

## **Next Steps Tutors CIC Family Mentoring Centre Project Details**

### **Headline Statement**

We are looking to fundraise £500,000 for a family mentoring centre based in Onyx Business Park, Roundswell, Barnstaple.

Our centre will work with young people and their families to offer mentoring, tuition and counselling to the many students across North Devon and Torridge who are struggling with mental health, attendance or engagement at school and those not in employment, education or training.

### **Contents**

Background	1
Impact of the current local situation	4
Our region in statistics	5
Our vision	8
Current project status	11
Project costings	12
What's already in place?	14
Moving into academic year 25-26	17
Expected core costs and overheads per year	19
Who are the Next Steps Tutors CIC team?	20
Our sister company, Next Steps Education Ltd	22

## Background

We are Next Steps Tutors CIC, a not-for-profit company based in Bideford, North Devon, led by Sarah Logan and Liz Fancourt. It's our second company, set up to meet the funding gaps we've found through the work of our first company Next Steps Education Ltd.

Next Steps Education Ltd began in 2021 and works with local authorities (Devon, Cornwall, Somerset) and local schools to support students not in school or finding school attendance challenging because of health reasons. Through this work we've found many students and families don't meet the strict criteria set out for funding, meaning that many local students are going without education and support for reasons such as:

- Having social anxiety or school anxiety and awaiting CAMHS support (which can take up to 4 years). GP evidence is not enough for a student to meet funding criteria
- Having unmet SEND needs and stuck in the EHCP process, often whilst finding their current school setting too overwhelming. An EHCP can take 20 weeks or more. Many EHCP applications are refused or taken to tribunal, which can extend the process over 2 years. Only students with an awarded EHCP would meet funding criteria
- Having low attendance at school but not meeting school criteria for intervention (no EHCP, no recorded SEND needs, sometimes due to not being at a school to have observations & needs recorded)
- Parents choosing to prioritise their child's mental health and taking an Elective Home Education route where they feel this is the only choice
- Excluded students who've gone on to a second setting and this has failed. Students become non-attenders
- Having been put on the diagnosis pathway for autism or ADHD and are awaiting an assessment (our ADHD assessment pathway timings have improved in North Devon with a new service at NDDH. We have heard of students now receiving ADHD assessments within 3-6 months). Our autism pathway is still around a 2 year wait. Having a diagnosis does not necessarily open funding routes though. In many cases parents then need to go on to start the EHCP process

It is our belief that we are approaching crisis level in North Devon and Torridge.

Anecdotally, we have heard of students wanting to harm themselves who have not met the medical evidence threshold for support. We have been told that students being sent to school are threatening to kill themselves if they are forced to go. As a parent myself, I

would never want my child or myself to be in this position. We receive 2 or 3 cries for help every week and in most cases are currently not able to offer support other than signposting. This is why we want to create our Family Mentoring Centre.

### **Can the local authority and schools do more to support these students?**

In a word, no.

School costs will increase by 4.1 per cent for 2025/26 but school funding will only rise by 3.4 per cent leaving a significant gap in funding. In total there will be a £630 million real terms cut to school funding.

At a local level, schools in Devon are set to be hit with a £15.3 million cut to spending power in 2024/25 (data from the National Education Union). It means funding per pupil in Devon will be cut by £166 in 2024/25 compared with 2023/24. Devon is already one of the worst-funded education authorities in the country. For 2024-25, Devon schools receive just £5,484 per pupil—about £200 less than the national average and about £1,500 less per pupil than in inner London. Additionally, because of our rurality, Devon has some of the highest costs of school transport costs. Devon County Council spent £19 million on home-to-school transport for 12,813 pupils last year, roughly £1,500 per pupil. Additionally, it spent £30.6 million on personalised transport for 2,518 pupils, an average of £12,159 per pupil.

As a local authority, Devon County Council's SEND budget, (responsible for the funding of education for; students needing medical inclusion, permanently excluded students, students with EHCPs on EOTAS packages (Education Other Than At School) and additional needs funding for students with EHCPs) is £195 million in deficit. Devon County Council are under a Safety Valve Agreement <https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s48402/Safety%20Valve%20Agreement.pdf>

with the Department for Education to bring its SEND budget to a positive in year balance by the end of 26/27.

# **The Impact of the Current Local Situation**

The impact on students and families from school non-attendance is enormous.

For students, this can range from:

- Lost hours of learning and a worsening spiral of non-attendance through feeling overwhelmed about catch-up
- Worsening mental health, often with no interventions in place
- Increased isolation: many of our students stop leaving the house
- Low self-esteem
- No qualifications, limiting future opportunities for work

For parents and families, this can range from:

- Deterioration in parents' mental health
- Reduced capacity for work due to childcare issues
- Reduced family income, tipping many into poverty
- Issues over childcare, impacting the education of other family members
- Isolation from the community

For our community, this can range from:

- Overwhelm on (current) paediatric and (future) adult mental health services
- A less skilled future workforce
- Overstretched public services
- A lack of 'eyes on' safeguarding within our community
- Limited economic growth and prosperity

Furthermore, the school to prison pipeline disproportionately affects boys with SEND and those from ethnic minorities who are permanently excluded.

## Our region in statistics

### Taken from the DEF Report June 2025

[https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s52054/Inclusion\\_Learning\\_Report\\_Summary\\_June\\_2025.pdf](https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s52054/Inclusion_Learning_Report_Summary_June_2025.pdf)

Devon's Absence Rate across Secondary Schools indicate that currently 1 in 5 (20%) of students are currently missing 1 day of education every fortnight.

Devon's persistent absence rate (17.33%) is lower than national (18.38%) and regional (18.78%) averages. - However, persistent absence is significantly higher among:

- Pupils with EHCPs (37.04%)
- Pupils on SEN (Special Educational Needs) Support (28.04%)
- Free School Meals -eligible pupils (34.03%)
- Children in social care groups (Child in Need Order: 54.9%, Child Protection Order: 61.4%)

Permanent Exclusions: PEx rose from 111 in 23/24 to 118 in 24/25. Pupils with EHCPs and those on SEN Support continue to experience high rates of suspension (34.04% and 38.98% respectively)

### Taken from the ONS Local Indicators for Torridge & North Devon

#### Torridge

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/explore-local-statistics/areas/E07000046-torridge/indicators#education-and-skills>

70.9% of our local population have English & Maths GCSEs compared to 76.1% nationally

Only 49% of our local pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2, compared to 60% nationally

#### North Devon

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/explore-local-statistics/areas/E07000043-north-devon/indicators>

71.4% of our local population have English & Maths GCSEs compared to 76.1% nationally

Only 54% of our local pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2, compared to 60% nationally

## **CAMHS – Northern Devon Waiting Times**

These are the dates to first appointment, not to assessment or treatment, which is an added wait. They do not include further waits to access local authority support or draft EHCPs.

### **Neurodiversity (last updated July 25)**

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/neurodiversity-waiting-times/>

Average wait to first contact: 78 weeks (two school years)

Longest wait to first contact: 214 weeks (over 5 school years)

### **Mood, Emotions and Relationships (last update July 25)**

Average wait to first contact: 16 weeks (more than 1 school term)

Longest wait to first contact: 63 weeks (one and a half school years)

### **Mental Health Support Team in Schools**

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/the-mental-health-support-team-in-schools-mhst-waiting-times/>

Average wait to first contact: 7 weeks (more than half a term)

Longest wait to first contact: 24 weeks (two school terms)

### **Elective Home Education**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/education/education-statistics/elective-home-education-facts-and-figures/>

There are 3515 Electively Home Educated students in Devon, equating to 3.8% of the school age population, a percentage that has almost doubled over the last 5 years. 323 of these children have an EHCP.

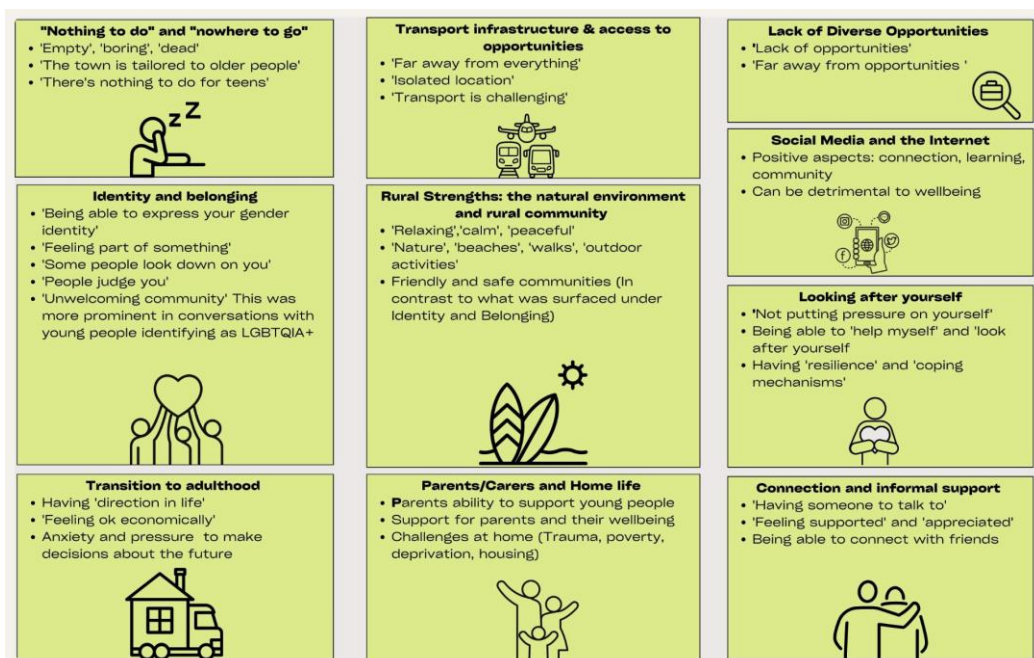
Reasons for EHE (Elective Home Education) are sometimes given on registration.

- 100 parents registered their reason for EHE as dissatisfaction with school for SEND reasons
- 112 parents registered their reason for EHE as dissatisfaction with school for reasons of bullying
- 363 parents registered their reason for EHE as dissatisfaction with school for general reasons
- 774 parents registered their reason for EHE as dissatisfaction with school for mental health reasons



## BeeWell Survey through the Kailo Project Northern Devon

The Kailo Project is a co-design project exploring the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people across Northern Devon (Torridge and North Devon). Their recent work surveyed 155 young people between the ages 12-14 in Northern Devon. Their results show a stark need for young people's support services in our region.



Delving deeper, the latest round of surveys in Northern Devon by Kailo reported:

27% of CYP (Children and Young People) feel that there is never or rarely an adult at school who listens when they have something to say

25% of CYP don't feel a sense of belonging to school (not at all or only a little)

25% of CYP report being physically bullied at school in the last 6 months

27% of CYP report feeling overwhelmed and unable to cope

11% of CYP are often or always lonely (with another 43% sometimes or occasionally lonely)

34% have never talked about feeling down with their parents/ carers

61% of CYP would feel uncomfortable or very uncomfortable speaking to their parents/ carers if feeling down

## Our Vision



(This photo demonstrates the kind of unit we are working towards and may not be our actual final premises)

We are looking to fundraise £500,000 over 5 years for a family mentoring centre based in Onyx Business Park, Roundswell, Barnstaple.

Our centre will work with young people and their families to offer mentoring, tuition and counselling to the many students across North Devon and Torridge who are struggling with mental health, attendance or engagement at school and those not in employment, education or training.

Our predicted costs across the 5 years are £82,200 per year operating costs (see page 13) and an initial set-up cost of ~£90,000 (page 8). For our first year, and in order to commit to the project, we need funding of £172,200, ideally by November 2025.

### Our Support for Students

In addition to our paid-for sessions for group and private tuition (page 9), we will use our Family Mentoring Hub to offer:

- Open access (free) small group social sessions. Sessions will be set up with a maximum of 6 students to support those who feel overwhelmed in larger groups. Sessions will be themed around students' common interests, such as anime drawing, Marvel, D&D, podcasting, carpentry, songwriting, knitting. Our tutors have crowd-sourced ideas for sessions that they might run using the interests of our current (Next Steps Education Ltd) cohort. Sessions will take place as one-

off events or as short courses, opening the door to low stakes, supported social sessions for children with mental health challenges and social anxiety.

- Open access sessions for homework support. With 32% of children in Torridge and 28% of children in North Devon living in poverty, ([https://take.actionforchildren.org.uk/page/112864/action/1?ea.tracking.id=afc\\_website\\_cp&gad\\_source=1&gad\\_campaignid=22105645343&gbraid=0AAAAADwxRYwhDsPlq46t38rVz9YMzyPB-&gclid=CjwKCAjwwNbEBhBpEiwAFYltGPrf6MZ17z1z\\_TBDMnh0fclFLFKXYapUa\\_tY\\_tu1aUszdZjymLZCKBoC2XYQAvD\\_BwE](https://take.actionforchildren.org.uk/page/112864/action/1?ea.tracking.id=afc_website_cp&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22105645343&gbraid=0AAAAADwxRYwhDsPlq46t38rVz9YMzyPB-&gclid=CjwKCAjwwNbEBhBpEiwAFYltGPrf6MZ17z1z_TBDMnh0fclFLFKXYapUa_tY_tu1aUszdZjymLZCKBoC2XYQAvD_BwE)), many students do not have a suitable space or family support to complete homework. We plan to offer open access times to our centre where children can find space to complete homework and have adult support where they need it
- Bursaries towards tuition and mentoring. Often, we find that families who have students not attending school have left or limited their employment for childcare reasons and the family earning power is restricted. We plan to offer bursaries to families struggling to access our tuition sessions. Sometimes, students need the encouragement of a safe and trusted (non-family) relationship before they will visit a place outside of home. Our bursaries will support students with mental health challenges by meeting them in their homes, working with them and creating a safe passage to one-to-one work or group work in our centre.
- A potential space to operate as an independent exam centre. Students wishing to sit exams privately at the moment are usually travelling to Taunton or Exmouth. Both GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths are typically 9am exam starts each year). Next Steps Education Ltd is currently applying through AQA to become an exam centre for a limited number of students (maximum capacity of 5 onsite and 5 off-site students). Further space would allow us to open up opportunities to sit exams locally for home ed students as well. We envision offering bursaries to families where costs are prohibitive.

### **Our Support for Parents**

We envision using our space to bring together parents facing the challenges of children with mental health needs, SEND needs and exploring the world of home education.

- Monthly (minimum) parent hub meetings where parents can access support from each other, find those in a similar position, share their experiences, offer advice and ask for support. We have already been operating Parent Hub sessions through Next Steps Education Ltd but are unable to continue them due to pressures on our space in Bideford
- Signposting and advice one-to-one sessions. Each week we receive around 2-3 cries for help from parents. We are able to signpost them to some services over the phone at the moment. We do not promote this service, this is parents who

find us organically or hear about us from other parents. We would like to offer publicised one-to-one sessions where parents can come to us for advice

- Counselling services. Born from the philosophy of ‘put your own oxygen mask on first’ we wish to extend our free courses of 12 counselling sessions for parents of children facing mental health challenges. Once again, we are limited by our current available space and also by funding. We are working with a trainee counsellor on Level 4 counselling courses at Petroc. As part of their course, they need to complete 100 hours of client focussed sessions, which they plan to do with Next Steps Tutors CIC. Last year, we supported a similar trainee counsellor from Exeter College who has now qualified. We envision creating a pipeline of support for trainee counsellors who can then find opportunities for self-employment through use of our space, enabling our community to grow on many levels (trainees, parents, families)
- Family mentoring services. We envision offering open-access sessions to parents and families to find practical solutions to some of the challenges that they are facing.

### **Our Support for Community Growth**

We plan to offer space and support to our community where we see synergy in our charitable aims of educating, improving lives and community connection, and alleviating poverty. We are currently talking with other charities, CICs and grant-funded organisations on co-design or collaboration on projects. Some of the collaborations include:

- Creating a dyslexia hub (advice & support service) with the British Dyslexia Association
- A local CIC offering podcasting courses to neurodivergent children, enabling them to find a voice and connect across generations
- A local support worker and mentor wanting to set up a mentoring group for black and brown girls
- A local collective of home educators looking for space to enable a self-learning pathway for home-ed children
- Working with a charitable mental health assessment team supporting parents with the EHCP process
- A new-to-the-area Speech and Language professional looking for ways to connect with her new community

### **Our Support for Educators and Allied Professionals**

We envision future opportunities to offer training courses and collaborative practices with local educators, focussed on mental health, SEND, neurodivergence, relational

learning approaches and trauma informed practice, working with experts, consultants and trainers in these fields.

## **Current Family Mentoring Centre Project Status**

The following actions for the project have already been taken:

- Key people within the Next Steps team in place for the project
- Premises visited and first enquiries on leasing made with commercial estate agent
- Planning consultant and internal architect in place. We are choosing to work with an internal architect who has experience in developing public spaces for children and young people
- Business plan and costings considered
- Social media campaign in place for Family Mentoring Hub Awareness
- Media plan in development. Connections with local print media, BBC Spotlight and The Voice in place
- 'Hitlist' of local business and political connections created
- Marketing email list of over 300 local school staff (engaged with our emails)
- Ballpark estimates for internal fitting underway

## Project Costings

Although we are listing project costs below, we are hoping to build much of the project through pro bono work, business gifting, at-cost pricing and volunteer efforts from local tradespeople.

Project Goal	Estimated Cost	Notes
Overall budget to be client-ready	£90,000	
Legal agreement for lease of premises		
Planning permission change of use		Current unit uses Class B and Class E. We would need a change of use to Class F1 or F2
Design of internal space		On a full-mezzanine property, we would be looking at one large meeting space/ office, 3 or 4 smaller office rooms, a storage room and an open space on each level
Construction of internal walls using metal stud walling and plasterboard		
Painting and decorating		
Cabling for internet, electricity sockets and lighting		
Plumbing for additional toilet, connection to water and sewers, plumbing of kitchenette		
Fitting of small kitchenette for teas & coffees		Small counter worktop with around 3 or 4 floor standing cabinets and 3 or 4 wall hung cabinets
Carpeting (182 sq.m)		
Fire alarm fitting, testing and sign-off		
Fire safety plan and fire safety equipment		
Health and safety plan		
Furnishing of each space		To include a variety of spaces for one-to-one tuition & mentoring, a counselling room, a reception desk, an administrator's office, two public meeting spaces/exam

		rooms, small group tuition spaces, open spaces with sofas, high seats and beanbags
IT server, computers, projectors, printers and photocopiers		Server operating on two different networks: a management network and a public/ student network. Content filtering should be in place across both networks. Printers and photocopiers should have access PINs. Projectors should be available in group rooms and public meeting spaces (ceiling hung if possible)
Stationery		Start-up books, paper, pens, pencils, rulers, pencil case kits, folders, etc
Finishing touches		Friendly decor, low level lamps and lighting, cushions, canvases for children's artwork, reading books, magazines – we don't want to look like a school!

## What's already in place?

Next Steps Tutors CIC is currently supporting small groups, private students, parent hubs, social groups and counselling sessions.

### **Group Tuition and Social Group Mentoring**

Parents are currently paying £15 per session with a maximum of 6 students per session. Our group potential is currently limited due to space and available times. A new space would give us the potential to grow more groups and subject availability.

### **Tutors & Mentors currently running group classes with Next Steps Tutors CIC**

Russell Waldron: Maths Specialist, tutoring Key Stage 3 and GCSE Maths

Hayley Eggleton: English Teacher, tutoring Key Stage 3 and GCSE English

Dirk Roth: Functional Skills Teacher, tutoring Functional Skills English & Maths

Jason Eggleton: Maths Teacher, tutoring KS3 and GCSE Maths

Steph McIlveen: MFL Teacher, tutoring KS3 Beginners' French

Claudia Capocci: Art Specialist, mentoring an anime art group

Nick Glover: Primary Teacher, tutoring Y6 Maths Calculating for SATs

Hilary George: English Teacher, tutoring online English for KS3 and GCSE

Dani Deacon: Maths Teacher, tutoring online Maths for KS3 and GCSE

### **Private 1:1 Tuition & Mentoring**

Additionally, we have around 30 tutors and mentors available for 1:1 tuition with students across Devon and Cornwall. As of July 2025, we were supporting students with 25 hours of tuition.

Our 1:1 tuition potential is not space or time limited. Tuition usually takes place in a student's home setting or online. Through our connections with The Tutors' Association and LinkedIn social networking, we have an engaged audience of tutors and teaching professionals ready to grow our tutor team, particularly if we expand our private online tuition. We are currently limiting this potential due to lack of administration time.

## **Parent Hubs**

Under the Next Steps Education umbrella, we were able to run three Bideford Parent Hub meetings for parents of students not attending school. These were funded by us through existing profit, although we are expecting to be awarded grant funding to hold a further 12 sessions in Bideford for the next year. The hub meetings brought together parents wishing for connection with others. We offered free childcare through an art social group at the same time to remove the barrier of childcare worries. Parents who came were at very different points along their 'not at school journey'. The flat hierarchy of the group allowed parents to share their experiences, reach out for support, offer each other friendship and advice. There were some fabulous outcomes from the meetings, including:

- parents organising meeting up for coffee or playdates,
- parents finding out they could self-apply for an EHCP and starting the process,
- parents discovering they may be able to get Disability Living Allowance for their family, applying, then spending it on home education opportunities
- parents discussing which schools had been supportive of their situation,
- parents discovering new homeschooling opportunities

Some parents went on to sign their children up to our groups and three of the students went on to return to a new school and have chosen to reintegrate into school.

## **Social Groups**

Running alongside our Parent Hubs, we have enabled three child social groups. These groups were opportunities for students who had been isolated (sometimes by their own thinking frames) to explore friendship through a non-threatening, supportive meeting. Students were aware that their parents were close and available. Everyone was aware that each of the children in the room was not attending school because of their mental health, and our Relational Learning Lead put out multiple activities allowing the students to work alone at first and if they wanted to, collaborate with others. Each group was limited to no more than 6 students.

Outcomes from the groups were fantastic. We had one student, who had not left the house for quite some time, beg his mum to come back to the next session. Another student popped his head into our office to tell us it was the first time he'd spoken to someone his age for a year and it felt ok. This was a massive personal breakthrough for this student.

Many of our students funded by schools/ DCC and supported by Next Steps are able to access academic tuition however, there is no funding for social groups like these. We think these groups are vital to support students' personal growth and wellbeing. We will be self-funding one group per month over the next academic year. A new space would support us in offering more groups at more times.

### **Counselling Sessions**

During the academic year 23-24 we were able to support parents with counselling sessions through working with a trainee counsellor, Robin Lewis. Robin trained with Exeter College in Level 4 Counselling and needed to complete 100 hours of client focussed sessions as part of his course. Next Steps worked alongside Exeter College to enable him to counsel some of our parents. Unfortunately, Robin did not get to the bottom of his long waiting list.

Robin has now qualified as a Counsellor and is able to offer sessions at a cost of £720 for a 12-week course. This is prohibitive to many parents and is something we would wish to fund for parents at a future date. We have since connected with another Level 4 trainee counsellor learning via Petroc in Barnstaple and we have invited her to complete her 100 hours of client focussed work with us. We are hoping that we can continue this into the future, enabling people in our community to complete their qualifications whilst supporting our community too.

# Moving into Academic Year 2025-26

## **Social media & business growth**

We are currently working on a social media campaign to raise awareness of our tuition sessions and social groups. In previous years we have not run social media awareness or encouraged uptake of our services as we were running Next Steps Tutors (LLP) as a 'nice extra' for tutors rather than a social enterprise for the community – we did not have the drive to grow the business. Since starting our campaign in July, we have grown our views by 463% (7 July to 3 August figures).

It's our intention to now start a group on Facebook to raise awareness of our Family Mentoring Hub to drive community backing and engagement, demonstrating the community's agreement of the need for our project.

## **Director's commitment to Tutors**

The directors commit to a minimum of 1 day per week of their time dedicated to Next Steps Tutors administration and leadership of the CIC and project development.

## **Funding bids model & income streams**

We see the potential for many income streams to make our project possible.

- Trading revenue from Next Steps Tutors CIC – current operating revenue of £1,665 per month, predicted operating revenue of £2,000 per month (a conservative 20% uplift from social media awareness campaign).
- Funding from national charities, such as National Lottery, Children in Need, Comic Relief. We expect to receive funding from major charities over a longer time scale, estimated £200,000
- Funding for core costs from smaller charities, expected £60,000 to cover yearly overheads
- Local funding/ crowdfunding, driven by our social media and media campaigns £50,000
- Local volunteer & business gifting to be used to kit out the centre

## **Project Coordination**

Project coordination of Parent Hubs and Social Groups will be managed by Hilary George.

Project coordination of the Family Mentoring Hub will be managed by Sarah Logan and Giovanna Guarino.

Social media campaigns will be managed and created by Claudia Capocci.

## Expected core costs and overheads per year

The expected core costs below are based on occupying a full mezzanine unit on Onyx Business Park, Roundswell, Barnstaple.

Overhead	Per month	Per year
Rent		
Rates (predicting 80% relief from NDDC)*		
Staff costs		
Staff on-costs**		
Utilities (Electricity, water)		
Services (Cleaning, Sanitary Bins, Window Cleaning)		
Telephone Charges		
Broadband Charges		
Stationery		
Hosting Fees & IT Consumables (Google Workspace, TutorCruncher)		
Processing Fees for Tutor Charges @ 2.65% of income		
Legal Fees, including ICO		
Audit and Accountancy Fees		
Professional Fees		
Repairs and Renewals		
Training Costs***		
Insurance		
Refreshments & Welfare		
<b>TOTAL PREDICTED OVERHEADS FOR 25/26</b>	<b>6850</b>	<b>82200</b>

\* based on an estimated rateable value of £15,000 and uniform business rate of 48p in the pound with 80% relief as an educational non-profit.

\*\* using multiplier of 1.5 of base salary

\*\*\* based on SSS Learning platform with 30 users (training for volunteers and staff unique to Next Steps Tutors CIC. Those tutors working with Next Steps Education Ltd already undergo training through this platform).

## Who are the Next Steps Tutors CIC Team?

The Next Steps Team are all passionate advocates of school inclusion and equal access to education.

### **Sarah Logan**

Director, Next Steps Tutors CIC

Director, Next Steps Education Ltd

Sarah qualified as a teacher in 2004 following a career change from Global Brand Executive at BBC Worldwide. Sarah's teaching experience includes the collaborative roles of Primary Link Teacher within Colchester-Blackwater Partnership and SCITT Mentor to Devon Primary SCITT.

### **Liz Fancourt**

Director, Next Steps Tutors CIC

Director, Next Steps Education Ltd

Liz qualified as a teacher in 2003 after completing her doctorate in environmental science. Across her school career Liz has worked as Assistant Head and Head of Teaching & Learning, a Specialist Leader of Education, a Lead Maths Teacher and a Lead Science Professional.

### **Hilary George**

Director, Next Steps Tutors CIC

Hilary taught at the University of South Wales as well as working in her local Adult Learning Centre supporting adults and teenagers to gain qualifications at entry level and GCSE. Hilary has also worked as a Development Officer with Cardiff Council, encouraging students to approach English positively.

### **Roy Goddin**

Director, Next Steps Tutors CIC

Roy has worked with Next Steps Tutors & Next Steps Education for the last four years, alongside running his own CIC supporting veterans' mental health. Roy is a former navy commando and a qualified teacher. He adds a wealth of experience in mental health, education and organisation & running of a CIC.

**Giovanna Guarino**

Relational Learning Lead

Giovanna has worked in schools with young people for over 20 years, including management of nurseries. She is trained in mentoring families and young people. Giovanna also heads our mentoring team within Next Steps Education.

**Robin Lewis**

Parent Counsellor

Robin works as a counsellor with Next Steps Tutors CIC, having completed his 100 hours of supervised client work with some of our parents last year. Robin is also a qualified teacher and has worked with The Samaritans in a volunteer role for a number of years.

**Colin Thornton**

Business Advisor & Bid Manager

Colin has tutored for over 14 years. He has Masters qualifications in both education and social enterprise and is a qualified business advisor. Colin was formerly CEO of a regional training and enterprise network in the North West and includes project management, leadership and bid writing amongst his many talents.

## **Our sister company, Next Steps Education Ltd**

### **Clients of Next Steps Education Ltd**

Below are the local authorities and schools that have funded our work through Next Steps Education Ltd. We are quality assured by three local authorities and are on their Approved Alternative Provision Provider Frameworks. We work in partnership with schools, undertaking quality assurance visits to ensure we meet rigorous standards of safeguarding, health & safety, leadership and education provision.

Devon County Council

Cornwall County Council

Somerset Council

The Park School, Barnstaple (Harbour Trust)

Pilton Community College, Barnstaple (Harbour Trust)

South Molton Community College, South Molton

Bideford College, Bideford, Athena Learning Trust

Atlantic Academy, Bideford, Athena Learning Trust

Braunton Academy, Braunton

Great Torrington School, Torrington

Queen Elizabeth College, Crediton, Ted Wragg Trust

Tor Bridge High, Plymouth, Ted Wragg Trust

ISCA, Exeter, Ted Wragg Trust

On Track Education, Barnstaple

Shoreline, Barnstaple, Wave Academy Trust

Tiverton High School, Tiverton

Moorland Federation, Somerset

### **Our Community Partnerships**

We are involved in our local community projects and collaborations including:

- One Atlantic: a community group working on improving mental health and wellbeing across Torridge

- The Kailo Project: co-design project looking to research and improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people across Northern Devon
- Waymakers PINN Forums: community meetings for practitioners and client-facing professionals working with neurodivergent service users

### **Our professional standing**

Next Steps Education are:

- Members of The Tutors' Association
- Registered Mindful Employers
- Shortlisted candidates for The National Tutoring Awards 2025
- Winners of the FSB South West Service Excellence Award 2024
- Winners of the Business Action New Business Awards 2022

## **Contact Details and More Information**

### **Project Contact**

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### **Company Contacts**

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Website <https://nextstepseducation.org>

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/next-steps-education>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/nextstepstutors>

### **How you can show your support**

Join, comment on and share our Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/northdevonandtorridgefamilymentoringhub>

Donate on our Crowdfunder page <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/north-devon-torridge-family-mentoring-hub>

### **Other ways to support us**

- if you're a tradesman, getting in touch to let us know how you can help on our internal unit build. We'll be looking for all trades: carpenters, metal studwall fitters, electricians, plumbers, painters, glazers, fire safety consultants, health and safety consultants, IT support services, furnishers, carpet fitters. Maybe you'd be able to help by offering your services at cost price or by volunteering your time for a day or two
- if you're a local business, can you offer us funding or resources? Even the smallest donation helps us have more funds for our direct work with families. Get in touch if you'd like me to send you our full funding bid document with lots more detail