

# OPEN UNIVERSITY NEW BUSINESS CHALLENGE AWARD WINNER 2018!

## What a lovely way to start off our second newsletter!

We are thrilled to announce that our Director, Emma Prince, has been chosen by the Open University as their New Business Challenge 2018 winner, as part of the University's annual national Entrepreneurship Awards. Emma is an OU graduate, having gained a First Class Honours in Childhood and Youth prior to setting up Evolve Intervention. This meant she was eligible to enter the competition, submitting a business model and video pitch at the start of the year. Emma was then shortlisted as a finalist and invited to present to a panel of judges at the Open University Campus in Milton Keynes on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Part of this entailed sharing her vision for Evolve Intervention and looking at key criteria such as sustainability, key partnerships and plans for growth. The judging panel comprised of staff from the Open University as well as representatives from the Business Community and Santander.



The judges commented on the passion and commitment Emma displayed during the presentation and how this underpinned the values and ethos of the organization. The panel also recognized that Evolve Intervention's



intention to ensure that no child is left behind and the belief that help and support should be available for all is very much in line with the OU's own values and mission.

Emma then received the news that she has been chosen as the winner of the competition! This means that Evolve Intervention will now receive a cash prize to support the growth of the organization and Emma will attend an awards ceremony at the Open University Campus on 30<sup>th</sup> May. She will also be provided with support from the OU to continue the journey of developing Evolve Intervention and realising her vision. We are extremely proud of Emma's achievement and are excited to utilise the prize to develop our work across Essex. If you would like to find out more about the Open University and the different opportunities for learning, development and support, you can visit their website: [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)



*Newsletter*  
*9<sup>th</sup> April 2018*

## BRAND NEW Attendance Support Service!

We are delighted that our new Attendance Support strand has been officially launched, ready for schools to sign up for September! We have developed this aspect of our service in response to the ever-growing need for schools to not only monitor and manage attendance effectively, but to provide holistic support to children and their families who are struggling with attendance issues, whilst intervening more formally when needed, using legal interventions. This is becoming an ever-stronger focus, particularly for regulatory bodies such as OFSTED, as it is a key safeguarding duty held by all schools.

We firmly believe that early identification and intervention is the key to supporting young people in schools when improving attendance and attainment. Poor school attendance is most often a symptom of a myriad of other factors and can be an indicator of a child or young person either becoming at risk of, or

already affected by, a number of issues.

Our team have the expertise from both their work in schools and senior roles within local authorities overseeing attendance to be able to offer unique support packages; this includes support such as OFSTED Support, School Consultations, Early Intervention Clinics, Staff Training and Supervision, Home Visits, Writing Policies, Data Capture and Analysis, Audits, Support with Penalty Notices, and much more.

If you would like to find out more about this aspect of our service then please get in touch by emailing [p.turner@evolve-intervention.com](mailto:p.turner@evolve-intervention.com) or calling 01245 526069.



**HALF  
OF ALL MENTAL  
ILLNESSES BEGIN  
BEFORE AGE 14**

"We know from NHS statistics and from the first-hand accounts we hear from children themselves that thousands of children are not receiving access to the mental health services they need. Too often referrals are only made when a child is at crisis point and sadly some children have even told me that that they felt they had to attempt to take their own life in order to access treatment."

Children's Commissioner for England,  
2018

## MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS AMBASSADOR TRAINING

Anyone working with children and young adults in education will be all too aware of the rising concerns around mental health and emotional well-being of young people. Staff are becoming more and more concerned about the difficulties they see within their classrooms: students with poor concentration, behavioural issues, high anxiety and low self-esteem as well as more severe mental health problems such as depression, self-harm and eating disorders. However, cuts to funding within the National Health and Social Services, coupled with budgetary cutbacks in schools, has resulted in longer waiting lists and limited access to therapeutic support.

Helen Prince, one of our Lead Practitioners and Trainers, recently attended the Mental Health in Schools Ambassador Training, adding to her skillset and knowledge to be able to enhance the training she already delivers in schools and other settings. The training was facilitated by The St Aubyn Centre Therapeutic Education Department which is Essex County Council's specialist provider of education for all young people being admitted with mental health problems of a severity considered to be too great to be managed in the community. The residential centre is fully booked and has a waiting list; supply simply cannot keep up with demand.

By upskilling the very people on the front line, it is believed that any adult encountering a pupil with emerging mental health difficulties, would have improved skills and knowledge to offer support and access to a range of intervention strategies.

**Key areas of focus include:**

- how to identify the early signs of developing mental health difficulties in young people
- exploring the projected feelings (thoughts -v- feelings) and the effect these can have on staff
- maintaining positive relationships between staff and students
- strategies upon which staff could draw when supporting their students.

If you or your colleagues would like to explore our training options around Mental Health or any other area (i.e. Attachment, Behaviour Management, Developing Resilience) then get in touch with us today.



**Therapeutic Education Department  
at the St. Aubyn Centre**

## YOUTH SERVICE

Supporting  
Communities

### Funding Awarded by Essex Youth Service YSG Commissioning Group!

Our application to the Rochford and Castle Point YSG for the funding to be able to deliver Building Resilience Programmes and Peer Mentoring Training across the four Rochford Secondary Schools has been approved! This means we can deliver these interventions completely free of charge to the schools and are now in the process of gathering referrals. We have since put in another application for funding to facilitate the same programmes across other parts of Essex and are awaiting the outcome of our proposal.

Without question, building resilience in our children and young people must be a key priority; we know that many students struggle to overcome adversity and this can have a huge impact on their wellbeing and ability to thrive in school. Our approach encompasses looking not only at the contributing factors to the stress and pressure young people face, but also education about how our thinking styles and mindset can impact our capacity to overcome adversity. We then explore pragmatic, solution focused approaches to managing stress and challenges whilst teaching tools to promote emotional wellbeing.

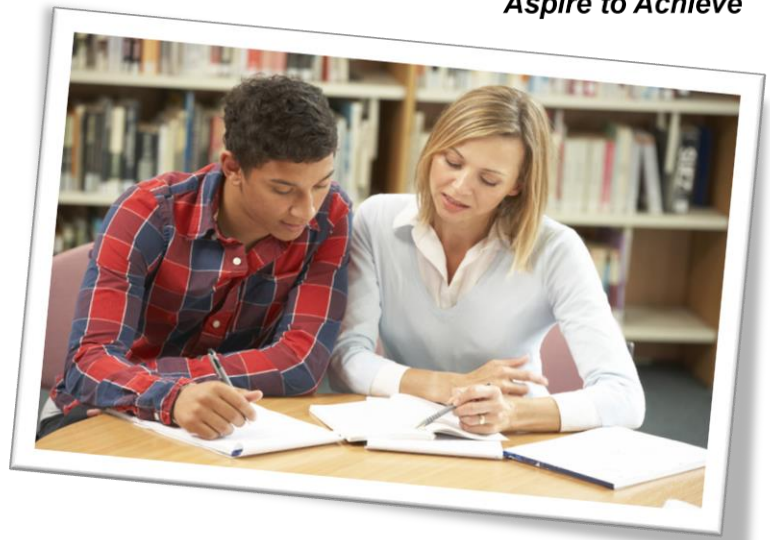
In addition to this, our Peer Mentoring Training offers older student the opportunity to learn how to support their younger peers, with a view to being able to mentor students transitioning into secondary school and/or those who may be in need of some additional help in other year groups. This has been proven to be an extremely effective model for providing continuous, in-house support which is mutually beneficial for both the mentors and their mentees.

We can make these programmes bespoke to the needs of your students or your particular setting and would be glad to discuss options with you.

### Supporting Children in Care

We have recently begun our work with Essex Virtual School providing coaching, mentoring and tuition to children and young people in care across Essex. This work has got off to a great start, with sessions taking place across the county, making use of both schools and local spaces such as public libraries for our practitioners to facilitate the sessions. We are so pleased to be part of team around these children and young people.

**Essex Virtual School**  
*Aspire to Achieve*



### CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT ON OFFER:

WE ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT STAFF, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING:

- COACHING
- MENTORING
- GROUP WORK
- YOGA, MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION
- ATTENDANCE SUPPORT SERVICE
- TRAINING
- CONSULTANCY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION. REMEMBER, WE TAKE REFERRALS DIRECTLY FROM PARENTS AS WELL AS PROFESSIONALS.