



Opportunities Centre

Billericay

About Hamelin



Our Journey Started in 1979 when local families, unable to find the right type of provision for their disabled children decided to set up a charity to help other families in the same position. As those first children grew and developed so did the charity, starting to support adults and delivering a range of services.

The name Hamelin Trust was adopted in 1991 and the charity continued to grow, launching residential services and contracting Essex County Council and the NHS to deliver social care.

Since 2022 Hamelin has modernised, recognising that the people we support need different things from us in pre-covid times. We're ambitious about the impact our charity can have and challenge ourselves to continually improve, doing more for our people.

Today we offer services that aim to integrate people in their communities, tackle loneliness and develop skills that reduce current and future reliance on social care services. We know that people have wildly varying life goals and that what works for one person will not always work for another. We're very serious about playing our part in reducing social inequity and offer bespoke support in the fields of health and employment, where neurodiverse and disabled people are especially disadvantaged.

As we move into the future Hamelin will continually redefine care, to best meet the needs of the people we support.

Opportunities Centre

Our Opportunities Centre in Billericay is home to The Exchange and our Life Skills Centre. Together, these services provide a welcoming and supportive environment where autistic adults and people with learning and physical disabilities can explore their interests, develop skills, build confidence and take part in meaningful activities that support their goals and aspirations.

At Hamelin, we believe everyone should have the opportunity to live a fulfilling life, make choices, develop independence and be part of their community. Our experienced teams provide personalised support that is shaped around each individual, promoting wellbeing, connection and the chance to discover what is possible.

Get up to date information on our website and social media

Visit www.hamelin.org.uk or scan the QR code



@HamelinTrust

Where to find us



How to find us

Address: 19 Radford Crescent, Billericay, CM12 0DU

What3words: ///awards.rally.race

The Opportunities Centre is located close to Billericay High Street. The service has easy access to the A127 and A12, with nearby bus and train links.

The Opportunities Centre – onsite facilities

Onsite facilities include free parking, excellent transport links, disability ramps, hoists and accessible bathrooms, as well as indoor and outdoor sensory spaces, an accessible kitchen, art room, computer suite and our welcoming art café.

Opening times

Open Monday to Friday

Get in touch

01277 653889

enquiries@hamelin.org.uk

About The Exchange



The Exchange provides person-centred support for autistic people and people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and complex needs. We offer flexible, high quality support that helps people build independence, develop skills, explore their interests and live the life they choose.

Based in a welcoming, spacious and fully accessible building in Billericay, the Exchange offers support both on site and within the local community. People can choose to be supported by Hamelin's trained and dedicated staff or attend with their own personal assistant, ensuring a flexible approach that meets individual needs and preferences.

Every person is supported to create an individual timetable based on their goals, interests and preferred way of spending their time. Whether that means taking part in group activities, enjoying quieter sensory experiences or accessing the local community, our experienced team provides personalised support that promotes choice, confidence and wellbeing.

The Exchange offers a wide range of activities, including hydrotherapy, sensory art and music, cooking, sports, life skills, communication, arts and crafts, day trips and community activities. Staff are trained to support a variety of complex health needs, including medication administration, mobility support, epilepsy and enteral feeding, with additional training provided where required.

The Exchange is part of Hamelin, whose mission is to build caring and compassionate communities for autistic people and people with learning disabilities by empowering individuals to live fulfilling, meaningful lives.

Welcome from Nicola Balcomb, Service Manager

Welcome to the Exchange, where you'll find a place to explore your interests, develop your abilities, and be yourself. We provide a safe, welcoming, and encouraging environment, supported by a team of enthusiastic and dedicated staff who are committed to helping you take part in meaningful activities and lead a fulfilling life. At The Exchange, your dreams and aspirations are valued, encouraged, and celebrated.

I have worked with Hamelin for 15 years and have had the privilege of seeing our services grow and evolve. This development has been shaped by listening to, and acting on, the needs and aspirations of the people we support.

I am committed to providing the highest quality, person-centred support, ensuring that your individual needs are met and your choices, wishes, and goals are always respected. I am incredibly proud to work alongside such a dedicated team who share the same values, vision, and commitment to making a positive difference every day. This is your day, your service, and your wellbeing. I invite you to visit the Exchange and discover how we think differently.



What people say about The Exchange



“I have visited the Exchange for many years and continue to find the visits to be well organised and attended by staff who know the guests well. Staff show initiative regarding new ideas the guest greatly enjoys his time at the Exchange.”

“I love coming to Hamelin, I love the staff, my friends and the music sessions. Also I love my special corner.”

“When we bring our daughter to the Exchange her eyes light up, so we know she enjoys her time. It can be a struggle to get her to come home at the end of the day!”

“I would like to express how much Rachel enjoys attending the Exchange, so much so she is going to increase her days. The communication from staff is great. I would like to thank you all for making Rachel’s time with you so meaningful and fulfilled.”



About Life Skills



Hamelin's Life Skills service supports autistic people and people with learning disabilities to develop the confidence, independence and practical skills they need to live fulfilling, meaningful lives. We provide person-centred support, tailored to individual goals, helping people build confidence, strengthen relationships and take positive steps towards greater independence.

Life Skills offers a structured and supportive programme that focuses on developing the knowledge and everyday skills needed for independent living. Whether preparing meals, managing money, building communication skills or learning to travel safely, every activity is designed around individual needs, interests and aspirations.

Support is flexible and shaped around each individual. People can take part in one-to-one support or small group sessions, including adult life skills classes, depending on what works best for them and their personal goals. Alongside learning practical skills, there are plenty of opportunities to meet others, build friendships and develop confidence in a welcoming and supportive environment.

The programme also encourages active participation in the local community through volunteering opportunities, community access and social activities, while developing functional literacy, numeracy and IT skills. Health and wellbeing are promoted through mindfulness, confidence building and personal development activities, with ASDAN accredited learning opportunities available for those who wish to gain recognised achievements and celebrate their progress.

Welcome from Mia Furner, Service Manager

Welcome to Life Skills at Hamelin. I'm passionate about creating a service where people can continue to learn, grow and build confidence at every stage of life.

Our aim is to provide a welcoming and supportive environment where everyone can develop practical skills, improve their wellbeing, build meaningful relationships and discover new interests. From learning everyday skills to trying something completely new, we want people to feel encouraged to challenge themselves and recognise their own strengths.



Most importantly, Life Skills is a place where people can feel valued, included and proud of what they achieve. We look forward to welcoming you and supporting you to make the most of your time with us.

What people say about Life Skills



“I’d like to say a big thank you to all of you in Life Skills that have been encouraging my son to get out and about more. He is in such good spirits, and we have noticed a huge change in him lately. He is always happy and telling us what a great day he has had. We are ever so grateful.”

“Thank you for looking after me and helping me to grow.”

“As soon as I walked in I immediately knew this was going to be the place for my daughter, she will love it here.”

“I am beyond happy with your support for my son, there is nothing you guys could do better. I trust Hamelin wholeheartedly and that’s why I fought for him to be here. Thank you to all of you.”

“My daughter loves coming here, she gets very excited on her way in, thank you for supporting her.”

“Thank you for all the care, support and encouragement you have given our son. He has learned valuable life skills such as cooking, IT and becoming more independent and confident in everyday life.”

“I am in awe of my loved one’s renewed energy, sense of community and burgeoning self-esteem. Thank you millions.”

“Going to Hamelin has quite literally revolutionised our loved one’s life. There should be a Hamelin in every town in my opinion!”

Our mission and values



Our mission

To build caring and compassionate communities for autistic people and people with learning disabilities. By empowering and supporting individuals they can live the life they choose.

Our values



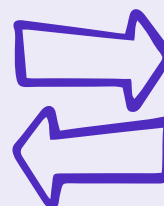
We are community

We put autistic people and adults with learning disabilities at front and centre of everything we do. We work together with our people and their families to truly understand their needs and wants, to make a real difference.



We enhance lives

We treat people as individuals so we can empower them to do the things they are passionate about. We create opportunities for growth and foster a culture of innovation and bravery in our communities. This allows everyone to live their best lives, now and in the future.



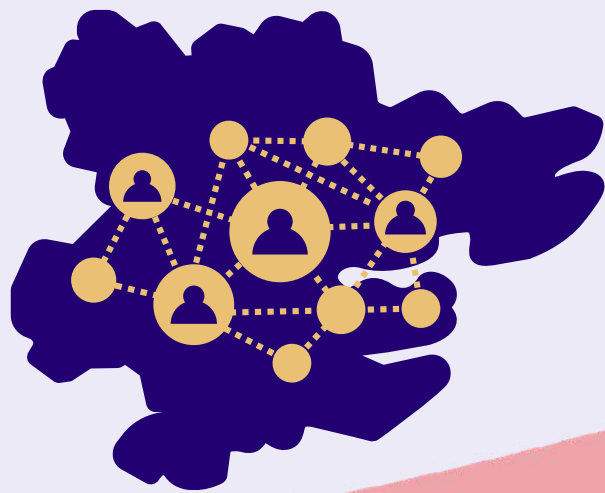
We think differently

We are passionate, intelligent and not afraid to do things differently. We are not defined by the limitations of systemic care provision and do not accept the status quo. Our sole focus is to create better lives for those we support.





Our other services



Gowlands

Gowlands offers residential holiday breaks in Rochford for people with profound learning and physical disabilities, while giving families and carers a valuable break.

Hydrotherapy pool

Based at our Gowlands site in Rochford, the hydrotherapy pool is a purpose-built space that promotes physical well-being, mobility and relaxation. The hydrotherapy pool is also used for rehabilitation following a trauma and to help manage long term health conditions in the wider community.

Roots & Shoots

Roots and Shoots is our horticultural training project based in Rochford, supporting autistic people and adults with learning disabilities through practical, outdoor learning.

Ability Works

Ability Works supports autistic adults and people with Learning disabilities to build confidence, develop employment skills and take positive steps towards work.

Links

Links helps autistic adults and people with learning disabilities to reduce isolation, build confidence and connect with others in their local community.

The Bungalow

The Bungalow in Wickford is a life-time home for five people with significant disabilities, requiring support 24 hours a day. Bungalow residents are supported in all aspects of their lives, from dressing, medication and feeding to going out into the community and on holidays.



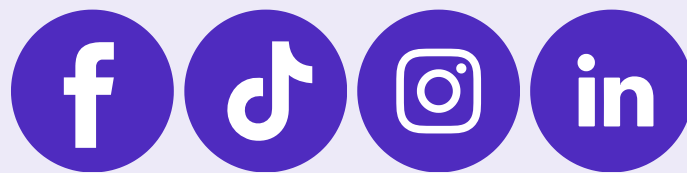
Hamelin is an approved ASDAN Centre which enables us to offer people we support accredited in many areas of the ASDAN curriculum including computing, photography gardening and cooking. On successful completion of this course accreditations certification will be awarded.

Contact us

www.hamelin.org.uk

enquiries@hamelin.org.uk

01277 653889



@HamelinTrust

Charity number 1004432