

# PORTLAND PATHWAYS

PREPARING FOR WORK

SUPPORTING EMPLOYERS

REBUILDING MENTAL HEALTH

DEVELOPING INDEPENDENCE

IMPACT REPORT  
2025/26



  
Portland  
Pathways

# INTRODUCTION

We are extremely proud of the huge impact Portland Pathways has made across the whole of North Nottinghamshire.

Pathways aims to support individuals to gain employment, and help businesses to recruit the right staff for their vacancies.

We also help our customers to develop their skills and prepare for employment. Our Rebuilding Mental Health courses and 1 to 1 counselling, in partnership with Inspire Adult Learning and the University of Derby, support people to improve their mental health.

The cost of living crisis and barriers in the local labour market continue to challenge our clients, making accessible mental health support more crucial than ever before. We are proud of the impact we have in the community, and this year we received 678 referrals, supported 119 people into work, delivered a 45% increase with 1,583 counselling sessions and enrolled 255 people onto our Rebuilding Mental Health courses.

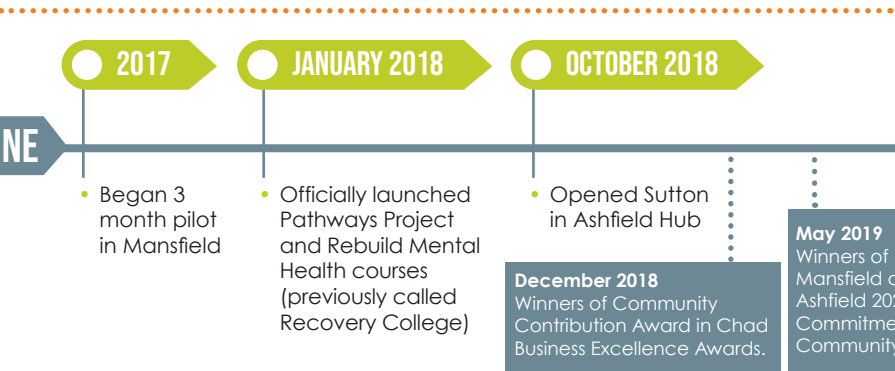
This report highlights just some of the many successes the Pathways project has delivered, as well as taking the opportunity to thank our many funders, supporters and staff.



**Mark Dale MBE**  
Group CEO

“The Rebuild course has been one of the best things that has happened to me for a long time. It has boosted my confidence so much and I've really enjoyed the group sessions. Last year I never imagined that I would be participating in a group session and increasing my confidence in the way I have.”

## Client on the Rebuilding Mental Health Course in Sutton





## CASE STUDY

### Diane's Story

Diagnosed with Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) in 2025, Diane experienced prolonged seizures and reduced mobility, requiring aids such as a scooter and crutches. The impact on her daily life initially left her believing that she would no longer be able to work or enjoy time with her family and grandchildren.

Since engaging with Portland Pathways, Diane has made significant progress in rebuilding her confidence, independence and aspirations for the future.

Through our Rebuilding Mental Health course, alongside the guidance and support of her advisor, Cheryl Levers, Diane developed a strong peer support network. This led to a meaningful friendship that continues to provide mutual encouragement, understanding and accountability.

A significant milestone in Diane's journey has been her progress towards self-employment. After sharing examples of her bespoke gift creations with Cheryl, she was referred to the Headstart Programme, delivered by Nottingham Trent University. She is now actively participating in courses and advisory sessions to develop a structured business and marketing plan.

This opportunity is helping Diane explore a flexible approach to working that accommodates her health needs while providing the potential to generate an income and build a business around her creative interests.

Alongside this, Diane has taken on a voluntary Administrative Support role with FND UK, further developing her skills, strengthening her confidence and finding a renewed sense of purpose.

With the support of Portland Pathways, Diane has moved from uncertainty about her future to setting clear goals and taking practical steps towards achieving them. She now feels empowered to shape a future that works around her condition, while maintaining her independence and staying connected to the people and activities she values most.



**JANUARY 2022**

- Opened Workshop Hub

**November 2020**  
Winners of East Midlands Chamber Community Impact Award.

**APRIL 2023**

- Opened Newark Hub

**November 2021**  
Winners of British Chambers of Commerce Equality Trailblazer Diversity and Inclusion Award in the East Midlands region.

**SEPT 2024**

- Opened Kirkby Hub

**November 2024**  
Winners of Chad Business Excellence 2024 Mansfield Business in the Community Award.

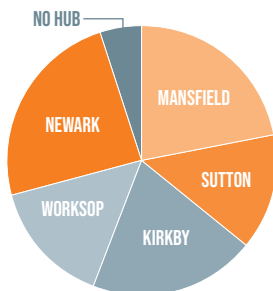
**SEPT 2025**

- Developing Independence pathway introduced

# FACTS & FIGURES 2025/2026

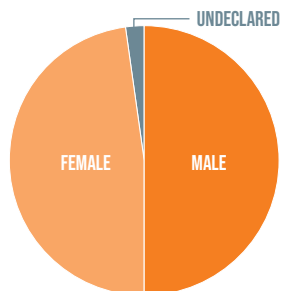


## REFERRALS TO SERVICE IN YEAR: 678



### REFERRALS BY HUB

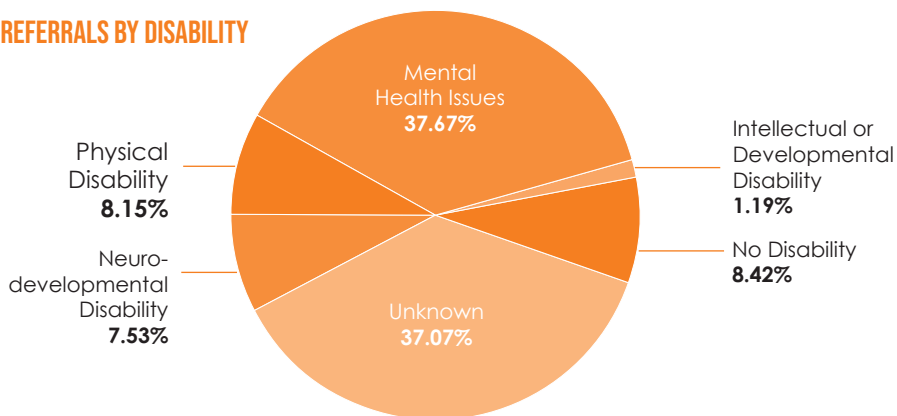
**147** Mansfield (22%)  
**97** Sutton (14%)  
**140** Kirkby (20%)  
**100** Worksop (15%)  
**161** Newark (24%)  
**33** No Hub (5%)



### REFERRALS BY GENDER

**342** Male (50%)  
**324** Female (48%)  
**12** Undeclared (2%)

## REFERRALS BY DISABILITY



## PREPARATION FOR WORK PATHWAY

**119**

**JOBS SECURED FOR CUSTOMERS**

**34%**

**OF THOSE SECURING WORK ATTENDED OUR REBUILDING MENTAL HEALTH COURSES**

### JOB SUSTAINMENTS

• @ 13 weeks **87%** • @ 26 weeks **80%**

# SUPPORTING EMPLOYERS PATHWAY

112

EMPLOYERS SUPPORTED  
US WITH RECRUITMENT  
THIS YEAR

## REBUILDING MENTAL HEALTH PATHWAY

24

COURSES DELIVERED

255

ENROLMENTS  
ONTO COURSES

12

COUNSELLORS DELIVERING  
ACROSS THE HUBS

1583

1-2-1 COUNSELLING SESSIONS  
DELIVERED

### HEALTH & WELL-BEING IMPACT

(Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale)

LOW WELL-BEING

MODERATE WELL-BEING

HIGH WELL-BEING

Proportions of customers in each group before and after intervention

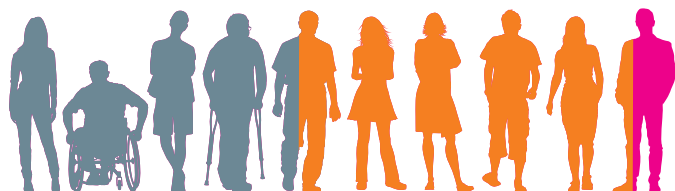
**BEFORE**

PORTLAND  
PATHWAYS  
INTERVENTION



**AFTER**

PORTLAND  
PATHWAYS  
INTERVENTION



### DISTANCE TRAVELLED

**35.7%** reduction in  
Low Well-being

**28.63%** improvement in  
Moderate Well-being

**7.07%** improvement in  
High Well-being

# DEVELOPING INDEPENDENCE

23

STUDENTS ON  
PROGRAMME IN  
2025/26

IN 2025/26:

74%

completion rate of  
qualifications taken

Portland Progress ran

**2 COURSES**

Delivered at Mansfield  
Library

26

QUALIFICATIONS  
GAINED IN YEAR

QUALIFICATIONS ACHIEVED

- 4 NCFE Health & Safety Award Level 1
- 4 NCFE Mental Health Award Level 1
- 1 NCFE CACHE Award in Stress Awareness Level 1
- 6 NCFE Mental Health Award Level 2
- 7 AIM Diploma in Personal and Social Development Skills Level 1
- 2 AIM Extended Certificate in Personal and Social Development Skills Level 1
- 2 AIM Certificate in Personal and Social Development Skills Level 1

## MULTI-AWARD-WINNING SERVICE

Since starting the Pathways pilot in 2017, our overall objective has been to promote independence, health and well-being and employability and provide vulnerable people with better futures.

Portland Pathways has been recognised for its huge impact by several prestigious awards.



## OUR LOCATIONS



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Special thanks to our supporters who have helped us to deliver the Portland Pathways initiative:

## CORPORATE SUPPORTERS:

LINNEY 



## TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS:

The Baily Thomas  
Charitable Fund 



Charitable Trust



Funded by  
UK Government  
Shared Prosperity  
Fund



COMMUNITY  
FUND

- ACT Foundation
- The Nineveh Charitable Trust
- The BNA Charitable Incorporated Organisation

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS:

- **I. Waterfield:** Legacy donation of Waterfield House, accessible lift and revenue funding.

# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## How your business can support your local charity

Portland Charity is a specialist college and registered care home for disabled people and associated learning difficulties. As a registered charity we have to raise thousands of pounds each year to buy specialist equipment and therapies to enhance the lives of our learners and citizens.

But it's not just cash donations that your business can help with. There are many individualised partnership options for your business and we would love to hear your ideas and work with you to create a perfect partnership.

Here are just a few ways your business could support Portland...

- Employee Fundraising
- Volunteering
- Donating Materials or Services
- Payroll Giving
- Work Experience Placements
- Choosing Portland as your Charity of the Year

If you would like to support Portland Charity, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact us to discuss your ideas on **01623 499111 ext 246** or email **graceturner@portland.ac.uk**

# How Portland Pathways can help you...



## PREPARING FOR WORK

We can help you find and retain the right job for you, through job application and CV writing support, interview preparation and improving your employability skills.

## SUPPORTING EMPLOYERS

We can support your business to become more accessible for disabled people. We can help you recruit staff and apply for Access to Work funding to support your workforce.



## REBUILDING MENTAL HEALTH

Our courses will provide you with strategies and techniques to help you manage your mental health in daily life, with access to ongoing support.

## DEVELOPING INDEPENDENCE

Our range of programmes and services can help you to develop independence, gain work experience or volunteering opportunities and support people to access additional support when their Education, Health and Care Plans end.



**WE COVER MANSFIELD, SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD,  
KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD, WORKSOP, RETFORD AND NEWARK**



For more information or to find your nearest hub please visit  
[www.portland.ac.uk/our-locations](http://www.portland.ac.uk/our-locations)  
or call us on **01623 499193**

@portlandcollege   
[www.portland.ac.uk](http://www.portland.ac.uk)

 **Funded by  
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 **Ashfield**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

 **COMMUNITY  
FUND**