

# CASE STUDY - Bridge the Gap

## Supporting children, schools and parents during Covid-19



### KEY POINTS

#### Support Received

- Access to government Support
- Details of lottery funding
- Ongoing adviser support

#### Outcome

- Cashflow support during the Covid-19 crisis
- Lottery funding approved

Bridge the Gap are a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the mental health of children, parents and teachers in Derby City and beyond. They currently offer a range of services from free support sessions in the community and an active informative Facebook page, to low cost resources, courses and workshops. They also offer one-to-one support and training.

The impact of coronavirus and the close down of schools in particular where much of their training takes place has meant they had to stop, reflect, and adapt. They set up an online shop and created workbooks that parents had been requesting for some time. They provided a free of charge letter of support for children to help them understand the coronavirus pandemic.

Growth Hub advisers Lisa Hoyland and Pauline Roessler reached out to the business to offer support as soon as the coronavirus crisis hit. There followed two one to one support sessions where the advisers were able to direct Jennifer at Bridge the Gap to details of government support including the self-employment support scheme, the job retention scheme and information was provided on charitable funding. Further information was also sent by email on funding opportunities including lottery support which was successful.

Bridge the Gap, with help from the D2N2 Growth Hub, have successfully adapted their provision to meet the needs of parents, schools and especially children in these times. They are currently completing paperwork to transition from a Social Enterprise to a C.I.C (Community Interest Company).

“ When Covid hit and we closed the doors on our space, I was heartbroken. We were half-way through running courses and programmes for children, and they had to abruptly stop. We tried to bring the sessions to a therapeutic close online but when that was completed, I felt exhausted and drained, like my brain had switched off. There was so much to think about, furloughing our small team and then considering what to do for myself. After getting in touch with Lisa and the hub again I spoke to two advisors and they just listened to me. They let me cry. I felt like they understood and then I was able to talk through my options with them. It helped me to plan, apply for funding and get my brain switched back on! I've worked hard throughout lockdown and now have the team back together; I believe we have evolved and grown throughout the crisis - I can't thank the hub enough. **Jennifer Wyman, Bridge the Gap** ”

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