

# Little Grove

Little Grove Community Interest Company is a registered not-for-profit social enterprise based in Bushey, Hertfordshire.

We work with children and young people who have a learning disability & provide them with support services during the day, in the evenings and during weekends & school holidays. We also offer regular overnight stays and are open all year round.

## Who runs Little Grove?

### **Dawn Owen**



Dawn has worked with children & young people with a disability for over 15 years. She has run play centres, residential services, family day services and worked privately with a number of local families. She has a BSc(Hons) in Psychology and a Level 3 qualification in Child Care, Learning & Development.

### **Kelly Allen-Williams**

Kelly has a BSc(Hons) in Adult Nursing and worked as a Nurse within the NHS for 8 years. She has also worked for over 15 years with families providing child care and Maternity Nursing. During her career, she has worked regularly with young people with additional needs and has been working at Little Grove for 4 years.



### **Jodie Owen**



Jodie has worked with children & young people with a disability for over 5 years. Her family were also Shared Carers throughout her childhood so she has grown up around young people with additional needs. She has a BSc(Hons) in Humanities. Jodie was previously managing a property company but now works full-time at Little Grove. She is also a private tutor. Jodie & Dawn are sisters.

*Each of them has all their mandatory training for both child and adult social care, are qualified in British Sign Language and have up-to-date enhanced DBS checks. They are fully insured and registered with all the necessary regulatory bodies.*

We have all been good friends since our school days & we now work together as Directors of Little Grove C.I.C

We started the project in 2011 at the request of a small number of families whose disabled children had nowhere suitable to go to be with their friends & to learn the skills they needed.

Together we found a house (with a generous landlord), gathered up some toys and resources and began caring for two or three children for just a few evenings a week.

However, other families soon became aware of us and we were inundated with young people wanting to get involved. As each new person was welcomed into Little Grove, the service gradually grew & we now work regularly with over 17 families and have a waiting list.

## What is Little Grove?

At Little Grove, we provide a comfortable, home-from-home environment in which children and young people can spend time with their friends, learning new skills & trying new things.

- Trips & Activities
- Building Confidence.
- Learning Skills around the Home



- Time away from parents/Carers
- Meeting & Making friends
- Having FUN!

The children & young people at Little Grove all have a learning disability and many of them have autism. This can make life more difficult for them and so for some; they may need more intensive support to help them overcome these challenges.

For many, accessing mainstream services can be tricky & with few specialist services available, they have very limited social or leisure opportunities. For others, their behaviour or high levels of anxiety can prevent them from going out & doing regular activities such as swimming or visiting the shops.

At Little Grove, we aim to cater to these children & young people by offering the personalised support they need to reach their potential.

Every young person at Little Grove has their own success story to tell. They have grown in confidence, in independence and they now thoroughly enjoy lots of new opportunities that in the past, they may not have thought possible.

Through building strong, trusting relationships and creating a safe & nurturing space – young people at Little Grove are gaining the skills they need to live more independently and to interact with others in a more positive and fulfilling way.

## What is the future for Little Grove?

Little Grove is a social enterprise which means it operates as a limited company but with all the profit it makes, spent exclusively on the people that use the service. It is not registered as a charity because its long-term aim is to be self-sufficient and therefore, sustainable for the future.

Little Grove has come a long way since we began in 2011 and has done so on parents contributions, a generous Landlord & a great deal of time, resources and financial backing from the Directors.

We are now actively seeking to fundraise some much needed money to help them sustain and develop the service so that many more families can benefit.