



**Be**dazzle 

# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021  
YEAR 5

# SUMMARY

When writing our report last year, we could never have imagined the year we still had to face and that Covid-19 would still be at large after all this time, with thousands of lives tragically lost.

Like most organisations, we had to evolve our practice to survive this year. Exploring options for delivering services online, adapting our face to face work to be safe and yet still effective and all at a time financial strain was taking its toll on families, businesses and us in the third sector.

Despite the many challenges of this year, it is obvious that improved access to support for mental health and well-being is never more needed. It has been pleasing to know that thanks to our loyal team and supporters we have been able to play our part in helping so many children, and adults alike, through these strange times.

It has been another exciting year for us in terms of our growth and development; securing grant funding, continuing to grow our engagement strengthening our organisational systems and creating new avenues to meet our charitable aims.

Here's hoping for some return to normality in the next 12 months. Thanks to everyone who has supported us and engaged with us this year!



After a years grafting on trust applications we were delighted to be awarded our first medium sized grant as part of the RAFT Transition Fund, from The Fore Trust.

This grant is unrestricted, but does link to specific targets around organisational development. This included the creation of our virtual office systems, being developed by our wonderful friends at Mint.



The grant is also to be used to invest in further training for our volunteers and team to ensure organisational growth and effectiveness.



Whilst our years partnership with Manpower came to an end in 2021, we are extremely grateful for all their fundraising efforts through the terrible pandemic year! Sadly, this year we also lost one of our biggest supporters, our lovely Margaret.



# HIGHLIGHTS & TIMELINE

**July 2020** - Offered blended virtual and face to face support as schools prepared to reopen following lockdown.

Delivered 4 Youth MHFA England courses focused on support through the pandemic.

Delivered training across Telford and Wolverhampton NEU branches on Trauma and attachment.

**September 2020** - Returned to delivery of face to face support for all existing schools.

Presented at the NEU SEND Annual Conference Online.

**October 2020** - Delivered MHFA England training, assemblies and workshops focused around World Mental Health Day for new and existing schools.



**November 2020** - Awarded grant from The Fore Trust RAFT Fund

**December 2020** - Accepted as a member of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition.

**January 2021** - As lockdown restrictions reintroduced developed our online support offer for existing schools, including Staff well-being.



**February 2021** - Social media giveaways to support home schooling and to celebrate Children's Mental Health Week.

Delivered training for NEU as part of LGBT History Month

**May 2021** - Training, resources and giveaways to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week.

Began working with 2 new schools as part of their "Recovery Curriculum"



# WORK IN SCHOOLS

We always say that change is the only constant, and that could not be more true this year. Much of the focus has been on trying to provide consistency, as best we could, to the schools, young people and families we support on a weekly basis. This has meant offering virtual support to some schools, while attending others face to face.

With the increase in screen time, our interventions used opportunities to be creative and to connect with nature as tools for improving well-being.



This year we have further developed our existing programmes, by integrating Outcomes Stars as a tool for capturing pupil voice, recognising needs and measuring impact. Similarly, we have begun accrediting some of our programmes with Arts Awards as well as developing our in house Wellbeing Champions Certificate for young people. Our whole school well-being surveys have been crucial in helping schools ensure that those needing additional support could be easily identified.



## 200

*Young people supported in 1:1 interventions*

Although we only began working with new schools more recently as restrictions lifted, our engagement has still grown from last year. We have delivered more 1:1 support, more group sessions and more parent workshops than in any other year in our long term partner schools alone. This year we have also formalised our offer for Staff well-being support, with increased demand seen over the past 12 months. Additionally, we have also delivered joint parent/child therapeutic sessions, for those on Early Help plans.

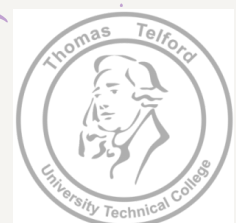


## 10

*Parent group support workshops delivered online through the pandemic*

Whilst dealing with the uncertainty of the pandemic was the biggest cause of anxiety for many this year, the usual stressors were equally as prevalent and in most cases, the impact amplified due to the loss of our usual supports.

Despite the difficulties faced this year, we have been delighted to work with these new schools, alongside our existing partner schools:

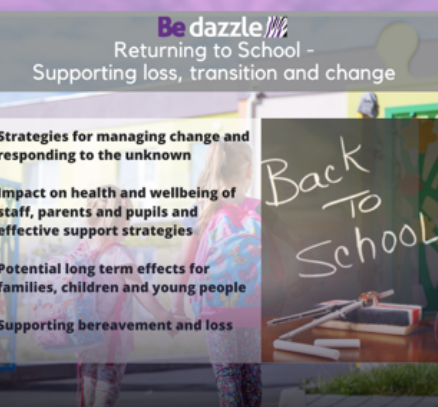




# TRAINING

Having begun to move our training online in the early part of the pandemic, we have been able to continue to engage and respond to the needs of the organisations we work with. This year, with NHS and local authority services unavailable in the most part, our teachers and colleagues in schools have worked even harder to support the needs of our young people and have been very forthcoming in asking for bespoke training, which has enabled us to continue to expand the courses and sessions we can offer.

This year we have delivered further national, regional and local training on behalf of the National Education Union, as well as ongoing CPD sessions in house, for individual schools or Multi Academy Trusts. Some of our new courses include training on '*Trauma and Attachment*' needs and '*Supporting Young LGBTQ+ People*'.



With MHFA England also adapting their courses for online learning, we were able to continue to offer public courses in Mental Health First Aid skills, as well as squeezing in some private face to face training within individual school settings.

In June 2021, the Department for Education announced it was recommencing work on ensuring each school has a designated mental health lead in place from September. We are delighted to announce we have recently joined a National Network for Mental Health Leads, that will allow us to offer a Level 4 Qualification in Mental Health Aware Leadership.



## 120

*People participated in either the Two Day or Half Day courses.*

## 90

NEU members attended online training and webinars.

**"Really useful, my partner and I both attended, she's secondary and I'm primary. Both of us took ideas and strategies away from it and we have both approached our schools with advice."**

Feedback from attendees of Supporting LGBTQ+ Students

# COVID RESPONSE

## Community support and self referrals

This year saw many charities either have to furlough staff to survive or found they could not operate, due to the restrictions in place across the country. This meant in a year where people's Mental Health and Well-being suffered more than ever, access to services was increasingly difficult. As a result we experienced more self referrals from members of the public than usual. Fortunately, by utilising our team of Mental Health First Aiders, we were able to offer flexible support in the community, via phone, video calling or meeting outside when restrictions permitted.

Resources and activities were designed regularly to support teachers, parents and young people with learning at home - activities that could be completed together and give much needed breaks from the devices, encouraging self care through the difficult days of lockdown.

Our various resources promoted getting outside, keeping active and being creative as some of the ways to promote positive well-being and support with social and emotional development.

Themed awareness day packs were shared with our schools to try and lighten the load for teachers, with the demands of planning both home learning and classroom lessons.

Thanks to the generosity of our Buddies, we were also able to deliver our complete "Imagination Station" craft kits and instruction books to some of our schools in both the Winter and the Spring terms.

Having recognised how some of the basic needs were suddenly at risk for many families, with income and security all being uncertain due to the pandemic, we tried to ensure we were spreading a little joy and happiness where we could, holding frequent giveaways on our social media channels, that would again encourage people to prioritise their well-being and ensure they were practicing self care.

These included mindfulness books for children, self care journals for teachers and parents and family picnic sets to encourage people to stay connected with loved ones outdoors.



Kimberley Mason  
Saturday at 16:43 · 🌐  
Massive thank you to Bedazzle for this fabulous yoga book. Boys are enjoying learning how to find their inner zen 🧘🏻‍♂️



Dave Tordoff ▶ Bedazzle  
29 January at 16:09 · 🌐  
Would like to thank Bedazzle for our prize, keep up to the great work

