

# Building Futures, Transforming Lives Together.



**Camphill School Aberdeen**  
Building Futures, Transforming Lives



# Camphill School Aberdeen. There's no place like it...



Keir has thrived and loves his life at Camphill. We would never have been able to replicate this anywhere else. He loves the space around him, the animals, and living in a shared house with others – it's therapeutic for him.

Keir has grown into a happy, content, and mischievous young man. We have greatly valued the support from the school and his co-workers over the years.

Our lives would have been very different if Keir did not get the opportunity to go to Camphill."

Keir's Dad



## A message from Alex Busch

**Camphill School Aberdeen has been transforming the lives of children and young people with learning disabilities and complex additional support needs for over 80 years. Empowering them to grow in confidence, independence, and reach their fullest potential while offering a high quality of life that is often not possible within a mainstream environment.**

We're on a mission to ensure as many children and young people as possible, who have very complex additional support needs, can access our sector-leading day and residential services.

But we're at a pivotal time. We need to take bold steps to ensure we can expand the vital support we provide. Over the years, we have focused our energy and investment on transforming the lives of thousands of young people - enabling them to lead healthy and happy lives.

We now need to raise £10 million over the next 10 years to enhance and grow our provision. By doing this, we will create meaningful opportunities for an additional 60 young people to be part of our unique and special community ensuring every young person, who needs access to our support, can receive it.

At a time when demand for our services far exceeds our capacity, transforming our built environment is central to achieving our vision. We need your help to turn it into a reality. Together, we can build futures and transform lives.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Alex Busch**  
Executive Director  
Camphill School Aberdeen



## Meet Niall...

“ What makes Camphill so special is they look for the potential in everyone. Niall has had the opportunity to develop and grow. He was challenged to walk a little more every day, and step by step he made a remarkable transformation. His wheelchair now gathers dust in the garage.

Niall takes part in meaningful work, therapies, and learning at Camphill and the difference in his confidence, independence, and happiness is clear. We are still amazed by the difference in him.

At the end of Niall's first year at Camphill, I participated in a 'Coast-to-Coast' fundraiser to raise money for the school. We walked around talking to people and Niall spotted a table of his friends that he saw every day, he walked over to the table to sit down with them – it was like he was a part of a family unit and to me that was everything...

It was just that Niall *belonged*.

Niall's Dad



## Meet Laurence...



As soon as we stepped onto Camphill Estate we knew this was somewhere special, a home-from-home that would celebrate Laurence for who he is. We were relieved to find a calm, accepting, and loving environment in which our son could truly thrive. And, for the first time, we were part of a strong support network that we could call on any time.

Over the years, we have all made lifelong friendships with staff, students, and parents. Laurence has excelled at several meaningful activities that we never dreamed he would even participate in. Thanks to the range of Learning for Life skills on offer, he has learnt to knit, weave and cross-stitch, as well as working on heavier activities like woodworking and gardening projects. He also undertakes daily tasks such as laundry and cooking.

There have been many special moments over the years but one of the proudest was watching Laurence and his friends receive their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. This amazing achievement is down to the dedication, commitment, and caring nature of the Camphill staff and volunteers”

The Camphill community has enriched our lives in so many ways but the greatest thing has been seeing Laurence transform into a happy, healthy, intelligent, and talented young man. As Stephen, Laurence’s Dad says: “Laurence is a square peg and Camphill School created a square hole for him to fit into.”

Laurence’s Mum

# Raising £10 million in 10 years

Our unique community is set over three beautiful campuses spanning 50 hectares along the Dee Valley in West Aberdeen. At its heart are 10 residential homes alongside a school, organic gardens and farm, meaningful workshops, swimming pool, onsite gym and medical practice.

The open space and woodlands ensure that each young person has access to the therapeutic and health benefits of their safe and nurturing surroundings.

**Realising our 10-year ambition will extend our services to an additional 60 day and residential students at the acute end of the disability spectrum – with three new houses, an expansion to our land and craft workshops, an internal certified wider achievement centre and the development of new social enterprises.**

We must raise **£10 million** through a phased campaign to turn that vision into a reality and prevent us from having to turn families in crisis away.





More than 95 local children and young people, aged 3-25, with learning disabilities and very complex additional support needs access our sector-leading day and residential services. Many of our staff and volunteers live onsite creating a vibrant family atmosphere.

**One community, endless possibilities:**

Our innovative approach integrates...

**EDUCATION:** Nursery, primary and secondary

**LEARNING FOR LIFE:** Meaningful craft and land based vocational workshops, organic farm and FRUVER shop

**THERAPIES:** Including; music, art, play, speech, movement, equine and animal therapy

**EXPERT CARE:** High standards of care consistently recognised

**SUSTAINABILITY:** Since 1940 we have been at the forefront of taking care of the environment and continue to lead the way with our journey to net zero

**ONSITE MEDICAL SUPPORT:** Conventional and extended healthcare via NHS GP Practice and the Camphill Wellbeing Trust

**UNDERPINNED BY**

- A whole person approach
- Strong positive relationships
- A therapeutic environment
- Mutual care and respect for each other and the environment

# Our future starts today...

Phase one is underway. We are initially seeking £3 million to build a new residential home and £500,000 to develop a new social enterprise which will extend our workshops to the wider community.

Our first project will build an 11-bedroom residential house with a separate independent living wing- a new home within our Camphill community for seven young people and four staff or gap year volunteers. Sharing day-to-day living is what makes our model so successful.

The wing will provide us with the flexibility to accommodate highly complex young people who are unable to fully participate in “home” life or as an option for young people who have the potential to move onto independent living- providing them with the skills they would need for adulthood.

This new build will allow us to add extra residential placements and increase our ability to adapt to ever-changing needs while ensuring we can support the most vulnerable young people in urgent need. The house has been jointly designed with our young people and has environmental sustainability and accessibility at its heart.





Camphill Architecture and Development



Collective Architects



Clear evidence that the provision across education, day services and residential care is truly person-centred with excellent levels of participation from the individuals being supported. Young people are given the space to be themselves and are encouraged to celebrate their differences and personal achievements and to explore personal interests. At the same time, high expectations are set for them in terms of progression and the development of life skills.”

National Autistic Society, February 2020

# From humble beginnings to a global movement

**We're proud of our impressive history and all that has been achieved at Camphill School Aberdeen since pioneering Austrian paediatrician Dr Karl König and a group of fellow refugees fled to Aberdeen at the start of World War II. They chose the Camphill Estate to establish a school for children with learning disabilities. The first of its kind in the UK and a highly innovative move at the time.**

From those small beginnings, following his founding principles of creating a safe and inclusive community for children and young people with disabilities to grow, learn and live happy and fulfilled lives, the Camphill movement has flourished and is now one of the largest movements of independent charities in the world. There are now more than 120 independent charities supporting millions of children, young people and adults with additional support needs. Seven of them are based here in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. The home of Camphill.

Our history and approach are what set us apart from other settings and we are widely respected for our sector-leading services and outcomes for our children and young people.

**Now it's time to write our next chapter.**

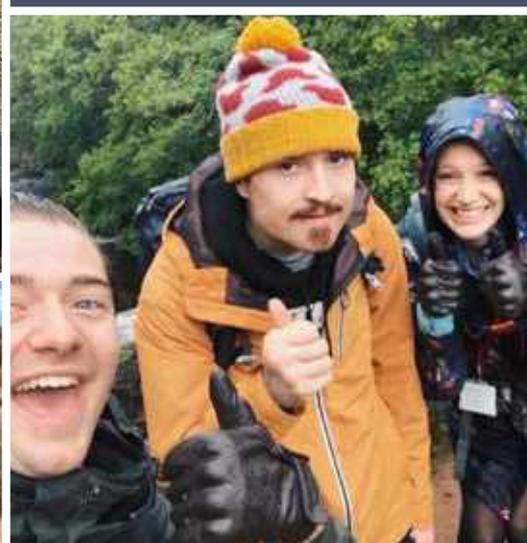




## One community, endless potential

“ The exceptional environment was well used to allow all young people to contribute to the life of the community in a meaningful way. The individual contribution of all of the young people to the household they lived in was valued and meaningful. Recognition and celebration of diversity and uniqueness were central to the ethos of the service and demonstrated in the daily opportunities young people had to grow in skill and confidence.”

Care Inspectorate, 9 October 2019



# Camphill School Aberdeen in numbers

## 33%

increase in the number of disabled children in the UK over the past 10 years to nearly 1 million. Their needs are becoming ever more complex

(Disabled Children's Partnership, July 2018)

## 140%

increase in placement enquiries during 2021 – unprecedented

## 60%

annual growth in Learning for Life services in the last 3 years

## £9.8million

majority of income is funded by public bodies that do not fund capital expansion

## 87%

of our young people achieved or exceeded their personal milestones in 2021 despite Covid-19

## 92%

of Parents rate Camphill 5 Stars out of 5 (Parent Survey, June 2021)



# 95%

of parents see their child's health and wellbeing has improved since attending Camphill School Aberdeen

(Parent survey, June 2021)

# 40%

(on average) drop in behaviours that challenge is seen in young people who attend Camphill

# 31,000

volunteer hours per year

# 99

young people have completed their Duke of Edinburgh award with 19 achieving gold

# 230

highly qualified staff, 60 gap year volunteers, 95 children and young people

# 13,650

workshop hours per year

# 1,680

therapy hours



“ You get treated for who you are and not your learning disability.”

Katie – Camphill Pupil 2020



# We Live, Learn and Work Together



The programme for my son has been innovative, collaborative and forward-thinking. Camphill has supported our whole family and we couldn't manage without it."

Camphill Parent, 2021



## Together we can secure the future of Camphill School Aberdeen

**We can't do this without your help. Only together  
can we build a world where everyone is valued,  
respected and empowered to reach their potential,  
no matter their ability.**

Get in touch with us today and make the world  
of difference to our vulnerable young people.

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