

Specialist Education Provision for 16+ Years Olds

# Talkback Central

Education | Life Skills | Employment



Creating unique pathways for neurodiverse young adults and people with learning disabilities to ensure the positive transition to adulthood and all forms of employment.



# Talkback Central

For 16+ year olds who want something different to college

**Talkback Central is a unique and innovative offer, designed to specifically cater for young adults who feel they are better suited to learning away from the traditional college environment.**

At Talkback, we understand that every young person has unique needs and aspirations. Our Learning Programme is designed to meet these individual requirements, ensuring they are equipped to transition smoothly into adulthood.

## **Nurturing a Safe and Positive Learning Environment**

We believe that a supportive and encouraging environment is crucial for personal growth. At Talkback, we provide a safe space where young individuals can discover and develop their skills and talents. Our dedicated team offers the right level of support, fostering a positive atmosphere that encourages exploration and learning.

## **Preparing for a Healthy and Meaningful Future**

Our focus is on preparing each person for a bright, healthy, and meaningful future. We have a track record of achieving significant milestones, including successful Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) outcomes. Many of our participants have gone on to secure employment, as well as take on valuable volunteering roles within the community.

## **Lifelong Learning Academy**

At Talkback, we are committed to creating a lifelong learning environment. Our approach ensures that learning doesn't stop at the classroom door but continues throughout life. We aim to instil a love for learning and a drive for personal and professional development in every individual we support.

Talkback Central is focused on turning aspirations into achievements and paving the way for a fulfilling future. Welcome to a place where potential is realised, and dreams are made possible.



**Jeremy Hay**

CEO

Talkback

# Our provision

Personalised and tailored for you

**No matter where a young person currently finds themselves on their own life journey, we offer programmes designed to support them.**

Talkback Central has four distinct parts. Young people can join us at any stage, and we will work with them to create the right journey for them. So, whether they are beginning their post-school education, looking to find employment, or anything in between, we can cater for all needs.

## Engage

**Entry Requirements:**

NEET young people from BCG IGNITE programme or direct from Bucks NEET Team.

**Package:**

Bespoke package to enable NEET young people to reengage and move on to education or employment.

**Progression:**

Equip / Equip plus / Employability.

## Equip Plus

**Entry Requirements:**

Entry 1 to Level 1. Specifically designed for those seeking a more tailored way of learning.

**Package**

Includes life skills, Maths & English qualifications and work experience opportunities.

**Progression:**

Mainstream Education / Employability / Social Care.

## Equip

**Entry Requirements:**

Entry 1 to Level 3. For students accessing qualifications at BCG, BCA, Sixth forms and out of county colleges.

**Package:**

Includes life and social/communication skills, travel training and work experience.

**Progression:**

Mainstream Education / Equip Plus / Employability

## Employment

**Entry Requirements:**

Higher Entry 3 / level 1 or above. Supported Internships.

**Package:**

Volunteer placements, work experience, employability skills, travel training, English and Maths, and Pre and Full Supported Internships.

**Progression:**

Long term voluntary placement / paid employment.

# A unique, supportive setting

Our courses are designed to prepare each person for a bright, healthy and happy future. We offer the following:



## Life-long Qualifications

- English
- Maths
- Digital Skills
- Specialist qualifications, including
  - Catering skills
  - Retail skills
  - Woodwork skills



## Life Skills (preparing for adulthood)

- Travel training
- Social/ relationships
- Money management
- Health +& Well being
- Independent living
- Youth club
- Relationship Skills
- Self-esteem and awareness



## Getting Work Ready

- Office skills
- Customer service
- Health and safety
- Workplace visits
- Understanding work policies
- Working with others



## Transitions to Work

- Foundation work skills
- CV preparation
- Interview skills
- Right fit/right job
- Supported internships
- Volunteer roles
- Workplace visit
- Employer relationship



## Work Experience

- Retail
- Library
- Woodwork
- Garage
- Hospitality
- Horticulture
- Office work
- Animal care
- Sports coaching
- Coffee Shop Work
- Customer Service
- And many more

# The Talkback Central philosophy

**Our work is all based on a student's personal needs as well as their health and care plan outcomes.**

Our provision is for 16–25-year-olds **who hold an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)** and who would thrive in a specialist learning environment. Our aim is to offer English, Maths together with personal and social skills development. These meet the needs of the Preparing for Adulthood Agenda, Linking Curriculum to Careers, Preparing for work, work experience and supported internships.

We help our young people transition from school to adulthood through volunteer work, paid employment or further development programmes with us. We work together with the young adult, their family and other professionals to create an individual programme for every single person.

We have four key parts at the heart of our philosophy.

## A safe place

A supportive environment, where young adults can learn and share experiences and ideas in confidence to develop skills for life.

## Belonging

All courses are developed and delivered by people who are well trained and have a real passion and care.

## Our Philosophy

## Supportive

We will meet the needs of every young adult that wishes to develop and take control to manage their life.

## Possibilities

We welcome 16–25-year-olds with lived experience of neuro diversity and life /social challenges.

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We are driven to overcome the barriers faced by autistic individuals and people with a learning disability. We want them to embrace new opportunities, lead fulfilling and healthy lives, work and contribute to the community.

# Appendix

## About some of our courses



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Week in, week out, I see the brilliant work produced by the people in the workshop, I see the looks on their faces and the pride they have in what they've achieved. And that's what drives me on.

# Our employability and work experience groups

We put a huge amount of emphasis into helping members be ready for any sort of work, be it voluntary or paid, as well as helping them engage with community groups to enhance their lives.

Our work experience scheme gets you a head start into the career of your choice. Tell us what you're interested in and we'll find you a great opportunity, help you connect with your colleagues and get you ready for a job you'll thrive in. At the end of each day young adults complete a work experience pack to reflect on what's been learned through exposure to professional environments.

## Our Employment Pathway Personalised for you



# The Accessible Workshop

A professional woodwork workshop environment allows our members to learn work skills to increase their employability. Individuals work to clear and structured plans, with each project treated as a commissioned piece of work. From basic safety awareness around the home, through to repairing, creating, upcycling, and developing employment skills; The Accessible Workshop creates realistic progression pathways. We recognise that everyone operates at a different pace and have developed our approach to incorporate the following stages of progression:



## Awareness

- Gain basic awareness of woodworking and DIY skills that can be used in everyday life.



## Core Skills

- Develop the skills which will enable you to undertake a range of DIY tasks.
- Be able to use a range of basic hand and power tools.



## Upcycle

- Develop awareness of upcycling and how to turn junk into profit.
- Learn skills relating to budgeting, marketing and selling a product.



## Create

- Develop the skills to plan a project and construct items for home and garden use.
- Use more advanced power tools and machinery.



## Employ

- Develop essential employment skills.
- Plan, construct and market products, while gaining the confidence and skills to work independently.



## Other Examples of Work Experience Opportunities



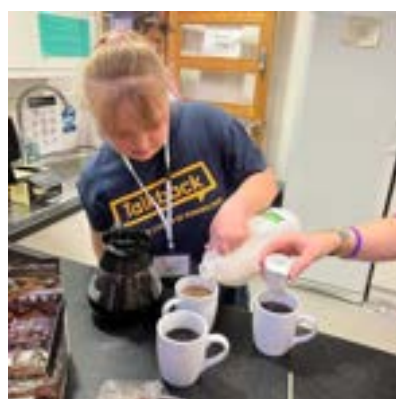
### Farms and outdoor opportunities

- Feed and care for the animals
- Muck in to help look after the farm
- Learn how to work to a schedule
- Socialise with colleagues



### Retail opportunities, including supermarkets and clothes shops

- Take your first steps in customer service
- Understand the disciplines of work
- Enjoy interacting with customers appropriately
- Understand workplace health and safety instructions
- Work independently and in a team to organise and replenish stock



### Charity shops and cafés

- Build confidence through speaking to members of the public
- Learn barista skills
- Learn customer service skills
- Stock control and how to manage money



### Horticultural organisations

- Complete horticultural tasks with your team
- Clear leaves, trim hedges and learn about plants and vegetables
- Use equipment, such as lawn mowers, hedge trimmers and cleaning equipment safely

We're always adding further work experience opportunities in retail, offices, sports clubs and more. Tell us what industry excites you and we'll be happy to find something that fits!

# Other relationship and life skills groups

**All the groups we run incorporate fundamental elements of relationship building, enhancing physical and mental wellbeing, travel training and keeping yourself safe. These are the core vital skills to building a more independent future for our members.**

## Art

Young adults will explore and reproduce work in a range of art movements including surrealism, impressionism, cubism, urban art, photo montage, cubism, still life, water colour and caricatures.

## Building Social Skills

Young adults will have the opportunity to develop friendships and communication skills via games, sharing news and team building exercises. They will be encouraged to voice their opinions and share common interests and give a presentation on a hobby they have.

Young adults will be encouraged to express how they feel. They will look at body language and how their behaviour can affect others. They will also access music therapy. Young adults will learn about personal safety in the home and in the community. They will explore the Safe Places scheme and who to go to for help if they are feeling worried or threatened. The group will practice their cooking skills by planning a recipe, shopping, preparing the food and eating a meal together.

## Creative Media

The group will create their own film from a storyboard, flipbook, and script. They will travel to locations to take photographs and learn about camera shots and perspective. Young adults will study set design and character modelling before creating their own scenery.

Young adults will create a shot list for their film looking at scenery and camera angles. The group will then set up their scene and characters and begin filming. Postproduction, young adults will edit their film. They will explore advertising and promotion. As a group they will design a film poster and create an advertising podcast.

## Independent Everyday Living

Young adults will explore topics and learn skills relating to living independently. They will learn how to use a washing machine, tumble dryer and iron as well as buying food and preparing meals. They will undertake basic household tasks and research supported housing options for the future.

The group will cover personal care and including hair and nail care, dental and personal hygiene, and the importance of sleep. They will practice relaxation techniques and examine the benefits of exercise.

Young adults will have the opportunity to discuss employment options and create their own CV and learn about interviews.

Young adults will learn about online safety, road safety, community safety and where to find help through the Safe Places scheme. The group will access a 5-week travel training module.

## Life-Long Skills for Adult Life

The group will explore money management including budgeting, applying for a bank account, handling credit, and debit cards and avoiding debts. They will examine the cost of electricity, gas, council tax and water rates. Young adults will be tasked to research expenses for decorating their own bedroom.

They will learn to cook a meal on a budget and how to wash their clothes. We will discuss how to access GP services and young adults will role-play booking an appointment. Driving theory will be delivered over two terms. Young adults will learn how to apply for a provisional licence, access practise tests and learn about the costs and responsibilities of owning their own car. The Employability module comprises identifying relevant personal skills, job searching, online applications, writing a CV and Personal Statement, interview techniques and a practice interview session.

## Personal and Social Development

The group will explore feelings and emotions and what effects these can have on the body. They will develop self-awareness through identifying their own strengths and weaknesses. They will be encouraged to practice mindfulness, breathing techniques and meditation to help manage their feelings and anxieties.

Young adults will explore different hobbies and leisure activities and examine how they can help to develop self-esteem and positive thinking. They will be encouraged to work together in pairs or small groups to develop team working skills.

The group will look at the importance of a healthy diet, exercise and getting adequate sleep. They will engage in practical cooking exercises including shopping, food preparation and eating a meal together. The group will also access a 5-week travel training module.

## Travel Training

We start with an assessment of the level of skills and knowledge of the group. Young adults will identify their aspirations and consider one journey they would like to achieve independently. If required, young adults will be encouraged to apply for a bus pass.

Prior to undertaking journeys, young adults will learn about personal and community safety. They will explore the local environment and practice road safety. They will develop their money skills and learn to calculate the cost of their travel and estimate the expected change they may need. Young adults will learn to use both analogue and digital clocks before learning to understand a bus timetable.

As a group we will look at planning a journey, what we need to take, what do we do if something goes wrong, and how do we get help if required. Young adults will be encouraged to participate in role play to reinforce their learning and practice their communication skills. Time will be spent exploring each personal route selected by young adults. These routes will be practised to enable the student to feel confident about travelling independently.

**These groups are just a small sample of what we do. Our full curriculum is available on our website [here](#).**



# Talkback

**DEVELOPING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES**

We look forward to welcoming you as a Talkback member, and helping you on your journey to gaining education, life skills, employment and independence.

## Contact us

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