



**NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
BUREAU**



# **Supporting Young People with Additional Needs**

**Learning from Empowering Young People  
Grant Holders**



## **Playtrail**



# Ready, Steady, Go Project

- An enterprise, training and social inclusion project, led by young people aged 16-25 years with learning disabilities
- Charity shop, fabrication studio, mobile coffee shop and volunteer work placements.

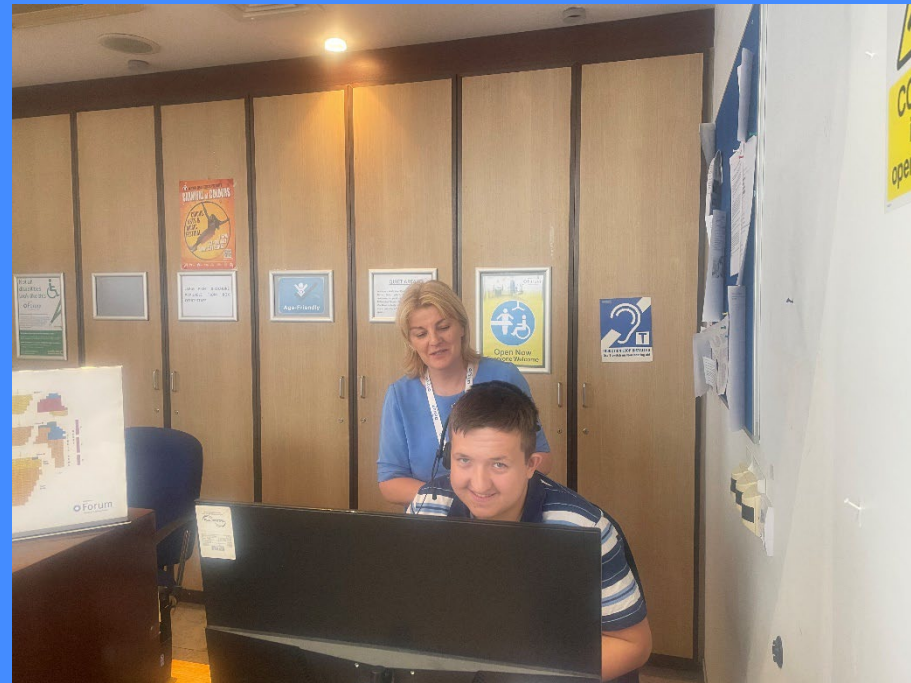
# Ready, Steady, Go Project

Over 4 years, young people received:

- ✓ vocational training
- ✓ intensive support
- ✓ work experience
- ✓ access to a wraparound social inclusion and wellbeing programme



# Young People at Work





# Learning

- The Thrift shop has been operating better than anticipated, contributing to sustainability.
- We have had full engagement and attendance with the young people: record numbers on social and weekend provision.
- Some young people have required a 1 to 1 approach, which makes us question their suitability for external employment in the future.
- Supported employment model helped us to make better informed choices for young people seeking work placements.
- Not all parents are keen to see their child develop a taste for employment, and we have to be respectful of that.

# Impact: Work Readiness

Total of 600 young people gained meaningful work experience over the 4 years of the project.

- All work placements have succeeded in
  - ✓ giving the young people meaningful work experience
  - ✓ upskilling young people
  - ✓ increased work readiness
  - ✓ enhanced confidence and self-esteem.
- Engaged with DfC's Job Start Programme securing 3 x 20 hour posts for economically inactive young people.

# Impact: Social Skills and Wellbeing

**Social provision – increased and supported young people to**

- ✓ maintain positive relationships
- ✓ increase physical, mental and emotional well-being
- ✓ address any social isolation
- ✓ have better relationships with their support network, peers and community
- ✓ enhance their mental health and wellbeing, online and social media safety
- ✓ develop healthy relationships.

**Excellent feedback from young people with comments on**

- ✓ increased confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ some requesting extra shifts

**Parents reported that their young people are**

- ✓ more confident
- ✓ happier
- ✓ Starting to travel independently.

# Stories

**Jamie** has autism and he undertook a 6-week placement at the box office in the Millennium Forum and the experience really transformed him. He chatted with customers on the phone and processed their event bookings and he was so delighted that he was able to make people happy by doing this for them. It really brought him out of his shell and now he enthusiastically volunteers for anything that's going.

**Isobel's** superpower is her autism and she is really creative. Her skills were put to good use when she created all the characters for the Hub's new book about 'seeing the person, not the disability'.

**Josh** has autism and is very withdrawn. He took up a placement in the gardens of The Playtrail and this allowed him to gain confidence whilst improving his physical and mental health.





**Thankyou  
National  
Lottery!**





# Thankyou!

Min McCann

Liberty Consortium

[min@playtrail.com](mailto:min@playtrail.com)







**NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
BUREAU**



# **Supporting Young People with Additional Needs**

**Learning from Empowering Young People**

**Grant Holders**

**The BASE @ Tobin**



# **Bringing Additional Support to Everyone (BASE)**

- **The BASE @ Tobin operates from the Tobin Centre in Moortown.**
- **Five-year project supports young people up to 18 years with additional needs.**
- **Launched in January 2020: registered 207 families, 271 young people and 214 siblings across Mid-Ulster (to June 2024).**
- **Significantly surpassed its initial targets: 71 families, 82 young people, and 92 siblings.**



# Learning

- **Adaptability:** the importance of adaptability over the last five years.
- **Family Relationships:** support among siblings improved family relationships.
- **Independence:** independent activities fostered a sense of togetherness, enjoyment, learning, and long-term health and wellness benefits.
- **Support:** fosters connections among parents, reduces isolation, and provides mutual support and empathy.
- **Staff:** role and approach of staff and volunteers was key to the success of the project.
- **Community:** project built a sense of community that was previously lacking.

# Impact

"Tobin was a lifeline for my son and I... it allowed me to blend in with the activities which encouraged my child to attend as he didn't really want to go anywhere. It built up his confidence and give him a range of activities where he felt a part of things... the group activity away days with family included were economical & fun... places like Tobin after diagnosis are a badly needed lifeline". **Parent**

"Happiest when he's going to the youth club he really looks forward to the trips. He struggles socially and has no friends, so this makes him feel a part of a friendship group. This is vital to him". **Parent**

"Both young people and their carers get great support from the activities at Tobin - there is nowhere else that provides this".  
**Parent**



# Impact

"When I am at The BASE @ Tobin, I always feel happy & full of laughter. The centre's facilities help me feel safe & calm. The staff always help me feel at ease & reassure me if I have any worries. At Tobin, some of my favourite things to do include chilling out in the sensory room, taking part in arts & crafts & seeing all the staff who I have developed close relationships with. I thoroughly enjoy family days at the centre, which include activities such as messy play, teddy bear-making workshops & mobile farms. I enjoy these days because there are smaller crowds, & it is an opportunity to show my family what I do when I am at Tobin. Tobin helps me in many ways. It helps me to calm down after long days at school in the evenings when I attend youth club at the centre. It also helps me to regulate myself & to get any anger out without getting frustrated. Tobin gives me the chance to improve my social skills & makes me more aware of the needs of others around me. I couldn't imagine my life without The BASE, it is a part of me now & my routine".

**Young person, aged 11**

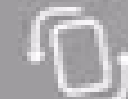
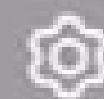
THE BASE @ TOBIN NEEDS YOUR HE...



Tobin Centre Moortown



0:00 / 3:03





# Stories

**Target – £50,000**

**Amount raised – £75,681.84**

**Work started on 15<sup>th</sup> January  
2024**

**Officially opened on 6<sup>th</sup>  
September 2024**





# Stories

"Alone we can do  
so little; together  
we can do so  
much"

Helen Keller





# Thank you!



For more details on The Base@Tobin contact  
Loretta Daly: [loretta@tobincentre.com](mailto:loretta@tobincentre.com)





# Supporting Young People with Additional Needs

Learning from Empowering Young  
People Grant Holders

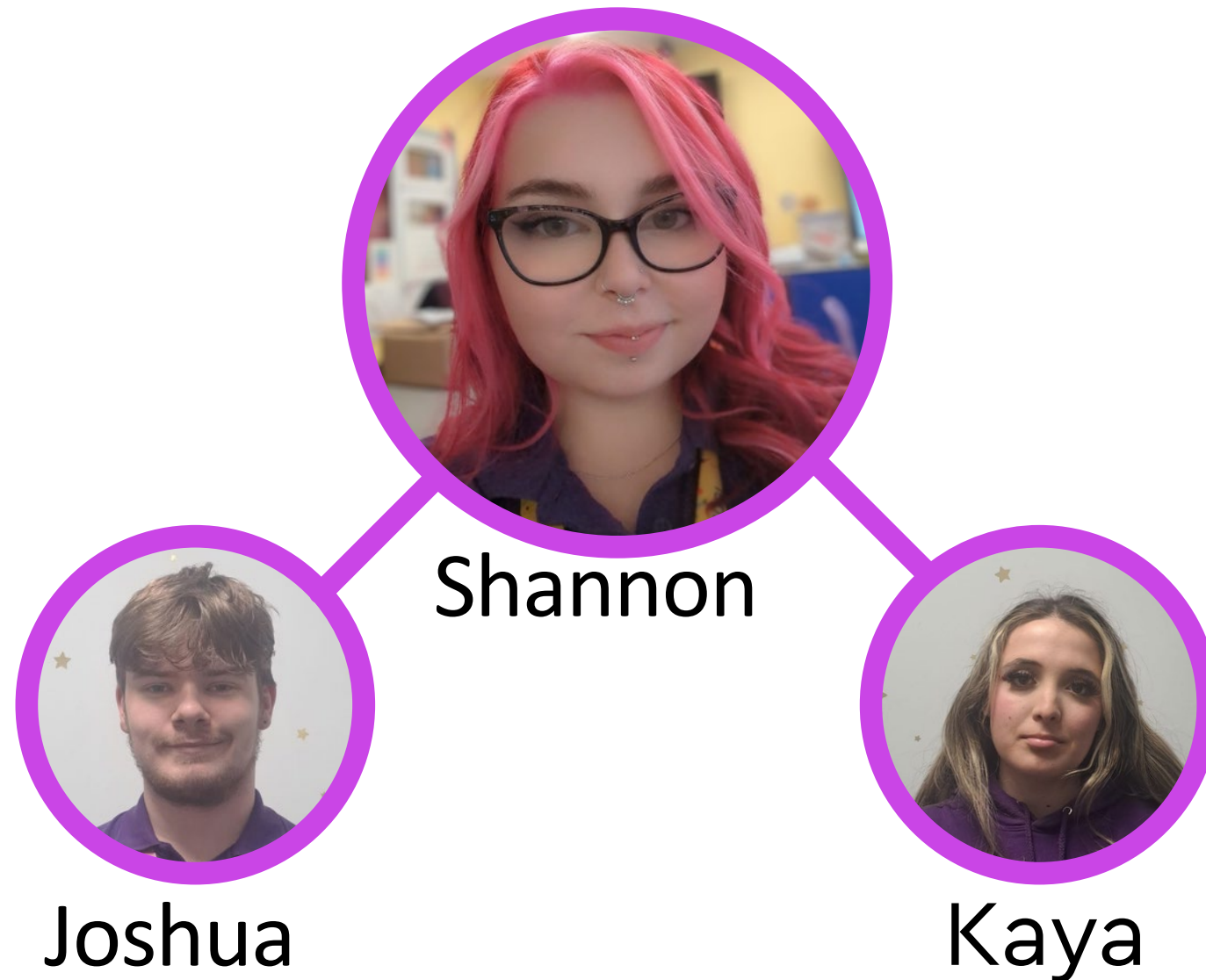
Presented by All About Us

# PROJECT SUMMARY

- **Autism awareness and staff training**
- **Early intervention and support**
- **Training and qualifications to help with employment**



# OUR PEER TEAM



Conor

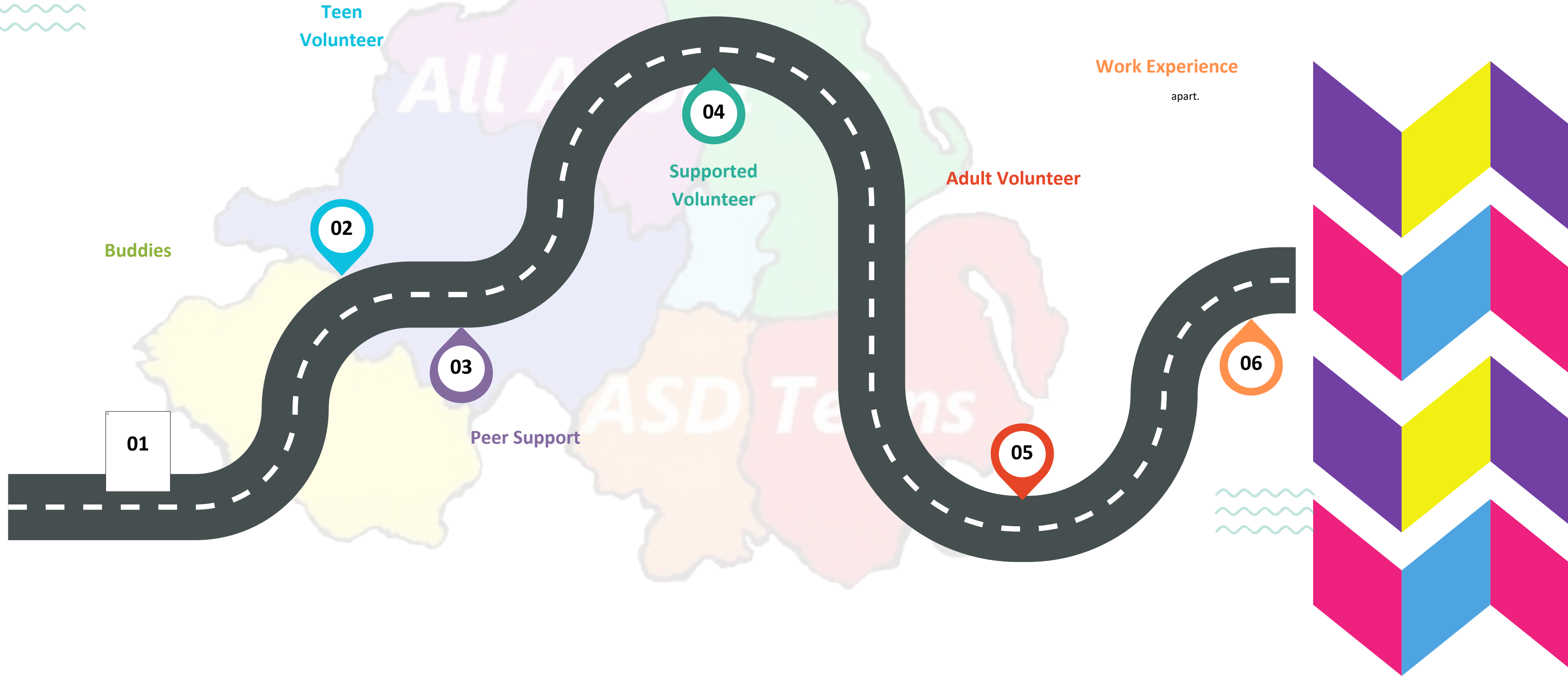


Thomas





# All About Us **Volunteer Journey**



# HIGHLIGHTS

**Implementation of our sustainability programme.**

**Recognised qualifications that achieved include:**

- ✓ 11 Paediatric First Aid
- ✓ 10 First Aid at Work
- ✓ 8 Level 2 Food Safety Catering
- ✓ 6 Basic Fire Safety
- ✓ 2 Peer Support Workers Attended Volt Sessions With ANBC
- ✓ 1 Social Media For Business
- ✓ 1 Introduction To Risk Assessments
- ✓ 1 Mental Health First Aid
- ✓ Food and Hygiene Level 2



# LESSONS LEARNT

- **Adaptable to any given situation.**
- **Flexible and open minded to individuals needs and abilities.**
- **Becoming an employer.**
- **The rate of growth within a couple of years.**
- **That we cannot cater for everyone - knowing our limits.**
- **Expectation vs financial ability.**





# CASE STUDIES







# THANK YOU

Caroline Neeson [caroline@allaboutus.club](mailto:caroline@allaboutus.club)

## All About Us

