



Down Syndrome Cheshire

Impact Report 2021 - 2022



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OUR PURPOSE

We support over 350 children and adults with Down syndrome and their families in Cheshire and the surrounding areas and are committed to providing advice, information, training, advocacy and services so that our members can live the life they choose. During a particularly difficult year when we saw enquiries increase by 132% percent, we grew our membership by 37% percent and expanded our staff and services by 67% percent.

In response to the emerging needs of our community, we employed a family support worker, a speech and language therapist and additional support staff and volunteers to work with children and their parents and carers to enhance their skills and support their social, communication and emotional needs.

We continued to provide education advocacy to 176 pupils with Down syndrome across 95 Cheshire schools by delivering advice, resources and training.

We made advancements in provision for teenagers and adults with Down syndrome by creating work experience opportunities and running a successful education campaign to secure additional learning opportunities for post 16 college students.

We achieved a swift and safe return to core activities including family peer support events, pre-school sessions, Makaton training and home visits for new and expectant parents as well as publishing our first bespoke maternity support booklet. We achieved this alongside moving into new, larger premises to support our growing activities and services.

We gave support, information, advice and practical help to 3572 individuals to positively impact the lives of those with Down syndrome. Those we have helped include children and adults with Down syndrome, family members who have a loved one with Down syndrome, education professionals, health professionals, social workers and carers.



OUR MEMBERS

**Ages
0 to 5**

22%

**Ages
6 to 11**

36%

**Ages
12 to 17**

18%

**Ages
18 to 24**

14%

**Ages
25+**

10%



OUR HIGHLIGHTS

283

**peer support activities for children
and adults with Down syndrome
and their families**

211

**children visited and supported
at schools across Cheshire and
the surrounding area**

26

**training sessions delivered to
parents, education and
health professionals**

25

**work experience and skills training
sessions for teenagers and adults
with Down syndrome**

352

**people with Down syndrome
have been supported**

3572

**individuals given support,
advice and practical help**



The infographic displays 12 support services for young people with autism, arranged in a circular path. Each service is represented by a colored circle with a white icon and a text label below it. The services are:

- Family peer support** (Purple circle with icon of three people)
- Training for health, education and social care professionals** (Blue circle with icon of an open book)
- Training for parents/carers** (Red circle with icon of an open book)
- Speech and language therapy** (Yellow circle with icon of a mouth and sound waves)
- Education advocacy** (Green circle with icon of a book)
- Makaton training** (Yellow circle with icon of a hand)
- Friendship groups and activities** (Red circle with icon of two hands shaking)
- Holiday clubs and residential** (Blue circle with icon of a house)
- Supported accommodation** (Red circle with icon of a building)
- Employability** (Yellow circle with icon of a person at a desk)
- Fitness and wellbeing support** (Green circle with icon of a running shoe)
- Post 16 education support** (Purple circle with icon of a graduation cap)

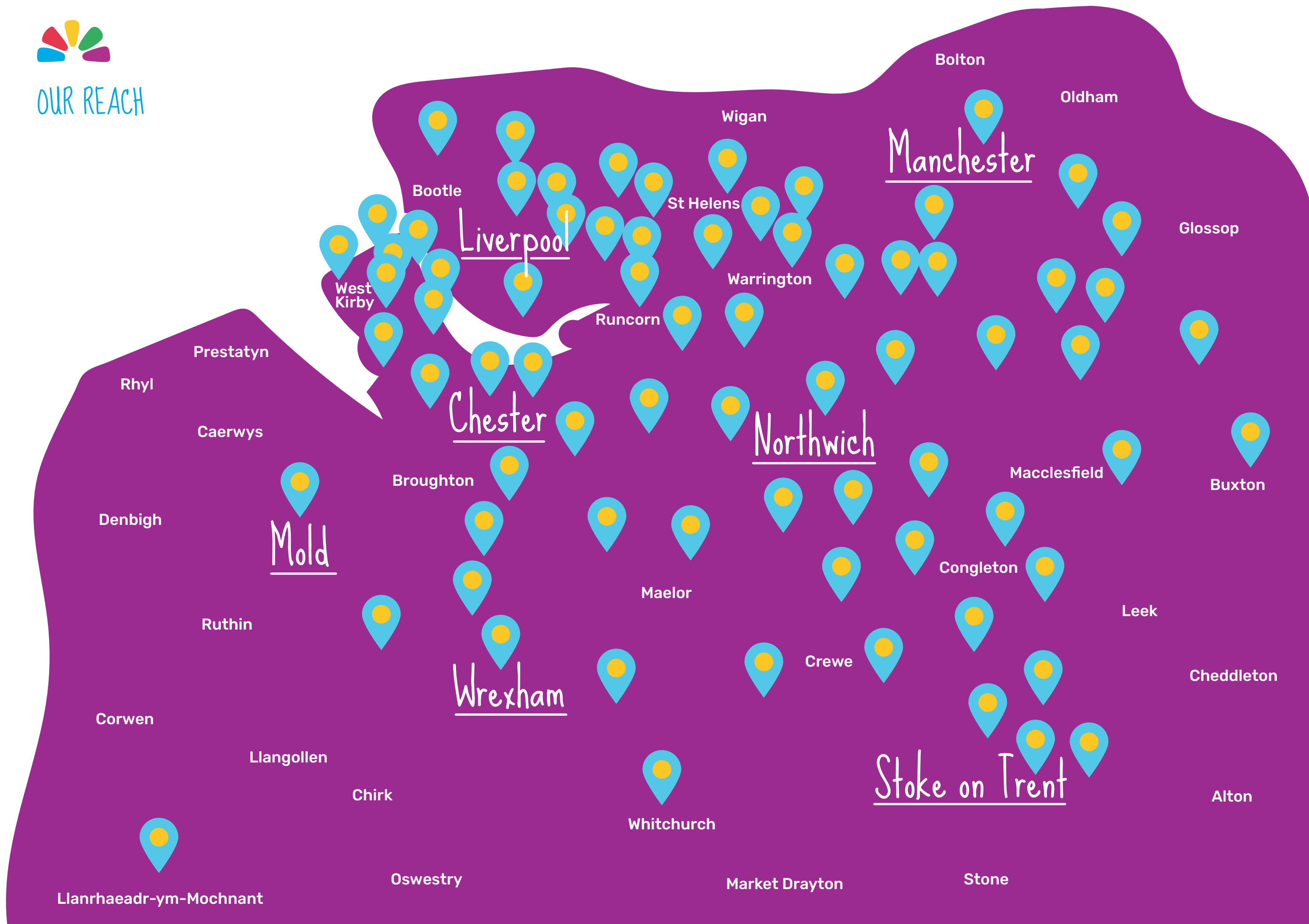


OUR VALUES

- 01**  **Ambitious**
We create opportunities to exceed expectations
- 02**  **Supportive**
We provide well informed, tailored support to families
- 03**  **Trusted**
We always tell the truth
- 04**  **Dedicated**
We consistently provide high-quality services
- 05**  **Caring**
We celebrate what matters to you



OUR REACH





OUR STORIES OF SUPPORT

“Both Lucas and I were isolated but thanks to the friends that we made through the exercise and social events that Down Syndrome Cheshire put on, our situation was made bearable.”



“The education advocates who have been in to support Liam’s school have been amazing, giving staff real strategies on how to work with Liam and ideas on how to progress his education and social skills. The advice given has been adhered to by the school and we are so pleased that we have been given this opportunity of support. If this service was taken away it would be detrimental to us as a family. We would lose a support network. There is nothing else out there that provides the same support to such a high level. The charity has gone above and beyond.”





HOW TO CONTACT US

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Down Syndrome Cheshire is a Community Interest Organisation with charity status.
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