

Report on The Brothers Trust Grant

Signed March 2023

The Mindstep Foundation was delighted to receive the grant of £5,990 from The Brothers Trust to fund a Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling for a nominated individual.

The part-time course qualifies students with a Level 4/5 Diploma accredited by the National Counselling Society (NCS) and allows them to practice therapeutic counselling. Mindstep received £3,000 in March 2023 with a view to the remainder of the grant being paid in Year 2.

Mindstep are pleased to report that Richard McLennan [*profile below*] has been selected to undertake the Diploma starting in September 2023. Prior to commencing the course, Richard will be required to sign our Service Level Agreement to provide 25 hours of subsidised counselling on behalf of the charity, once qualified.



Richard McLennan has been accepted to undertake the Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling at Ty Elis starting in September 2023.

Richard is currently employed as a teacher in St Albans RC High School in Pontypool, Wales. He is the Associate Head, Additional Learning Needs Coordinator and responsible for Diversity and Inclusion.

Richard's experience in a pastoral role at the school has inspired him to qualify as a counsellor. Teachers are often required to deal with mental health issues of pupils during school hours but are offered no training, resources or budget to equip themselves to deal with these situations. He is looking forward to arming himself with the necessary skills to deliver therapy in a school environment, as well as to the other individuals in the local area.

Richard will join two other individuals who are currently undertaking the Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling on behalf of the Mindstep Foundation. James Smith will be the first from the cohort to qualify this September, after providing 100 hours of free counselling as part of his training. James said of his experience:

"Undertaking the Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling at Ty Elis has been a thoroughly enriching experience. I have gained a deep understanding of the theory of therapeutic approaches and have already been able to put into practice in this last year of the course. I am so glad to have found this part-time diploma which has enabled me to qualify with a holistic understanding of counselling and start practicing within two years. I feel privileged to have already been able to assist several clients and look forward to helping many more once I qualify in September".



The Mindstep Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales.

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