



Alabaré Training, Advice & Support



Congratulations to our team at Barford Countryside Unit (BCU) on achieving a second excellent annual report from the NPTC (National Proficiency Test Council). NPTC External Verifier, Bee Esdaile, described Barford Countryside Unit as, "A well resourced, well run centre, demonstrating good practice all around. Well done!"

Accredited courses in subjects such as Woodwork, Pottery, Horticulture, IT, Cookery and Recycling have been running at the centre since 2004 and are aimed at local vulnerable adults. Having received an excellent report in their first assessment in 2006, the whole team were delighted to keep up their first class record.

What makes Barford Countryside Unit a special place to work and visit?

"When visitors come to BCU they always remark about the non-stressful atmosphere and yet there are times when the workshop has a hustle and bustle industrial feel about it. I feel this is the perfect environment in which to be creative - there is no ceiling to what service-users can make so the sky's the limit! This gives the tutor the challenging task of accommodating their different requirements according to their capabilities. That is why there is no need to worry about not having any woodwork skills to start with because all training and supervision is provided."



"Break times are enjoyed by both the service users and the tutor (!), and there is no better place than the countryside of Barford St Martin to sit in the sunshine and make new friends through the aid of jolly banter."

Mark Robinson (Woodwork tutor)



"Barford Countryside Unit benefits me greatly; the woodwork facility is great therapy for the mind, body and soul. It is a non-pressure environment without expectations. Without the Countryside Unit I would steadily go downhill. The staff are friendly, patient and good listeners." **HD (Service User)**

"The workshop has kept me sane! It's good to be with people who have had similar experiences. I find it a comfort to be able to return the favour and pass on my skills and life experiences to others." **RB (Service User)**

Spring/Summer 2007

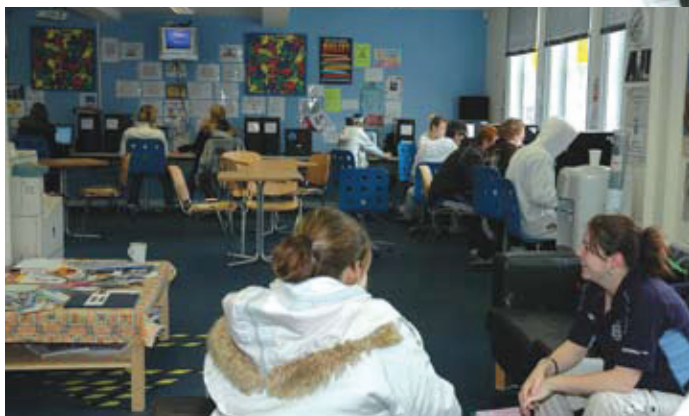
Photos are not necessarily of clients referred to in this publication. Names have been changed to respect client confidentiality.

The Junction

The Junction provides a safe space and information and advice service for young people ages 13-25 living in the Test Valley area.

At The Junction we see a lot young people confront many issues, but we don't always see the final stages once they have turned their life around. However there

is one young man who visits The Junction who has made the transition from young offender, drug taker, and truant. This is his story in his own words...



Was I On the Road to Nowhere?

October 2005 – December 2005

Kicked out of school! Life and school is so boring – nothing to do except hang around with my friends – I was into smoking weed and tried cocaine – funny how the people you think are your friends turn out to be part of the problem, not the solution.

January 2006 – December 2006

Happy New Year! - Same old problems tho! School who needs it? More weed – seems to make life better, at least for a while – it fills a gap – wastes a bit of time. I was now attending the Pupil Referral Unit, PRU, which is just like school except it's only for a few hours a week. Still get homework – which I don't do! I am now getting hassle from the police, the PRU and my family! I am now running away from home quite a lot. Of course I am just really trying to escape from it all! I spend many nights on my friends' sofas or sometimes on the streets.

So – I am in trouble with the Police, PRU, and home. I have nowhere to stay, nothing to eat – and no money. I am only 15 – I thought life was supposed to be fun!! The police are after me – I have to steal because I need to eat and get some weed – it helps me pass the day.

In trouble again! In court – I've been breaking windows and stealing – again.. Everybody just talks at me – nobody EVER listens. I've been given a referral order! What's that? I didn't realise it would be a turning point.

January 2007

Things needed to change so I began to sort my life out – I began attending the PRU (started doing my homework regularly after I got free toasties at The Junction) and with support I am taking myself off the weed! Changed my attitude and 'friends' – tried to stay out trouble – life is getting better.

March 2007

Back to school! Saw Andy's face when I came to The Junction in my uniform (Andy is the Junction Project Co-ordinator)

April 2007

Now things are beginning to settle down – I haven't run away for over 5 months – don't do the drugs anymore - the police still stop me, but now they just say hi and give me really positive comments – when they stop me it seems odd that I don't need to do a runner!

What next? Who knows. I've made lots of mistakes and I guess I'll make some more, but I do know that I have wasted two years of my life, and this time I've got it sorted.

The Junction offers young people a non-judgemental place to come for support and advice. Our team can help them work through their issues and the centre provides access to other agencies in an environment where young people can feel trusted and safe.

Did you know...

75% of young homeless people were forced to leave their last home and 45% have experienced violence in the family home

Sources: Crisis, Shelter

Business Open Day at The Junction

Our team at the Junction in Andover opened their doors to the local business community on Tuesday 20th March. Representatives from local Community Groups, Churches and Schools were also invited along to see our work and the facilities at the centre.

Visitors were also given a tour of the meeting rooms available to hire. It is hoped that more businesses and groups will start using the centre for meetings or as a training venue. The income received from room hire goes straight back into the centre, helping us to continue providing support services for young people.

If you are involved in a local business or group in the Andover area and would like to know more about facilities available at The Junction and supporting our work, please do contact our team on 01264 369694 or email

thejunction@alabare.co.uk



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