



National Star

Realising the aspirations
of people with disabilities



Maximising potential

National Star's vision for change



Introduction

National Star is a national charity providing high quality education, personal development, care, accommodation and support services for young people with complex disabilities and learning difficulties from across the UK.

We are highly rated by both Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission and are past winners of 'Specialist Provider of the Year' in the TES / FE Awards 2019. In 2019-2020, we provided 1.3 million hours of education, care and therapy across our locations in England and Wales.

While we support hundreds of young people every year, there are hundreds more who are unable to realise their potential. They may be at home, dependent on ageing parents for care and support. They may not have access to the outstanding education services National Star provides to enable them to become equal and active citizens.

Our ambition for the next five years is to maximise the impact of the charity, in order to increase the number of young people with disabilities able to realise their potential. We will do this by providing more education and care services, by helping to shape the environment in which these young people live and work and by

demonstrating to society what young people with disabilities can achieve with the right support.

National Star intends to provide more high quality learning opportunities and care services in more locations. We are passionate that our services should be of the highest quality. That means recruiting the best multi-disciplinary teams and investing in their professional development. Having the right people with the right skills is critical to ensuring we not only expand our services but ensure we provide high quality education, care and support.

Young people with disabilities should be at the heart of all decision-making that touches their lives. Our ambition is to raise our profile as a recognised leader in the sector so that we can proactively set the agenda and ensure policy makers and opinion formers hear these young people's voices.

We know the potential of young people with disabilities if given the right support and opportunities. We want to shine a light on their achievements, to enable society to see their potential, not their limitations, and understand the real difference that these young people can make to our communities.



What we aim to achieve

Ambition 1:

Increase the number of young people with disabilities accessing National Star's high quality services so that they can realise their own potential.

How are we going to do it?

Expand learning opportunities: We will provide more education programmes in more locations so that more young people can access them. These will be a combination of day and residential education programmes to ensure we meet a wide range of needs and aspirations.

Expand long-term living communities: Young people with disabilities should be able to live their lives as they want and with their peers, whatever their disabilities. We will create more long-term living communities so that young people have the right support to live as they wish and continue to develop their potential.

Expand support: Young people and families need support, especially if the young person lives at home. We will provide more respite breaks to give families and young people the break they need and more therapy services to improve their quality of life.

Expand choice: The level of care and services for young people with disabilities varies enormously across the country. These services should be where young people need them most. We will work with local authorities to provide more services in the areas where there is the greatest need.

What will success look like?

More young people achieving lasting outcomes through National Star's education programmes at a range of locations throughout England and Wales. More families accessing our respite services in more than one location. Opening new long-term living communities so that more young people can live as they wish, with the best support.

Ambition 2:

Increase the impact young people with disabilities have on the environment in which they live and work.

How are we going to do it?

We will increase the research we do. We not only seek the views of those who use our services, but also the views of the wider sector. Our comprehensive research projects ensure we have a deep understanding and knowledge of what young people with disabilities need and want to enable them to be active and equal citizens.

We will regularly assess and identify where services are most needed. Then we will work with local authorities, other education providers and central Government to improve the offer for young people.

Maximise our influence: We will contribute to all appropriate Government and sector consultations. By confirming our role as a national leader in our sector, we can ensure the 'voice' of young people with disabilities in the UK will be stronger, both individually and collectively. We will proactively influence policy makers and opinion formers.

Expand access to information: We want to enable more young people and their families to have a better quality of life and be able to access the support they need. In order to do that they need better access to information. We will develop and deliver a programme of information and knowledge sharing activities for professionals and families, nationally and beyond the UK.

Expand partnership working: We have a wealth of experience due to our role in helping statutory bodies pilot various initiatives. By further developing this role, we will increase National Star's credibility and authority and, consequently, will increase the influence the charity can have on those in positions of power.

What will success look like?

National Star will be seen as the 'go to' organisation on all issues concerning young people with disabilities, from seeking young people's thoughts and opinions to helping authorities determine policy to training the professionals.

Ambition 3:

Increase the impact that young people with disabilities have on society by shining a light on their potential and the contributions they can make to all our lives if provided with the right support.

How are we going to do it?

Maximise exposure: We know what young people with disabilities can achieve with the right level of high quality care and support. We want to be a shining example to those commissioning, those providing services and those benefitting from those services across the whole of the UK.

Maximise contact: We want more people to see for themselves what potential young people with disabilities have. We will do that by working more closely with the community, employers and other organisations. The more opportunities people have to meet young people with disabilities, the more that barriers are broken down.

Increase awareness: We will continue to focus on the long-term benefits to all concerned. The National Audit Office has previously reported that, on average, providers such as National Star could save the State £1 million per person over the course of their lives.

What will success look like?

More opportunities for society to meet, work and talk to young people with disabilities.



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Ullenwood November 2017
Elizabeth House, Gloucester April 2018



Ofsted January 2018