

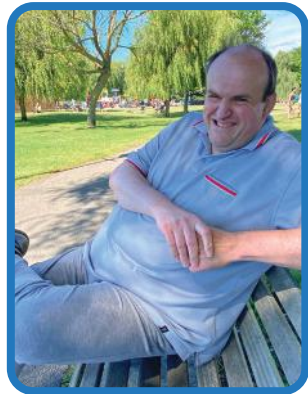


*Dorset's Disability Charity*

# Providing support and independence for adults with disabilities



# ADULT SERVICES



# Introduction

## Welcome to Diverse Abilities.

As Dorset's disability charity, we support children and adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities in order to help them live extraordinary lives.

We offer day care activities and therapy at The Beehive. As part of the support team, we have a health care team consisting of a nurse, occupational therapist, and health care assistants.

Our Supported Living Service provides 24/7 support 365 days a year. The adults we support have the opportunity to get out in the community, take part in a variety of activities, and live their lives as independently as possible.

If you wish to find out more or discuss your needs in more detail, you are more than welcome to have a tour of The Beehive and meet some of the people we support, as well as the people who make it all possible.

We hope to hear from you soon.

**Mark Powell**  
CEO



# Adult Services

Adults services consists of our **Supported Living Service** and **The Beehive**.

We aim to enable adults with learning and physical disabilities to have fun, get the most out of life and be fulfilled. Adults supported by Diverse Abilities take part in a range of activities during the day and the evening, enhancing their skills and meeting their physical and mental health wellbeing needs.

Assistive technology, Makaton, facial expressions and body language are just a few of the vital communication techniques that staff use to support individuals to make personal choices and share their views.

You do not need to be a part of our Supported Living Service to attend The Beehive, and vice versa.



## Supported Living

Supported Living provides 24-hour care, seven days a week, 365 days a year. We work with people supported to enable them to achieve their goals and aspirations. The services is regulated by the Care Quality Commission.

Turn to  
page 6 to find  
out more.

## The Beehive

This is our adults' activity and therapy day centre, providing a variety of activities, opportunities and facilities. We have a state-of-the-art accessible kitchen, physiotherapy room, and a brand-new Sensorium, creating 360-degree immersive experiences.

Turn to  
page 8 to find  
out more.





# Supported Living

## What is Supported Living?

Supported Living was established in 2003 and enables adults with physical and/or learning disabilities to live their lives to the full, with 24/7 care.

We provide flexible and individual services, enabling people to live in their own home with as much independence as possible. Each person has a dedicated team who knows them well and are aware of exactly how they wish to live.

## How do you refer?

Those supported by Diverse Abilities via the Supported Living Service are usually funded by their local Learning Disability team or Clinical Commissioning Group. People who are in receipt of Direct Payments may choose to spend their payment buying a service from Diverse Abilities. Please contact your local community learning disability team for an assessment and referral.



## What to expect...

Those we support get out and about in the community; enjoying swimming, walks along the beach, pub visits, going to concerts and even holidays abroad. The team ensures the adults supported do exactly as they wish and have a very enjoyable and fulfilled life.

Those that live in supported living properties also undertake day to day tasks, such as shopping, cleaning and washing, as well as various appointments and family meet ups.

Our staff are fully trained, and team leaders develop a life plan for each person, which is assessed and updated regularly to meet the individual's specific needs. Homes have team leaders who oversee the staff teams. These teams continue to support individuals and update essential life plans and other documentation on a regular basis.

Supported Living is regulated by the Care Quality Commission and follows Domiciliary Care Standards.

All staff complete mandatory training, and specific training is given where required for individuals needs. Examples of this include PEG feeding, diabetes, etc.

“ *I am happy that I have a house where my friends, family and loved ones can visit anytime and I am supported by people I like. I like having a garden. All my support team are brilliant.* ”

## Get in touch

Contact [supported.living@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:supported.living@diverseabilities.org.uk) for more information.



# The Beehive

## Why The Beehive?

The Beehive, our activity and therapy centre, is a lively, sociable day opportunity facility for adults with disabilities. It is a place where people can meet and make new friends, acquire new skills and enjoy a wide range of experiences, as well as quiet areas for physio and other therapies.

## How do you refer?

Those who attend The Beehive are usually funded from either Health (Continuing Healthcare) or Social Services, after an individual assessment of their needs. A smaller number of people receive money from Social Services in the form of a Direct Payment and choose to spend this buying a service from The Beehive. Please contact your local team for a referral.

## What to expect...

Our therapy suite overlooks the garden, allowing visiting professionals to provide physiotherapy and other therapies, and for staff to deliver relaxation and massage, as well as daily physio following each individual's programme.

At the heart of the building is the kitchen; this is run as a side-by-side accessible kitchen where students can learn new skills to use in their own homes, as well as preparing food to enjoy together. The kitchen includes many height-adjustable independent workstations so that these activities are fully accessible from any wheelchair height. For those less independent, the sensory side of preparing meals; smell and touch, is also enjoyed.



The Beehive emphasises choice, flexibility and spontaneity; each day offers a variety of activities for people to participate in as part of a group or on an individual basis. These include music, arts and crafts, cookery, gardening, fitness training, swimming, drama, and a community café.

We work in partnership with the National Trust at Kingston Lacy and a small group of our students and staff have been working on an allotment, successfully growing tomatoes, lettuces, onions, green beans and courgettes.

Staff are trained to support students with a range of health needs including individual physiotherapy programmes, administration of oxygen, medication, PEG feeding and suction.

Recruitment processes set out in the National Minimum Standards are followed, so all staff are reference checked and undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check before they start work at the centre.

“ *The Beehive has always brought a massive grin to Colin’s face. It’s a place of support and comfort.* ”

## Get in touch

Contact [thebeehive@diverseabilities.org.uk](mailto:thebeehive@diverseabilities.org.uk) for more information.



# The Sensorium

The design of our new Sensorium has been developed in partnership with a company that harness vibration technology so people can experience sensations through their body via speakers under the floor, corresponding to different environments and musical compositions.

4K images project across all four walls of the immersive space; creating a 360-degree image to completely change the visual environment. The room is interactive via four motion tracking cameras, which enable people to move images around the room at the wave of a hand, nod of a head or kick of a foot, depending on their personal abilities.

Ambisonic 3D sound played from eight speakers adds to the atmosphere to make everyone's time in the space truly immersive. We aim for people to feel transported into an environment as if they were there, such as a busy shopping centre or an air show, before experiencing them in the real world.

This room enables people with profound learning and physical disabilities to enjoy a special sensory experience, such as 'hearing' music in a new way, or seeing soothing colours, soundscapes and relaxing vibrations wash over them. This can also be used to support a physiotherapy programme, such as gently stretching muscles. People we support enjoy engaging with their environment using the interactive screen to play games or influence their environment where they may often struggle to do so.



# The Splash Appeal

We are embarking on a major project to build a new state-of-the-art therapy pool, providing regular hydrotherapy for the adults we support. To build this we need to raise £1million.

We will use colours, lights and bubbles to transform the pool area into a sensory space to stimulate or relax, according to each individual's needs. There will be four changing rooms; each fully accessible and equipped with showers, heaters and changing tables. A hoist will run from each of these changing rooms directly to the pool, removing the need for additional transfers; saving discomfort and time while preserving dignity.

Amy, who would benefit from the pool, is in her 30s and has Rett Syndrome, a relatively rare profound brain disorder, mainly affecting girls.

“ *Rett Syndrome affects Amy both physically and mentally. She is non-verbal, doubly incontinent, has epilepsy, sleep apnoea, is unable to move, feed herself or basically do anything without help...the list is endless!*

*An important part of Amy's physio programme is hydrotherapy. She loves the warm water and relaxes completely (her muscles are normally stiff) and, as with physio, hydrotherapy improves her circulation immensely - she normally has very cold hands and feet. It relaxes her muscles and helps ease the discomfort in her back as she had spinal fusion surgery to try to correct her scoliosis when she was a teenager. She smiles the minute she gets into the water - imagine the freedom she must feel. ”*

We are currently fundraising to build the hydrotherapy pool, if you want to find out more or get involved, visit **[thesplashappeal.org.uk](https://thesplashappeal.org.uk)** for further details.

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# ADULT SERVICES

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## **DIVERSE ABILITIES**

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Charity no. 282197

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