



**SEN and Disability Local Offer:
Sixth Forms and FE Colleges**

Name: Midstream

College/Sixth Form Setting Name and Address	Midstream	Telephone Number	01695 555316
		Website Address	www.midstream.org.uk
Does the College/sixth form setting specialise in meeting the needs of young people with a particular type of LDD?	<p>Midstream, in Skelmersdale, supports young people and adults with learning disabilities. We offer two complimentary day services: Work related education in our Vocational College and work experience in our Social Care/Work Activity provision.</p> <p>Midstream has been operating since 1995 and has developed expertise in a range of learning disabilities and certain health conditions in particular autistic spectrum disorder, Down's Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome, epilepsy and communication difficulties. A nurse is available on site.</p>		
What age range of learners does the College/sixth form setting cater for?	<p>Learners on the vocational college programme must be aged between 16 and 25 years old.</p> <p>Clients on our Social Care/Work Activity provision can be of working age.</p> <p>Some young people, who may be under 16 years of age, attend through an arrangement with their school or college.</p>		
What is the admission criteria for your College/sixth form?	<p>To access a place on our vocational college programme an applicant will need to be aged between 16 and 25, have an Education, Health & Care Plan and have a place commissioned by their local authority.</p> <p>To access a place on our Social Care/Work Activity provision an applicant will need to be assessed by their local authority as meeting the criteria for a commissioned place or a direct payment budget. A direct payment budget can be used to purchase a package of days with Midstream.</p> <p>In addition to these options some young people attend Midstream through an arrangement with their school or college.</p>		
Name and contact details of your College/sixth form setting Additional Learning Support lead	<p>Catherine West-McGrath, College Manager 01695 555316 catherinewest-mcgrath@midstream.org.uk</p>		

Name and contact details of the person/role responsible for maintaining details of the Local Offer

Name of Person and Job Title	Mark Saxon College Manager		
Contact telephone number	01695 555316	Email	marksaxon@midstream.org.uk

I confirm that our Local Offer has now been published on the College/sixth form setting website.

Please give the URL for the direct link to your College/sixth form setting Local Offer			
Name	Mark Saxon	Date	13 April 2017

Accessibility and Inclusion

Vocational College learners attend between 3 and 5 days a week, 38 weeks a year during term time. We follow the Lancashire school holidays pattern as far as possible.

Vocational College learners choose the actual days they will attend during the application stage. This means they can create their own weekly plan if they wish to access alternative provision on other days.

College learners with a commissioned place or direct payment budget for Social Care/Work Activity can use this to attend Midstream during college holidays.

Social Care/Work Activity clients can attend between 1 and 5 days a week.

Midstream operates from a 6.5 acre site with easy access walkways.

Client and learner areas have been purpose built to ensure accessibility with the majority of facilities on the ground floor. There is a loop system. All learners and clients are given their own lockers.

The garden centre and cafe on Midstream's site are open to the general public. However, there are areas of the site which are not accessible to the general public and these are clearly marked.

Where appropriate learners and clients use tablet computers, other devices and picture symbols to assist with communication.

As a social enterprise, with charitable status, Midstream's resources are dedicated to furthering opportunities for young people and adults with learning disabilities.

When we assess that we can meet a college applicant's needs we make an application to their local authority. This application will be specific to the individual and will include any additional support or equipment that the individual needs to support their learning goals.

Similarly, for clients attending Social Care/Work Activity, the service level agreement will be informed by our assessment of their needs. This will be agreed with their local authority and/or the budget holder.

Midstream takes its commitment to equal opportunities very seriously. All learners and clients are given equal access to projects and activities in either the Vocational College programme or Social Care/Work Activity.

Midstream's timetable is from 9.00 – 4.30pm. However, arrangements can be made to attend for shorter days with their local authority's /budget holder's agreement.

Teaching and Learning

The Midstream curriculum is designed to develop independence, vocational and employability skills. Midstream's social enterprise delivers products and services to the general public and organisations. As such, learners and clients are likely to be interacting with the general public and representatives of organisations during their daily activities. Learners and clients develop their skills in a working office, garden centre, cafe, kitchens, horticulture unit, arts & crafts studio and classrooms. The skills developed in these areas include:

- Catering & hospitality
- Retail & customer service
- Horticulture
- Office & reception
- Arts & crafts.

The Vocational College programme combines externally accredited entry level qualifications (for example, City and Guilds Skills for Working Life units), numeracy, literacy & IT skills, creative & community based projects, work experience in Midstream's own work areas and work experience with external employers.

Learners on the college programme have their own individual learning plan detailing their programme, learning goals and progress. The learning goals and targets are agreed with the learner and their parents to ensure these are appropriate.

Vocational College learners also have the opportunity to access Supported Internships. On Supported Internships learners attend their college programme at an employer's premises and have the support of a job coach to learn the tasks their job role.

Progress monitoring and review

If we assess that we can meet an applicant's needs we invite them to attend up to 5 free taster/assessment days. Taster/assessment days are an opportunity for both parties to learn more about each other and agree a plan should a place be agreed.

Applicants to the college programme are also visited in their current school or college setting. This provides an opportunity for Midstream to learn more about the applicant to inform their initial assessment.

On the vocational college programme learners participate in induction and initial assessment in the first half term to agree learning goals for their individual learning plan. Parents are included in this process.

Learners carry out a daily review with their learning support assistant. This is an opportunity to reflect on the skills they have developed and the targets they are working towards, specifically:

- Numeracy, Literacy & IT skills
- Employment Skills
- Vocational Skills and
- Independent & Social Skills

Vocational College learners have a review at the end of their first term, in December, and at the end of their second term in March. In Years 2 and 3 they have an annual review in their second term.

Review's are an opportunity for everyone involved to recognise what learners and clients have achieved, give feedback on the placement and discuss any additional support that might be needed.

Social Care/Work activity clients have reviews approximately once per year.

Parents can visit us at anytime to discuss progress and see learners and clients work.

We have an annual presentation day where learners and clients will be presented with their externally accredited certificates.

Additionally, in the college, we celebrate achievements with events such as a learner of the week award, end of year events, certificate presentation events and a graduation ceremony.

Safeguarding

All applicants complete an application form and a safeguarding questionnaire where they explain their needs. Safeguarding information is also requested from social workers, careers advisors, head teachers and medical professionals with the applicant's permission. The application and safeguarding information help to inform a plan so that an individual's needs are met.

Midstream's policies, environment and ethos promote a person centred approach where all clients and learners can develop their skills in a safe environment.

Learners and clients are supported in being safe using the internet and mobile technology. For example, we participate in Internet Safety Day and college learners participate in internet/technology safety projects.

Vocational college learners participate in independent travel training.

There is plenty of onsite parking and room for minibuses and taxis.

The Midstream day is from 9.00am – 4.30pm with 3 half hour breaks in the morning, at lunchtime and afternoon.

Vocational college learners do go off site frequently when attending external work experience placements or as part of community engagement projects. Social care/Work activity clients may also go off site occasionally. Offsite visits are always made with staff supervision. We ask for consent from parents/carers for learners and clients to participate off site visits. All off site visits are subject to a risk assessment.

Midstream takes its commitment to safeguarding very seriously. All staff, external support workers and volunteers must produce an Enhanced CRB/DBS form, attend an induction and agree to our procedures.

Learning support assistants also provide support for personal care and safeguarding needs. This includes the administration of medicines and first aid.

Health (including Emotional Health and Wellbeing)

All Midstream staff are qualified in teaching and/or health & social care. Staff attend regular and appropriate training to ensure the safety, well being and skills development of learners and clients.

There is a qualified nurse on site and all staff are first aiders.

We have an Administering Medication policy and request that any requests to administer medication is made in writing.

We ask for First, Second and Emergency contacts so that we have a number of options should an emergency arise and we need to make contact.

Communication

Vocational college learners have a named teacher in addition to a team of Learning Support Assistants.

Social Care/Work Activity clients have a named instructor (specific to each work area) in addition to a team of Learning Support Assistants.

We encourage all learners and clients to discuss their progress and any issues concerning Midstream with their family. We can use a communication book or a tablet computer to share information between Midstream and home. We use text, photographs, picture exchange system (PECS) and Widgits to support communication.

Vocational college learners and parents are also asked to complete surveys following induction and at the end of each year.

We hold open days for visitors to view our facilities and speak with staff.

Working together

We work closely with social workers and health professionals to integrate plans and therapeutic interventions into learners and clients daily activities.

We work with employers and supported employment agencies to enable our learners to gain work experience and make the transition into employment.

We work with other agencies and community organisations to give our learners as many opportunities as possible to develop their independence, employment and vocational skills.

We take the views of our learners and clients seriously and encourage them to contribute to decisions which affect them.

The College learners produce a regular newsletter to inform their families, friends, employers and other stakeholders about their progress and activities.

Help and support available

For Vocational College enquiries please contact the College Manager or for Social Care/Work Activity enquiries please contact the Operations Manager.

Midstream, 2 Penrose Place, Skelmersdale, WN8 9PR, Telephone: 01695 555316, Website: www.midstream.org.uk

Midstream is open during the week all year round and anyone is welcome to make an appointment to visit and find out more. Alternatively please visit our website.

Local authority careers advice services (for the college programme) or social services (for Social Care/Work Activity) can provide further information.

Midstream is a member of Natspec (the Association of National Specialist Colleges) which can also provide further information. The Natspec website address is www.natspec.org.uk.

Transition to and from College

All learners and clients can attend up to five free taster/assessment days to help to prepare them to start with us.

Some schools and colleges also arrange work experience weeks or link programmes in addition to the taster days which help their students make a successful transition.

Vocational College learners join an induction programme during the first half term which also serves as an opportunity for further initial assessment and agreeing learning goals and targets. Learners discuss their transition into other years of the programme at reviews and prepare for transition whilst on the programme. In their final year a major focus of the curriculum is the learner's transition to options after college.

Clients on Social Care/Work Activity are supported by their instructor and learning support assistants when they are making transitions.

Enrichment/Additionality

The vocational college programme offers many opportunities for enrichment. Learners take part in Personal Social Development projects which include participation in national skills competitions, fundraising events and community environmental projects. Learners also participate in excursions such as horse riding, theatre trips and museum visits.

Excursions are also arranged for Clients on Social Care/Work Activity placements in the summer.

All learners and clients are invited to annual social events held on site such as summer barbeques and Christmas parties.

