

How to contact us

For more information about what we do please contact



Tel: 01322 281833

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E-mail: info@dgsmyourchoice.org.uk

Website: www.dgsmyourchoice.org.uk

Or write to us at:

DGSM yourChoice
53 Highfield Road
Dartford
Kent DA1 2JS

Charity Registration No. 1103190
Company No. 4378206



We provide a range of services for people with a learning disability which include day, leisure, employment opportunities and housing options.

Please read this booklet to find out more about what we offer.



The new name for DGS Mencap

Affiliated to Royal Mencap Society

A service user led organisation for people with learning disabilities their families and carers

ALL ABOUT US

DGSM YOURCHOICE - WHAT WE DO

DGSM yourChoice is a registered charity which offers a range of services for people with learning disabilities. These include:

- Housing and Support
- Day and Community Opportunities
- Training and Employment
- Information and Advice
- Leisure Activities

The Charity is service user led and works towards helping people with learning disabilities develop self-fulfillment and independence.

WHAT IS A LEARNING DISABILITY?

This is the most common disability in Britain and can happen in any family. People with a learning disability vary in their abilities, interests and lifestyles and will need a variety of different support to enable them to live a normal life. What they have in common is a greater than average difficulty in learning, together with problems in acquiring social skills.

HOW WE CAN HELP

DGSM yourChoice provides information and advice to carers, their families and people with learning disabilities living independently or in supported and registered housing. We help people make informed choices about their lives and support them to live as normal a life as possible in a variety of housing settings. DGSM yourChoice actively campaigns for improvements to all learning disability services.



The services we provide are determined by the people who access them

WORKING FOR US

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DGSM yourChoice is constantly evolving and is able to offer a wide range of rewarding career opportunities. We pride ourselves in the training and support that we offer our staff in their Continuous Personal Development. Staff working within our residential services study towards NVQ and LDQ. We also offer professional training opportunities to staff working across the service. A range of benefits include a competitive salary, pension scheme, appraisal scheme, annual staff conference, and staff social events. We have a dedicated and committed staff team. If you are interested in working for us please see our latest vacancies by visiting our website www.dgsmyourchoice.org.uk/job-vacancies.



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers play an important part in our work and make a valuable contribution. There are many exciting volunteering opportunities within the organisation. With the support of our volunteers our service users are able to access different activities within the community. We offer our volunteers continuous training and support; it is a very rewarding role for

FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising department is an essential feature of our work. Money raised through fundraising fills the missing gap that statutory agencies can not fund. Funds are raised in a variety of ways through grant giving bodies, corporate sponsors, individual fundraisers and the local community. We run a number of fundraising events throughout the year including a black tie ball, charity golf day and fashion show and regularly participate in local community activities e.g. Bluewater 10k run. Through fundraising and publicity we also raise awareness of DGSM yourChoice. We are always looking for people to get involved in fundraising so if you are interested please contact us using the details over the page.



There are so many ways in which you can make a contribution Working for us could also work for you!

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Aburound House, Woodlands Road, Gillingham, ME7 2BX

Monday Club; a social club for adults aged over 18. The club meets on a Monday from 7pm - 9pm.

Closing the Gap - Parents Support Group; the group meets at Aburound House:

every first Wednesday in the month from 10am -12 noon
every Saturday from 2pm - 4 pm.

After School Club, Peppercorns, 3 Orchard Street, Dartford, DA1 2DF

After School Club offers a range of activities for people aged 13-19. Sessions are held every Tuesday from 4pm - 6pm

The Place 2 Be, offers a range of activities and is held every Thursday from 6pm - 9pm in Peppercorns.

Cygnets Club, The Woodlands, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7JT

Cygnets Club runs on a Thursday evening from 7pm - 9pm. All age groups are welcome and the activities on offer cater for all interests.

Crocodile Night Club, Crush Wine Bar, Spital Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 2DJ

Crocodile Night Club; held monthly on a Wednesday from 7pm -11pm. The Crocodile Nightclub is for people aged over 18. It is run by a committee of service users, support staff and the Crush bar.

Peppercorns Disco, 3 Orchard Street, Dartford, Kent, DA1 2DF

Peppercorns disco; held on a Saturday from 7.30pm - 11pm every 2 months. Once a year Peppercorns holds it's Annual Prom.

Holiday and Short Breaks

'Lets Break Away' gives adults with a learning disability the opportunity of having memorable and fulfilling holidays. The scheme also provides the holidaymaker's carer or family member with an opportunity to take a break from their everyday routine of caring.



A variety of day and evening activities to enjoy at your leisure!

DAY & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Aburound House, Woodlands Road, Gillingham, ME7 2BX

Drama and Music sessions; for people who want to gain acting skills and develop an interest in music. The sessions are held on a Thursday as follows:

Drama 10.30am - 12.30pm

Music 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Aburound House runs a variety of sessions and clubs - see our 'Leisure' activity page for more information.

Community Access Service, 3 Orchard Street, Dartford, DA1 2DF

The Community Access Service runs from Connect Three on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10.30am - 3.30pm.

This service is aimed at people living at home in the community with parents or independently.



Drop-in, Emmanuel Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB

The drop-in service is available on a Tuesday and Thursday from 10.30am - 3.30pm. People drop in, informally, for friendship, advice and support.



Perry Street, Old Perry Street, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 8BU

Perry Street Day Opportunities - this service is available on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It runs sessions of reminiscence, music, woodwork, cooking for daily living, healthy living, massage and aromatherapy. There are also projects running on photography and black and minority ethnic (BME) group work.

Making new friends, gaining new skills and taking part in activities within the community

DAY & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES AT PEPPERCORNS

PEPPERCORNS, 3 ORCHARD STREET, DARTFORD, KENT DA1 2DF

Peppercorns is a holistic service in Dartford Town Centre offering a variety of life enhancing programmes which include;

- training and employment programmes
- healthy lifestyles course with sessions of dance and keep-fit
- music and drama projects
- after school club for young people aged 13-19
- hairdressing salon, beauty therapy room and computer suite
- evening and weekend activities (see 'Leisure' page for details).

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Steppingstone training and employment project offers adults essential life skills in preparation for employment. It runs for 3 days a week. There are 6 month work experience opportunities available within the programme.

Open Wings - this project is aimed at 18 to 25 year olds; it runs for 2 days a week and prepares young people with the skills for adult life.

MUSIC

Music opportunities are available through the music club which meets on a Saturday. We also support a band called Rush Hour. The band formed in 2007; they regularly perform at festivals and local events and represented the UK at the European Song Festival and First European Colour Orchestra in 2007 and 2008.

DRAMA

The Drama project runs on a Monday from 4pm - 6 pm and Saturday from 11am - 1pm. The sessions are supported by staff and volunteers. The main aim of the project is to increase confidence and independence through the use of the performing arts. The group regularly perform at the Mick Jagger Centre in Dartford.



Peppercorns has something to offer everyone!

HOUSING & SUPPORT

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

We run 4 homes in North Kent and Medway all providing 24 hour support to the people living there.

- Benham Lodge, 42 Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 OHZ
- Granby Place, 1-3 High Street, Northfleet, Kent DA11 9EZ
- 29 Highfield Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 2JS
- The Haven, 89 Rock Avenue, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5PX

Within these settings we can provide support for people with varying needs.

DOMICILIARY SERVICES

Building Bridges, 51 Highfield Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 2JS

Building Bridges is a domiciliary care service which provides support to people with learning disabilities living independently in their own home or with their family. Support is individually tailored to meet the needs of each person and includes personal care, domestic skills, travel training, managing finances, planning for work and leisure, attending medical appointments and confidence building.

SUPPORTED LIVING

Our Supported Living Scheme at 55 Invicta Road, Dartford offers support to three individuals with challenging needs to manage their tenancies and live independently in the community.

We help people to make informed choices about where they live

