

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New funding announced for Reading charity tackling school exclusion



Reading-based charity, [No5 Young People](#), has been announced as one of the recipients of the Berkeley Foundation's *Skills for Positive Futures* funding programme, aimed at tackling the causes of youth violence, including school exclusions.

A new three-year partnership with grant-giving charity Berkeley Foundation will see mental health experts No5 Young People receive £85,217 to pilot a new prevention programme for local young people at risk of exclusion.

Talking about the new programme, Alyson Brickley, Director at No5, said:

"No5 are chuffed to be leading this three-year pilot, funded by Berkeley Foundation, working with young people at risk of exclusion. Young people shape our services so we are conducting consultations with young people at Cranbury College to capture their experiences and challenges which will input into the final programme. Already, the No5 team are humbled by the openness of young people when reflecting back on their experiences of school and talking about their life now. We are excited about how their stories will shape the preventative work to follow."

The programme is being developed together with young people with experience of exclusion, with the aim of improving individual behaviour and reducing the risk of exclusion among 8-14 year olds in the local area.

390 pupils were excluded across Reading in 2018-19; some from multiple schools. A 2019

report on serious youth violence¹ from the Home Affairs Committee found a link between school exclusion and knife crime, calling for more support for those children most at risk.

The charity is one of five to be awarded *Skills for Positive Futures* funding, which has been given to organisations that provide social, educational and emotional support for children aged 8-14, in an effort to keep them in mainstream education.

Sally Dickinson, Head of Berkeley Foundation, said:

“By bringing together the mental health expertise of an established counselling service and young people’s own experience of school exclusion, this project has the potential to have a real impact on young people at risk of disengaging from mainstream education.”

“We look forward to working with No5 Young People over the next three years, as they pilot this programme with young people in Reading.”

For more information about *Skills for Positive Futures*, visit www.berkeleyfoundation.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Further information

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Image Credit

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Available to download here – <https://berkeley-group.sharefile.eu/d-sc600ec201b14468a>

About the support programme

- Berkeley Foundation is supporting No5 Young People to design and pilot a new intensive support programme for children at risk of school exclusion in Reading. In 2018-19 there were 891 school exclusions in Reading across 390 children.
- The charity will work with excluded young people to design a prevention programme which will be rolled out over three academic years.
- By bringing together the charity’s counselling expertise and excluded young people’s lived experience, this programme aims to improve individual behaviour and reduce the risk of exclusion among 8-14 year olds.

¹ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhaff/1016/101603.htm>

About Berkeley Foundation

- Berkeley Foundation is the independent grant-making charity set up by Berkeley Group in 2011. The Foundation focuses its work on helping young people in London, Birmingham and the South of England overcome barriers, improve their lives and build a better society.
- Skills for Positive Futures is a £375,000 programme, aimed at organisations who deliver programmes with real impact for the young people at risk of school exclusion.
- Since the Foundation was established, it has committed over £20 million to its local communities through grants, staff fundraising and payroll giving, and its programmes and partnerships have reached more than 25,000 people.
- 65% of Berkeley Group staff got involved in the Foundation's work last year, and together they have raised more than £6 million.
- This work has been recognised through a number of awards, including the 2017 Third Sector Business Charity Award for the 'Best Corporate Foundation'.

For more information, visit www.berkeleyfoundation.org.uk

About Berkeley Group

- Over the last five years, Berkeley Group has built more than 19,600 homes across London, Birmingham and the South East.
- The Group has contributed £2.1 billion to community facilities in the last five years.
- It supports around 500 apprentices per year.
- £20 million has been committed by the Berkeley Foundation to over 115 charities since 2011, with more than £5 million raised by Berkeley staff.

For more information, visit <http://www.berkeleygroup.co.uk>

About No5 Young People

- The charity, No5 Young People was established in 1971 and help young people become mentally fit.
- No5 Young People provide free tailored counselling, outreach in schools, and preventative mental health services to young people aged 11-25 years and their families who live, work or study in the RG postcode. No5 also delivers professional courses for counsellors and mental health workshops in organisations.
- In 2018/19 No5 supported over 1,500 young people and their families through free, confidential counselling and outreach work.
- Young people do not need a referral from a health professional in order to access counselling at No5; they can just contact us directly via telephone, text and email.
- Our vision is for a world that does not stigmatise children and young people's mental health and accepts it as a normal part of human development.
- Follow us on Twitter [@no5youngpeople](https://twitter.com/no5youngpeople), Facebook [@no5youngpeople](https://www.facebook.com/no5youngpeople), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/no5youngpeople) or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/no5youngpeople).

For more information, visit www.no5.org.uk/