

HOW TO ACCESS OUR SERVICES

CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



Putting children, young people
and families first



The Children's Centre

For many people living on our island, life is not without its challenges. Real areas of need have been identified for children, young people and families with additional requirements where provision to meet those needs is simply not available because of a variety of circumstances.

Vision

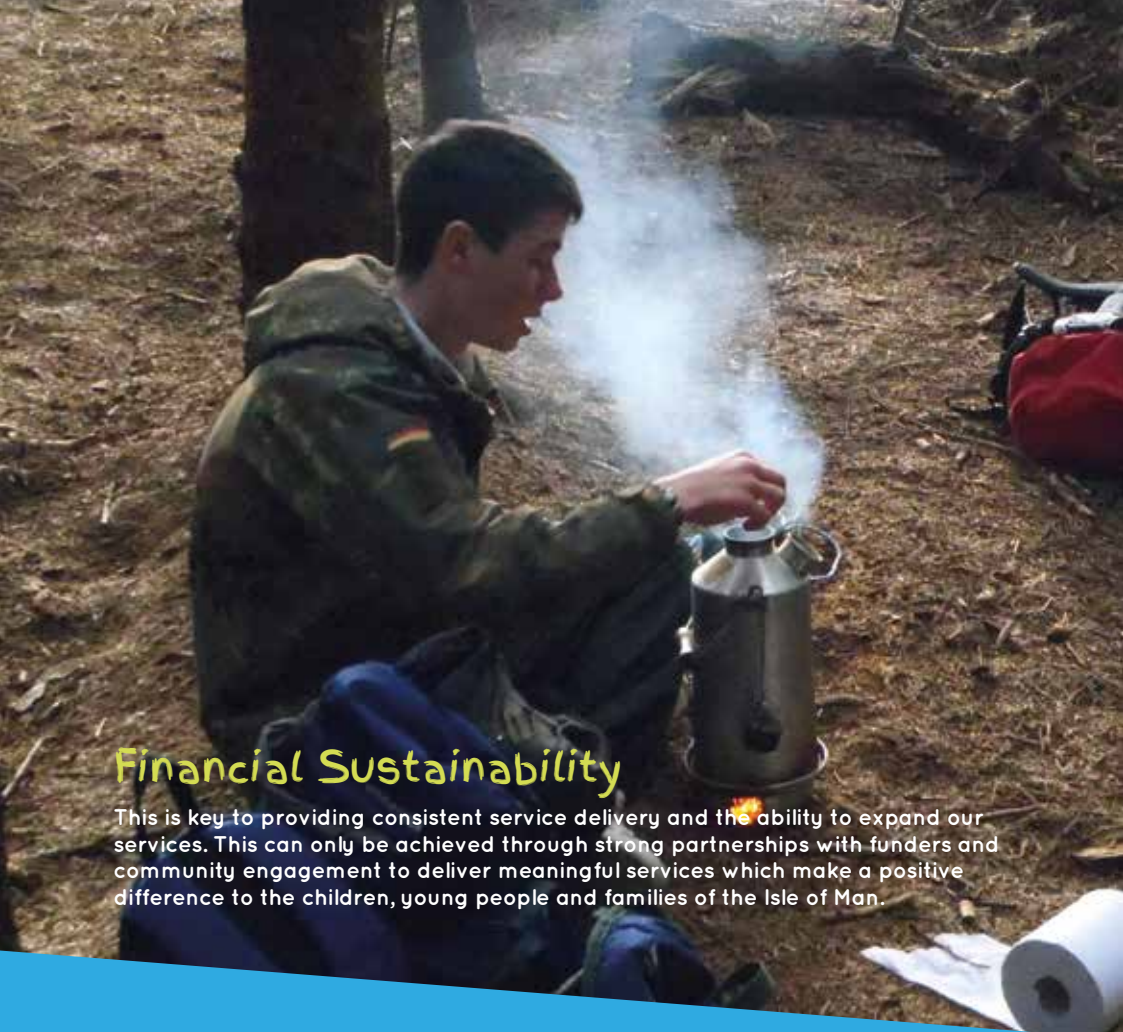
Our vision is to put children, young people and families first and by doing so make the Isle of Man a safe and progressive community – one of the best environments in the world to be born, raised and live. To achieve this The Children's Centre focuses its services to meet the needs of children, young people and their families in the Isle of Man.

Our unique service enables closer working partnerships and flexibility to meet current and emerging requirements. Supporting an age range up to 25 years (depending on specific needs) we engage with children, young people and families affected by challenges including domestic issues, bullying, anti-social behaviour, self-identity, parenting issues, crime, and social isolation. We take a holistic partnership approach to support the five sustainable community development goals for children, young people and families with additional needs.

We ensure the child is at the centre of our work, aiming to build resilience, promote well-being and enable families to achieve positive outcomes and brighter futures.







Financial Sustainability

This is key to providing consistent service delivery and the ability to expand our services. This can only be achieved through strong partnerships with funders and community engagement to deliver meaningful services which make a positive difference to the children, young people and families of the Isle of Man.

All educational, therapeutic and challenging activities offered through our services have a shared underlying ethos of promoting resilience, self-confidence and wellbeing.

As well as delivering support in homes and the community, the charity has a unique setting at our Community Farm in Braddan where the aim is to promote health, wellbeing and respect in both our community and the natural landscape that sustains us. Sessions are naturally cooperative, physical and fun, in a vibrant and positive setting.

Most importantly all people are considered on the basis of what they can do, not what they can't. This means that rather than being 'needy' the conditions are created in which people feel useful, needed and valued.

The nature reserve, gardens, polytunnels, classrooms, kitchen, workshop, and animal paddocks are all in immediate proximity to each other, and 80% of the site, including the nature reserve, is wheelchair / pushchair accessible. There is on-site parking and disabled toilet provision.

Support Packages

Our robust support packages and service delivery offers programmes including:

- **Parenting courses:** from evidence based programmes to workshops for specific issues such as understanding child development, potty training, tackling tantrums and managing social media. Parenting programmes will be timetabled by academic year and information available on our website.
- **Adventure based activities (Mobex):** at venues across the Island. Activities such as coastering and climbing offer opportunities to develop self-belief, increased physical and emotional resilience and the pride associated with accomplishment, coupled with managing personal risk and reward. Such activities also allow children and young people to experience failure within an emotionally safe environment and to discover that this is an essential part of the learning process. Through these experiences, our skilled team of practitioners enable children and young people to develop strategies so that they learn to manage possible negative emotions in the future.
- **Supported contact:** ongoing work within National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) guidelines.
- **One-to-one parenting support:** a range of strategies including mirroring desired behaviours for parents to see and use; support to make a clean, safe and comfortable home; managing unwanted behaviours; supporting parents to attend meetings with school, health professionals or police.
- **Outreach:** giving time, a listening ear and sounding board for children and young people. Available as a regular 'solid, steady person' and through one-to-one sessions, taking a more individual approach to building resilience.
- **Therapeutic and purposeful activities at the Farm:** guided by knowledgeable session leaders, offer horticultural experiences connecting people from planting to the food they eat, learning of the nutritional and environmental aspects, while animal husbandry provides a chance to take responsibility, and give care as well as receiving it.
- **Animal husbandry:** from brushing donkeys to caring for new-born lambs – our unique farm setting provides people with a chance to take responsibility, and give care as well as receiving it.



The following are some of our specific projects:

Inclusion

Provides meaningful farm-based pursuits and pathways for young adults (18+) with additional learning needs. Participants are capable but have typically had limited opportunity of paid employment, and are at risk of becoming socially inactive or isolated.

Led by dedicated staff, sessions are group-based and run five days a week, each with a different focus. Students attend one, two or three weekly slots.

In the safe but dynamic farm setting, students are encouraged to take on genuine responsibility and share in the resulting sense of belonging, accomplishment and satisfaction of running the farm.

Rural learning provides opportunity to develop skills, friendships, work ethic, positive self-concepts, behavioural and emotional management and resilience: crops sometimes fail, nails get bent, but we dust ourselves off, learn and have another go.

Inclusion participants experience:

- **Farm and horticulture work:** taking ownership of animal care and vegetable growing, delivering fresh produce to the community. Inclusion has full use of the workshops, kitchen, classrooms and nature reserve. Some students work towards awards in horticulture and conservation.
- **Social enterprise:** entrepreneurial spirit is encouraged as we sell farm-made products and cater at events with the team.
- **Community volunteering:** being productive and visible around the island, putting our green skills to use for others in garden clearances and beach cleans.
- **Formative, social experiences:** Participants organise their own events and join adventurous outdoor activities run by our qualified Mobex team. The friendships formed are just as important as the hard work and challenge.

We hope Inclusion students unlock and realise their potential.

We help them identify and prepare for opportunities to move on to employment, volunteering or education such as Myerscough College in the UK.

Grass Roots

This programme offers experiential learning that is naturally active, social, reflective, educational and community-spirited. Projects will consciously be socially inclusive and bridge generational gaps, improve and restore ecological habitats, encourage participants to make provisions for others and provide opportunities for micro social enterprise. Sessions up to 3 hours led by our experienced team will help individuals explore and recognise environmental economic opportunities and develop employment skills.

- **Animal-assisted education and therapy:** Visitors play a real part in the welfare, diet and breeding of our rare sheep flock, pigs, goats, donkeys, rabbits and guinea pigs.
- **Agriculture/land care experiences and skills:** Promoting sustainable land use, soil health and practical skills in simple construction and woodwork
- **Communication and emotional skills:** Focus on the 'person' and their resilience, with reflective exercises.
- **Horticulture education and therapy:** Taking participants on the journey of understanding, growing and preparing their own-chemical free food, and exploring its economic potential.
- **Environmental skills and experiences:** Bushcraft, outdoor cooking, foraging and, excitingly, establishing a new native woodland and coppice on a five-acre wetland at the farm.

Prison Support

We support children affected by a family member entering or leaving the prison system, including family days at the prison and recording story book telling by prisoners.



Appreciation of nature
Interaction, esteem building
Social inclusion, acceptance
Skills development
Physical activity



Health & wellbeing

Positive role models

Exploring nutrition

Taking on responsibilities

Challenging and pushing comfort zones

Making lasting connections

How to Refer

Through a single point of referral, we connect with those in need and build supportive, time-sensitive programmes of involvement with the child at the heart of everything we do. We accept referrals from many parts of the community, this includes IoM Constabulary, Youth Justice, Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), the Departments of Education, Sport and Culture, Health & Social Care, Enterprise, the Probation Service, Adult Mental Health, and other charitable organisations. Individuals and families can also self-refer.

Referrals are reviewed to evaluate they meet our criteria. We will ensure all applications are kept confidential throughout the process and, where we are unable to assist, we will signpost to other specialised providers and services.

Support will usually be based around an initial 12 week support package, however this is flexible depending on the need of each case. A Case Worker will be allocated for each referral who will manage the co-ordination of the plan.

Our referral form is available to download from the website:
www.thechildrenscentre.org.im

Please complete and return by email to: support@thechildrenscentre.org.im



Organisational Governance

The organisation is governed by Trustees who are also company directors. The Trustees hold board meetings to receive the reports of the strategic leadership team and control the accounts, audit and investment matters, and a Risk sub-committee monitors the risk management process. The Trustees delegate the day-to-day management to their appointed Chief Executive Officer.

Safeguarding

The Children's Centre has clear policies and procedures with regard to safeguarding and protection of children. Compulsory annual training at Level 4 is provided by an approved external UK Trainer to all staff, volunteers and trustees within the parameters of the IOM Safeguarding Board.

Data Privacy

We comply with appropriate legislation and regulations.

Health and Safety

We are committed to providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment for staff, clients, volunteers and visitors, which includes risk assessment, training and supervision in line with HSE regulations.

Independent external assessment of outdoor and adventure activities continue via the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA).

All relevant policies and procedures are available on request.

Commitment to the Environment

The Children's Centre is a member of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man.

This international recognition for the Isle of Man creates many different opportunities to help us work together with different partners to achieve the three aims of Conservation, Development and Knowledge to make the Island an even better place to live.







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