

# DANDELION TIME REFERRAL GUIDE



Dandelion Time  
*Restoring hope to young lives*



## Dandelion Time Referral Guide

Dandelion Time supports the lives of traumatised children and families in Kent, delivering services from our peaceful sites in Maidstone, Ashford and North Kent. Our therapeutic approach is family based and offers hands-on sensory and healing experiences. We engage families in a range of natural craft, cooking, gardening and harvesting, animal care and outdoor activities that engage head, heart and hands. Our nurturing environment allows children to build self-belief, strengthen relationships and develop the skills and aspirations for a brighter future. We also offer 1:1 support to parents/carers throughout the duration of their sessions. Our aim is to promote sustainable change for vulnerable children and their families using the therapeutic and educational potential of the natural world. Please see our website for more detailed information about our methodology and outcomes [www.dandeliontime.org.uk](http://www.dandeliontime.org.uk).

### Referral Process

Dandelion Time welcomes referrals for children and young people from a professional working with them and/or their family. We accept referrals for children aged 6-13 years old, where they are accompanied by at least one parent or carer. We also accept sibling referrals providing they sit within age limits. Our service is provided for family members where the occurrence of trauma is past, rather than on-going.

Please complete our referral form as fully as possible and return it to us by email. Please at this point submit any relevant reports or assessments. We will review the referral and may speak with you and other involved professionals to deepen our understanding and ensure we are the most appropriate service for the child and family at the time. We will let you know whether your referral meets our criteria and if not recommend an alternative provision where possible.

**It is important to note that in order to get the best from our program, children need to be able to be in a group with others they do not know. The sessions are with other children and parents in groups of approximately 10-15 children and adults.**

We are unable to accept a referral until funding is secured. Please indicate on the referral form the source of funding. We do occasionally have grants available for specified criteria, please contact us if you wish to discuss this.

Once the referral has been accepted you and the family will be informed. The family will then join the waiting list and as soon as a suitable place on the timetable becomes available, we will inform you, the family and school. We will then arrange to carry out a home visit or invite the family to an introductory session at one of our centres. Please note that there is a waiting list and Dandelion Time generally cannot offer urgent placements.

Placements at Dandelion Time involve at least a ten-week programme of once-per-week sessions at our sites near Maidstone, Ashford or North Kent.

### Funding a Child's Placement at Dandelion Time

If you are referring under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) or Grant from KCC or Medway County Council, please ensure it is clearly marked and authorised via the channels agreed as part of the SLA and return as soon as possible.

If you are not referring under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) or Grant please note that Dandelion Time aims to fund up to two thirds of each placement cost through community fundraising, personal contributions and charitable grants. As a charity, we request that the referrer source a contribution for the remainder of the cost. This amount constitutes up to £200 per week for an individually referred child with a minimum placement length of ten weeks.

Many organisations work together to support a child sharing the funding arrangements.

## Funding Options

### Organisations involved with the referred child

Many schools use **Pupil Premium Money** to fund a child's place, since Dandelion Time outcomes include improvements in attendance, attainment, and behaviour on completion of the programme.

### Grants for individuals

The following organisations may fund individuals to access a Dandelion Time placement:

Organisation	Location	Criteria	To Apply
<b>Kent Community Foundation</b>	Kent or Medway	Financial disadvantage Young Carers Affected by disability and/or illness	<a href="https://kentcf.org.uk/funding/individuals">https://kentcf.org.uk/funding/individuals</a>
<b>Magic Cash for Kids</b>	Royal Tonbridge Wells	Disability Illness Disadvantage/poor quality of life	<a href="https://planetradio.co.uk/magic/charity/news/grants-18/">https://planetradio.co.uk/magic/charity/news/grants-18/</a>
<b>Your local Lions club</b>	Throughout the UK	Demonstrate a need	<a href="https://directory.lionsclubs.org/Default.aspx?language=EN">https://directory.lionsclubs.org/Default.aspx?language=EN</a> to find your local club
<b>Always Look on The Bright Side of Life</b>	UK	Financial hardship Illness Disadvantage/poor life conditions Improve child's enjoyment of life Disability	<a href="http://www.thebrightsideoflife.org.uk/">http://www.thebrightsideoflife.org.uk/</a>

## Charitable grants awarded to Dandelion Time

Dandelion Time has been awarded a number of grants; please speak to us to see if any of the grant criteria may be applicable to the referred child. Generally these grants are held for placements where all other avenues of funding have been explored, in order to enable placements to proceed where they may otherwise be unable to do so.

### **Personal fundraising**

Some organisations engage in their **own fundraising** to support a child to attend the Project - please have a look at our website [www.dandeliontime.org.uk](http://www.dandeliontime.org.uk) for inspiration for your own sponsored event!

### **Approach to Businesses and Organisations**

Many businesses and organisations have a charitable sector. You may find that if you approach a business or organisation they respond favourably to your request for support as many see charitable giving as an important part of their values.