

# We Offer the following :

- YOUNG VOLUNTEERS UNDER 25 YEARS OLD TO SUPPORT FRIENDSHIPS EITHER IN THE PERSONS HOME OR AT THEIR FRIENDS HOME OR TO GO OUT WITH THEIR FRIENDS •
- TO DEVELOP A WIDE RANGE OF EVERYDAY OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMMUNITY TO ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TO LIVE ORDINARY LIVES AND TO DEVELOP INTEREST AND NEW EXPERIENCES •
- TO SUPPORT FAMILIES TO HAVE A BREAK AWAY FROM THEIR CARING ROLE •
- TO SUPPORT FAMILIES THROUGH THE CHANGES FROM LEAVING SCHOOL TO THE NEXT STEPS INTO ADULthood AND TO ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO BUILD FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHER PARENTS •
- TO SUPPORT FAMILIES TO RECRUIT STAFF AND TO SHARE THE COST WITH OTHER FAMILIES FOR ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR FRIENDS •
- TO SUPPORT FRIENDSHIPS ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST YEAR OF SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TO HELP PEOPLE KEEP THEIR FRIENDSHIPS •

**WE LISTEN TO WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WANT AND WE RESPOND QUICKLY TO WHAT IS BEING ASKED. WE ARE FLEXIBLE AND CREATIVE IN OUR APPROACH. WE ALL LIVE IN SOUTHEND SO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY.**

## Friends and Places Together

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Friends And Places Together Is A Unique Service Offering The Chance For Young Adults To Meet Up With Their Friends Outside Of School And College.

# What is F&PT?

F&PT offers young adults, 13 to 25 year old's, an opportunity to meet up with friends outside of the school environment.



## What makes us Unique:

We listen to what young people want and we respond quickly to what is being asked. We are flexible and creative in our approach. We all live in Southend so understand what is going on in the community.

## People who we Support:

We support anyone who has a disability that involves sensory, learning disabilities, communication difficulties, physical impairments as well as people with complex health needs. Also people with Autism and Asperger's.

If you live outside Southend we can support the role that we offer SBC residents but there would be a charge. This can be paid for using Direct Payments to support friendships. F&PT recognises that friends live a long way away.



# Next Steps:

We will come out and meet families at organised times. Most appointments are in the evenings and at the weekends. If you would like to speak to other families who have used this service then contact us to find out how we can put you in contact with them.

## Statements from the Foundation for people with learning disabilities evaluation Feb 2013:

- *It was the first time I felt truly listened to - mum -*
- *My son now has a life outside of his family - mum -*
- *He has got more confident and is trying new activities for the first time without his family -*

F&PT can help with recruiting staff by matching skills and interest with friendships. A number of families share the cost of support with other families so that funds go further, for example, if 2 friends go to drama together with only 1 carer. This was with agreement with both families.

All staff recruited aim to support friendships and are encouraged to have, 1, 2 or 3 friends in the community depending on needs.

## Is there a Cost?

There is no cost for friends and places' input, but there is a cost for any expenses occurred if friends are going out in the community using a volunteer from F&PT, e.g going out for dinner with a friend. F&PT usually set up agreed amount for activities. F&PT is a not for profit organisation and any funds reserved are used to expand services offered to young people in Southend.