effective communicators.”
Ofsted Report 2024

For Young People

MacIntyre No Limits™ provides community-based bespoke education packages to young people aged 16-25. We provide an inclusive and flexible No Limits education programme for young people aged 16 and over in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Leicestershire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire.

In addition to our partnership working with the College, MacIntyre No Limits has also developed relationships with local authorities to offer programmes of learning direct through 'EOTAS' (Education Other Than At School) funding.

MacIntyre No Limits is often the only education option available to young people, which offers a completely individualised programme. Our plan aims to provide students with key skills they need to develop into more independent adults, regardless of the level of independence they may have when they join.

Acting as a bridging service between school and adulthood, we aim to improve the independence skills of the young people we work with, regardless of their starting point.

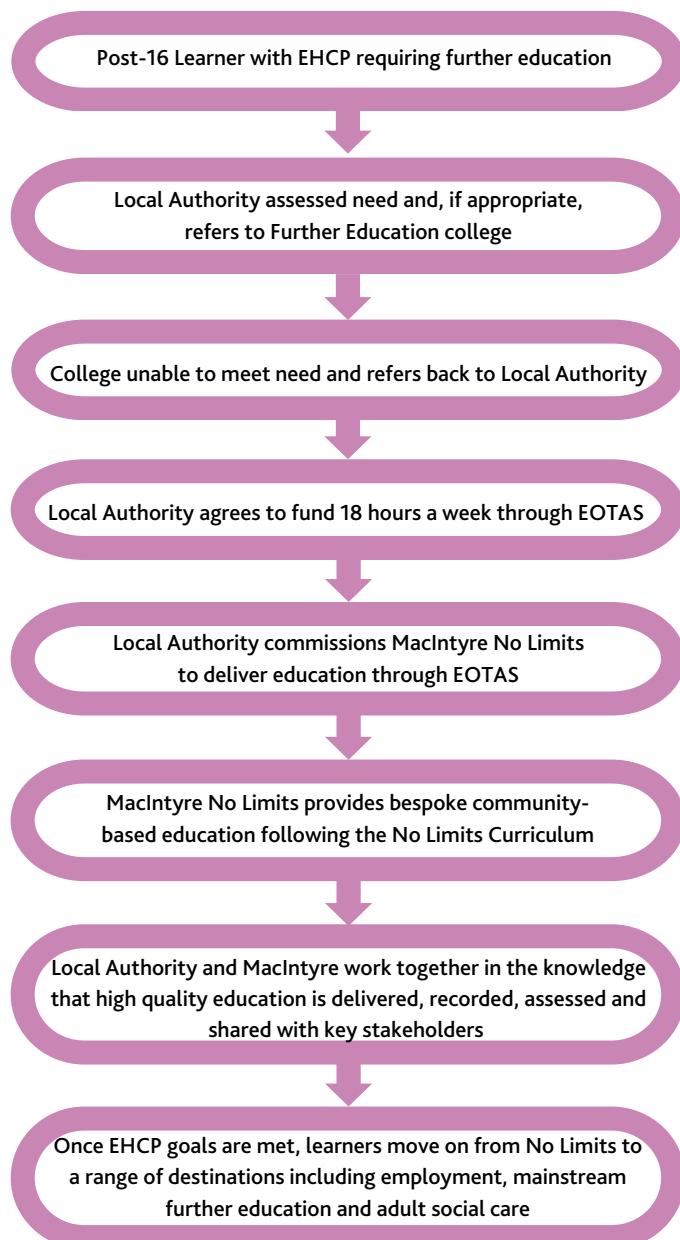
The graphic below sets out the process for a young person with EOTAS funding



Across Bedfordshire, we support 13 No Limits students, through a mixture of community-based packages, and classroom support in college. For our community students, sessions are delivered around the students' needs, either on a 1:1 or 2:1 basis, with some sessions offered as a small group. Although No Limits is mainly community-based, some venues and spaces are used to offer particular sessions.

Each student has a bespoke learning programme based on their interests, achievements, talents and aspirations, working alongside their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This is coupled with more bespoke targets based on their No Limits "Pathway".

The individual timetable and curriculum for each student is supported by input from other specialists like our Curriculum Manager or external specialists such as Speech and Language Therapists.



Bob's Story

Starting college is always a daunting experience and big step into adulthood. New staff, new expectations, and changes in routine can be overwhelming for anyone.

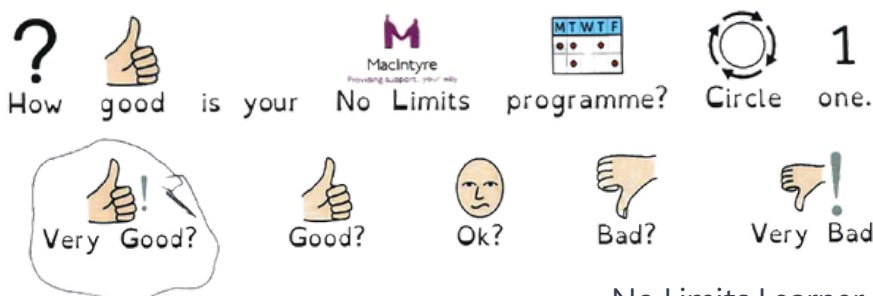
When Bob started at MacIntyre No Limits™ Bedfordshire, he required constant contact with staff to help him feel secure. For example he needed to hold hands at all times and found it difficult to engage in independent activities. During this time of anxiety, Bob spent much of his time at college using music and walking within a familiar room to self-regulate.

Slowly but surely, Bob has gained trust in the college and feels more comfortable with trying new activities. He has completed one year of qualifications and is excelling in his 2023 – 2024 academic year.

Bob now loves trampolining and walking around his local area, and he has started to take part in cooking sessions. His communication skills have developed significantly and he now uses a wide range of symbol cards to communicate his needs and wishes. This has in turn led to a huge increase in his contentment and confidence.

Since coming to No Limits, Bob has developed skills to increase in independence, such as being able to choose where he goes for a walk, when he needs support to change clothes, which activity he wishes to do, and what he can do to help keep his environment clean. It is clear from his successes that Bob now feels supported and cared for, and is embracing his learning journey.

*Name changed



~ No Limits Learner

The MacIntyre No Limits Curriculum aims to develop learners' skills across four key areas, which are closely linked to the government's "Pathways to Adulthood" statement.

Although each learner's targets and timetable are uniquely suited to their needs, most learners' programmes will contain targets from all four curriculum areas.



By the time I leave No Limits, I will understand my own mind and body better. I will communicate more effectively, and know more about how to stay safe, happy and healthy.

By the time I leave No Limits, I will feel like an adult in my own home. I will have the skills I need to live with less support than before, and will have more control over my environment.



By the time I leave No Limits, I will be more familiar with my local area, how to get around it, and how to get help if I need it. I will understand more about how my community works.

By the time I leave No Limits, I will have a plan for what comes next in my life. I will be better equipped to make choices, and will have had a say in any decisions about my future.



"My son came home skipping yesterday. I was so pleased. I'm so happy he's in a place where there's so much patience and understanding. You guys genuinely care about our young adults!"

Parent

"It's so nice to hear all the good things [learner] is doing at No Limits. They are happy and showing progression like eye - contact, already."

Local Authority Social Worker

For Adults

People who draw on MacIntyre's support will live 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.

“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

MacIntyre offers a range of accommodation and support options for adults with learning disabilities and/or autistic people across Bedfordshire

We spend time getting to know people's ambitions and aspirations and ensure everyone has choice and control over their lives.

We put people at the heart of everything we do. MacIntyre invests in, and helps shape, the areas in which people live, to be inclusive and welcoming spaces for everyone.

“Staff and people interacted in a positive and meaningful way with independence highly encouraged.”
PAMMS Report, December 2024

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'.



GLORIOUSLY
ORDINARY
LIVES



Across England and Wales MacIntyre is commissioned by over 68 Councils and Clinical Commissioning Groups to deliver support and care to 776 adults, including 53 people in Bedfordshire

We have developed a detailed Adult Social Care Workplan (2024–26) that sets out our areas of focus under our five threads:

- People
- Sustainability
- Workforce
- Best Practice
- Compliance



“Feedback from relatives and staff team has been positive, and people are happy and relaxed at the Grove. A family member told us "it feels like home"
CQC Report (December 2024)



Lifelong Learning

MacIntyre Lifelong Learning is more than somewhere to go. It's about linking people's gifts and skills to have days full of connections and purpose.

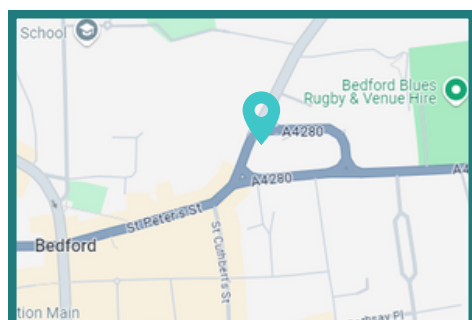
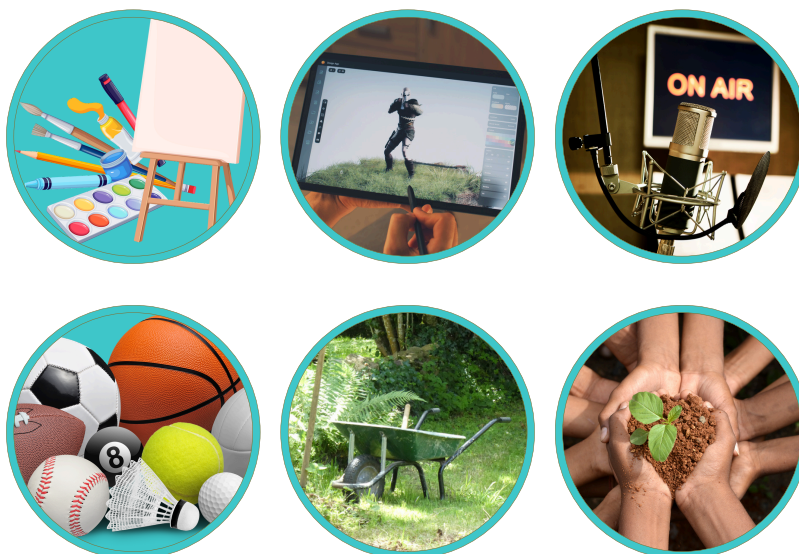
Our Lifelong Learning programmes offer a range of opportunities for people to continue to learn new skills and have new experiences. We use every interaction to help each other learn more about life, to communicate, to feel safe and part of something purposeful.



We work closely with each person to deliver outcome-focused support, using person centred approaches to set goals, deliver learning, support and to review and record achievements.

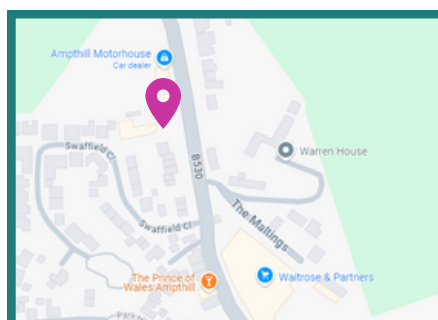
Some of the things to do...

- Pottery
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Walking
- Sports
- IT
- Yoga
- Cookery
- Life skills



Locations

MacIntyre Lifelong Learning offers a range of opportunities based at our two sites:



- 📍 My Time Bedford, Bedford, MK40 3NF
- 📍 Ampthill Lifelong Learning, Ampthill, MK45 2NB

MacIntyre in the 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.

Jodie oversees Lifelong Learning in Bedfordshire and was looking at how we can better connect with the local community.

Jodie reimagined our annual Strawberry Tea event by thinking 'why keep something so good to ourselves?'

The doors were open and the Strawberry Tea event was enjoyed by visitors from all around the local area. It gave them a chance to find out about MacIntyre and what we do, and to meet the people who draw on our support. It was the beginning of forging great community relationships

MacIntyre in the Bedfordshire Community



It's about getting out of our normal 'bubble' and seeing what interesting things are going on in our neighbourhoods. As part of this, we can influence local people's preconceptions about autistic people, and people with a learning disability.

- Kathryn Yates, Culture and Communities Manager



Everyone Everywhere in Action

Our team at Ampthill in Bedfordshire thought about what we do and how we can link it more to our community, by using our skills as a team to help others locally and develop.

Some people we support are green fingered, and wanted to see how we could 'grow' this interest. One of our support workers, reached out to Ampthill community allotments via Facebook, who got back in touch and invited us down to meet them.

The allotment is in the centre of Ampthill and is a great place to get to know people. There's a communal fruit and veg table and a lot of local people have an allotment there. We decided as a group that we would give it a go (or grow!).

As part of a planning session, we thought about how we can grow things to help others and share them with people, like growing fruit, veg or even flowers. For some people who draw on support, the allotment is a nice place to sit and watch the work happening.

At our Children's Home in Bedfordshire, the young people living there wanted see if there was anything they could do to help their neighbours.

Abdul loves helping with the recycling, and wondered if this could be something he could do to help; And so, wrote a letter to the neighbours offering to collect their recycling.

He got some strong boxes and labelled them as glass recycling, which he put next to the neighbours' bins.

Every week, Abdul goes over to the neighbour's house, swaps the full box for an empty one, and takes the full one to the bottle bank with Karen, his Support Worker. It's noisy dropping the bottles in, but very satisfying.

To read more stories from our Bedfordshire teams, scan the QR code:



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.

In 2023 we launched Humans of MacIntyre, a series of stories from our colleagues across the organisation...

April's Story

I've been working at MacIntyre since 2013 when I first started as a support worker in Flitwick, but my first experience with MacIntyre was when I was at school! I did some work experience with the Lifelong Learning team in Ampthill and absolutely loved it!

I've since been promoted to Senior Support Worker and Frontline Manager and between different teams, getting experience in supporting people in their own homes and Lifelong Learning. Currently, I manage the team in Westoning.

I find it incredibly rewarding supporting people to live the lives they want to, and it's taken us all on some amazing adventures – like Disneyland Paris.

Ultimately though, I love the relationships and connections we build with the people we support. We essentially become each other's additional families, and nothing else comes close to that feeling.

MacIntyre Employee Pathway



MacIntyre Staff Networks and Recognition



Next Steps

Wondering how we could support you or your loved one?

Interested in enrolling yourself or someone else to study with us?

Curious about working with us across Bedfordshire?

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

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

Lucy Watson
Area Manager,
Adult Social Care



Magda Devana
Programme Manager
MacIntyre No Limits



Ellie Joyce
Transitions Facilitator
MacIntyre School & Children's Homes



MacIntyre

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MacIntyre

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