therendezvous
Helping young people to help themselves

Under Cheap Street Church
Cheap Street
Sherborne, DT9 3BJ
www.therendezvous.org.uk
01935 814496 | office@therendezvous.org.uk
Charity no: 1162722 | Co. no 07592624

Annual Charity Snapshot | September 2026

Supporting the transition into adulthood by rebuilding confidence, reducing isolation and gaining qualifications

Over the academic year (2025-26)

- 153 young people accessed our free, local one-to-one support plus
- 170+ young people took part in targeted projects in Gillingham (funded by the National Lottery Community Fund)
- 76% of the young people we worked with were aged 16+
- 85% said The Rendezvous had made a significant difference to their lives

Charity Update

We are seeing growing need among young people approaching and entering adulthood, with a particularly strong concentration among 17–19-year-olds. Turning eighteen may bring legal adulthood, but it does not mean a young person is suddenly ready to navigate adult life independently. At this stage, young people are expected to make increasingly adult decisions about education, work, relationships and independence; often while also experiencing anxiety or poor mental health and wellbeing, disrupted education, neurodiversity or learning differences, and loss of confidence.

Our approach remains simple: start with the young person, build a trusted relationship and help them take the next step. Through individual Mental Health & Wellbeing support, flexible English and maths one-to-one tuition and targeted projects, we help young people build confidence, improve their wellbeing and skills, gain qualifications and move towards college, training, work and greater independence.

Trends

The needs young people bring to us are increasingly interconnected. Among our learners, 57% had confirmed or suspected neurodivergence or learning differences recorded, while 54% had a mental-health difficulty recorded. For many, progress in learning therefore goes hand in hand with improving confidence and self-belief, reducing anxiety and re-engaging after disrupted education.

Demand for specialist Mental Health & Wellbeing support remains high, but wellbeing support also runs through all our work. Our volunteer tutors do much more than teach English and Maths. Through consistent one-to-one relationships, they help young people manage anxiety, rebuild confidence and re-engage with learning. This provides an important preventative layer of wellbeing support alongside our specialist Mental Health & Wellbeing provision, enabling us to respond to different levels of need while keeping the trusted one-to-one relationship at the heart of our work.

Next steps

Our ambition isn't simply to do more. As we move into our 30th year, we aim to ensure The Rendezvous can continue helping young people for the long term without losing the small-scale, human approach that makes our work distinctive. During 2026/27 we are focusing on recruiting and supporting more volunteers, strengthening our systems and profile, diversifying income and developing shared leadership across the organisation.

Our projects

- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Learning & Progression
- Special Projects

Locations

- Sherborne: The Rendezvous Centre; The Gryphon School; Community locations
- Yeovil: Samaritans Centre
- Gillingham: The Slade Centre; other venues

Our team

- 8 core staff (3.7 FTE)
- 3 sessional/project staff
- 60+ volunteers
- 5 trustees, 4 associates

Finance

The last financial year was challenging. The loss of two long-term funders led us to reduce costs and refocus resources on our core one-to-one work and fully funded projects. Strong reserves and prudent planning by staff and trustees enabled us to manage those changes in a structured way and, by September 2026, further funding opportunities were either secured or in development.

Financial Year 2025/2026
Income: £255,123
Expenditure: £306,390
Unrestricted Reserves *(as of 1/4/26)* - £114,263

97% *of young people asked would recommend The Rendezvous to another young person*

Annual Summer Survey – Feedback 2026

85% *said The Rendezvous had made "a lot" or "a huge amount" of difference to them*

82% *reported increased confidence or self-esteem*

97% *of those for whom learning was relevant reported making academic progress*

This is what they said when we asked them why…

"I have passed my Level 1 exams after not being at mainstream education for 4 years."

"I have a job"

"I don't feel dread anymore."

"I can talk to people much better now and have finally got my Maths."

"I have more self-respect and personal boundaries."

Our 60 Volunteers are amazing too…

They give their time, skills and encouragement to help young people move forward they get something from it too…

"It feels good to contribute to young people's lives in a positive way. It's a very supportive environment, which makes it really rewarding. You're working alongside people who are all aiming for the same thing: helping young people. It's just a nice place to be."

Volunteer (Wellbeing)

www.therendezvous.org.uk

Find out how you can support the young people in our communities

Who we supported

- **87** young people engaged in Learning
- **77** young people engaged in Mental Health & Wellbeing
- **16** received both Learning and Mental Health & Wellbeing support
- **53 of our 87 learners (61%)** were aged 18+
- **At least 41%** had confirmed or suspected neurodivergence or learning differences recorded
- **19%** were home educated
- **11%** were recorded as NEET
- **69%** lived in Dorset | **30%** Somerset | **1%** Wiltshire

Wellbeing outcomes

Of those receiving regular wellbeing support, assessments indicate

- **100%** improvement in confidence and self-esteem
- **90%** were more engaged and connected to others
- **80%** were more optimistic for the future

Learning & qualifications

- **89** exam/module entries
- **Results:** Maths L1 **8** | Maths L2 **8** English L1 **20** | English L2 **43**
- **Passrates:**
  Maths 83% L1 and 54% L2 Maths pass rate (47% nationally)
  English Reading and Writing 94-100% (63 and 76% nationally)

What happened next?

- **60%** of learners continue with us into the 2026/27 academic year
- Of those leaving after exams:
  54% are in employment
  38% gain college places
  8% join apprenticeships