



IMPACT REPORT

DISCOVERY PHASE
JANUARY - JULY 2023

The Reconnect Education Project CIC is a Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee
Company Reg. 13819176. Registered Office: 124 City Road, London, EC1V 2NX
www.reconnectededucation.co.uk @ReconnectEduc

THE NEED

Young people excluded from school are the most vulnerable in society:

- Just 4% of excluded children pass their English and maths GCSEs compared to 64% in state schools nationally
- Just 1 in 2 maintain training, employment or further education after 6 months
- 1 in 2 adult prisoners were excluded when they were at school
- Young people in gangs are six times more likely to have been excluded compared to other young people assessed by children's services*

THE ESTIMATED COST OF EXCLUSION IS

£370,000

PER YOUNG PERSON IN LIFETIME
EDUCATION, BENEFITS, HEALTHCARE &
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COSTS

THIS AMOUNTS, ON AVERAGE, TO

£2.4 BILLION

FOR EVERY YEAR'S COHORT OF
PERMANENTLY EXCLUDED PUPILS
(APPROXIMATELY 6,500 IN 2021/2022)

Who we are

The Board

Alex Hanratty, Co-Founder & CEO

Belinda Logan, Co-Founder & Director of Education

Georgia Coppin-Score, Co-Founder & Director of
Operations

Peter Voisey, Non-Executive Director

The Coaching Team

ReconnectEd Coaches: Rachael Hindley, Kim Rowe and
Ryan Suckley

Coach Supervisor:
Bhavika Sahiri

HOW WE ADDRESS THE NEED

ReconnectEd aims to contribute towards a more inclusive society which allows every young person to achieve their potential.

ReconnectEd addresses the root causes of school exclusion by delivering a trauma-informed emotion coaching programme so that we can strengthen the wellbeing and resilience of the targeted young people, support their families and schools to ensure a joined up approach, and facilitate change within the education system. We aim to first improve young people's wellbeing so that they are better able to learn.

There is much evidence to support the importance of caring and nurturing relationships, especially through an emotion coaching approach, in making a difference to young people's life chances.

OUR PILOT

ReconnectEd is running a 3.5 year pilot from January 2023 in partnership with Brigantia Learning Trust, which is match funding and employing the Coaches.

The Trust is based in an extremely deprived part of Sheffield, which is a national cold spot for school exclusions and serious youth violence.

The school where the programme is based is in the second most deprived ward in Sheffield and also one of 225 'left behind' neighbourhoods in England (according to the QCSI). This means that it suffers from a combination of social and economic deprivation, poor connectivity (physical and digital), low levels of community engagement and a lack of community spaces and places.

Over our 3.5-year pilot, we aim to recruit and upskill 10 Coaches to support 100 young people and their families. A further 1000 will indirectly benefit through the positive ripple effect of our programme.

10 COACHES

100 YOUNG PEOPLE

1000 PEERS, FAMILY MEMBERS

& TEACHERS

OUR PROGRAMME

During the first six months of our ReconnectEd Emotion Coaching Programme we have recruited and trained two ReconnectEd Coaches, Rachael and Kim. Both Coaches live locally and have worked within the community for many years so have a real understanding of the issues facing the young people. They are also both alumnae of the school where our programme is based.

The young people have been identified for the programme by the School, in partnership with ReconnectEd. They are in years 7-9, 50:50 male/female and experiencing extreme adversity which impacts their ability to learn.

100% of the young people on our programme are eligible for the Pupil Premium and are living in extreme deprivation.

9 young people and their families have been recruited and supported intensively. A further 20 young people have already benefited through the ripple effect of our programme: 10 of them have received medium-level support and benefitted from the pastoral support offered by our Coaches, often daily. The remaining 10 have received 'light-touch' support in the form of 'downloading' to Rachael and Kim, who act as trusted adults to whom they can talk safely.

"I feel as though this programme is exactly what I needed as a child. We have created a safe place for our children to come when they need the support. Our children are more aware of their feelings and emotions and when to act on them, due to the emotion coaching we are giving them."

ReconnectEd Coach

"It was great to see the progress that your students are clearly making - as well as your passion for their wellbeing. They are lucky students."

To see 100% in the improvement of the data for those on an action plan was incredibly uplifting."

Robert Lloyd Williams, STEER

"Rachael and Kim have listened to me, supported me, helped me with things, and told me what to do to get the help."

ReconnectEd Pupil

"Since working with my child, he has had positive phone calls home, good, continual staff support and he has been slowly reintegrated back into mainstream lessons."

Parent of ReconnectEd Pupil

The issues around capacity in schools and the burden placed on teachers is well documented – teachers are expected to fulfil multiple roles alongside their role as educator, and simply cannot always provide the tailored support to those young people who are most in need, particularly in areas of deprivation. Alongside this, low attendance, missing young people and teacher retention are growing national crises.

We have identified a lack of longer-term approaches to address the root causes of exclusion in order to create lasting change. This is why our programme includes daily provision for the young people, their families and schools. The ReconnectEd coach goes into the school every day during term-time (6 hrs/day) and provides weekly support in the holidays.

The support that the Coaches offer includes emotion coaching to the young people and positive reinforcement coaching to the families of the young people. They have been doing reconciliation and conflict reduction work. They have done a number of home visits to build rapport with the families and are working very closely, often daily, with the teachers and especially the school's safeguarding team, SEND team and attendance team to share knowledge, ideas and good practice.

We have appointed a third Coach, Ryan, who starts in September. Ryan grew up in the community we serve and will be based at Mansel Primary School, thus helping to bridge the often challenging transition from primary to secondary school for our young people.

OUR SUPPORT

Training

Each ReconnectEd Coach had an intensive two-week training programme which included trauma-informed and Emotion Coaching theory and practice. This included resources from the [Harvard Centre on the Developing Child](#) and Oxford University which uses an evidence-based training package to teach the learner about the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences. We also provided training through [Emotion Coaching UK](#), [STEER](#) which uses an innovative mental well being assessment tool, and safeguarding.

Supervision

We provided 6 hours of Coach Supervision to our Coaches. Bhavika, our Coach Supervisor, comes with a great range of skills and experience from youth work, work within the criminal justice system, local government including the Virtual School for Looked After Children and more recently as an Emotion Coaching Trainer. Bhavika is currently completing her PhD in Child Criminal Exploitation and specifically County Lines.

Place-based approach

We held 2 locally-led advisory group meetings to ensure we meet local needs, build trust and develop the programme from the ground up. This group comprises local stakeholders including the CEO and a Trustee of Brigantia Learning Trust, two senior leaders from local youth groups, and the ReconnectEd team. Our Coaches have also been working with the school's Police Community Support Officer to address behaviour in the community including the threat of gangs and ASBOs.

How we demonstrate change



In accordance with our values of compassion, integrity, connection, openness and optimism

"The Coaches' presence has been invaluable; they have both quickly learnt and implemented the school's policies and expectations to a very high standard."

Sofia Wan, SENCO



A ReconnectEd Pupil taking the STEER assessment

"Both Rachael and Kim (and, therefore, ReconnectEd) have proved an invaluable asset, working tirelessly with many of our most challenging and troubled young people. Knowledge of - and experience within - the local community has proven to be an absolute asset in getting families to engage and buy in, allowing school and parents to work together in order to better support our young learners, some of whom are either classified as high risk or in crisis."

These pupils have formed a fast, trusted and durable relationship with both ReconnectEd Coaches, which speaks volumes of their empathy, understanding, engagement and - most importantly - impact. Rachael and Kim continue to build on said expertise, via the implementation and delivery of the ReconnectEd ethos, always willing to go above and beyond, and always to a very high standard."

Dave Bell, Alternative Learning Coordinator, Yewlands Academy

OUR IMPACT

In our first 6 months

- We have recruited and trained two ReconnectEd Coaches and appointed a third Coach who starts in September.
- We have recruited, retained and supported intensively 9 young people and their families. At least 100 peers and teachers have also benefited from our young people's improved behaviour and mental wellbeing.
- We have closely monitored the development of our programme which has led to the re-engagement of a number of young people with their learning, attendance and behaviour and seen parents re-engage and make positive links with school.
- Data from [STEER](#), an award-winning organisation, has allowed us to create bespoke action plans for each young person identified as a priority and look at trends in the whole cohort's mental wellbeing and self-regulation, informing our programme. These action plans have led to a 100% increase in the young people's ability to self-regulate.
- We have been formally recognised as one of three finalists for the Social Enterprise StartUp of the Year category at the 2023 North East, Yorkshire & the Humber [StartUp Awards](#)
- We have been selected by [Cambridge Social Ventures](#) at The University of Cambridge Judge Business School to benefit from a year's incubation including inspirational mentoring and workshops.

IMPACTED BY 100%

100% RETENTION
OF RECONNECTED
PUPILS

0 PERMANENT
EXCLUSIONS SINCE
OUR PROGRAMME
BEGAN

SUSPENSIONS
HAVE DECREASED
BY 23%

100% INCREASE IN
THE SELF-REGULATION
OF OUR PRIORITY
PUPILS

INTERNAL
EXCLUSIONS HAVE
DECREASED BY 53%

CASE STUDY

Jack (name anonymised) who has autism and SEN, struggled to cope in mainstream school, truanting from every lesson and at serious risk of permanent exclusion. Our ReconnectEd Coaches worked with the school's SEND team to expedite an appointment for Jack with the Local Authority so he could receive the support he needed at school and at home. Our Coaches ensured Jack attended appointments, helped him to become aware of why assessments were being made and attended in-school professional assessments with him. Our Coaches also worked closely with Jack's mother to ensure she understood Jack's needs and could accommodate them. Now Jack is engaging in lessons, aware of others and able to articulate what he needs before it reaches crisis point.

Ripple effect

- Our Local Advisory Group (LAG) has led to local opportunities for the young people and their families which will include numerous off-site activities for our young people from September.
- ReconnectEd has been commissioned by Brigantia Learning Trust to work as a partner in their bid to the Department for Education for an Alternative Provision Free School for city-wide provision in Sheffield.
- We have built a new partnership with [Steel City Schools Partnership](#) in Sheffield which will allow us to support the often challenging transition of young people from primary to secondary from September.

"As an educational provider obsessed with meeting the needs of all our children and young people, we are privileged to work with a team at ReconnectEd who share our mission to enhance the life chances and opportunities for those who have experienced a range of barriers at an early stage of their educational journey. With high-quality coaches and a shared ambition between Brigantia Learning Trust and ReconnectEd, I know we are truly making a difference to the families we serve and the wider Sheffield community."

Mike Westerdale, CEO, Brigantia Learning Trust



Five runners took on the Brighton marathon and 10KM in April and raised £12,276 for ReconnectEd.

Huge thanks to all our runners and supporters!



The ReconnectEd Co-Founders met Lord Blunkett and Lord Griffiths at the House of Lords in June.

It was an honour to receive such a warm welcome and to hear such encouraging feedback and support for our work.

OUR FUTURE PLANS

Based on our learning over the past six months, we plan to:

- Build a curriculum around the emotion coaching programme for the young people which includes off-site activities to develop critical life skills such as team building, independent thinking and leadership skills. We also plan to pilot a small peer mentoring programme for the young people and launch a Young Person's Local Advisory Group, thus enabling us to capture the voice of the young people.
- Build a support package for parents, thus improving the management of the young person's emotions at home as well as at school.
- Provide summer holiday support in the form of weekly home visits and pastoral care.
- Create a Training Arm to support in-school APs to improve outcomes for their young people at risk of exclusion. This will complement the work of our coaches and provide a greater whole-school impact.
- Create a Central Advisory Board and build our Board.
- Raise awareness of our cause and mission to help more young people. We are delighted to receive the support of an experienced Communications Advisor to help us to do this.
- Explore social investment in order to scale outside of Sheffield in 3 years' time.

Thus leading to a strong, evidence-based foundation which will allow us to help many more young people at risk of exclusion to achieve their potential.

THANK YOU

We are hugely grateful to all of our wonderful partners, donors and supporters. We wouldn't be where we are today without all of you. Particular thanks goes to:

Acumentice
Brigantia Learning Trust
Cambridge Judge Business School
Dentons
Learn Sheffield
New Square Property
The Beeston Community House Trust

The Change Maker Group
The KFC Foundation
The National Lottery
South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit
Steel City Schools Partnership
STEER
All our marathon runners and supporters!

"It was an easy decision to select ReconnectEd for the Cambridge Social Ventures incubator programme. The combined experience and track record of co-founders was impressive, along with the clarity of their vision. ReconnectEd's trauma-informed approach to addressing exclusion of youth has the potential to deliver significant impact."

– Nicole Helwig, Executive Director, Cambridge Centre for Social Innovation, Cambridge Judge Business School