Seashell

Transforming the young lives of those with the most complex disabilities

Our Impact, 2023-24

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Our Mission

Seashell helps children and young adults with the most complex needs, and their families, live their best lives.

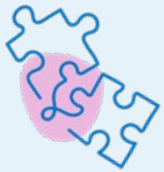
Our Vision

Seashell aims to be exceptional in educating and caring for children and young adults with the most complex needs, with an amazing workforce supporting families from its world-class campus, and to share its excellence on a national and international platform.

Our Values

Integrity

Innovation



Involvement

Hello & welcome to Seashell

At Seashell, we transform the young lives of those with the most complex disabilities from across the country.

Based in Stockport, Greater Manchester, we operate a non-maintained special school (4-19 years), an independent specialist college (16-25 years) together with residential facilities and respite for children and young adults with the most complex disabilities.

Students attending our school and college often arrive at Seashell at crisis point, when other provision has been unable to meet their high level of need. But thanks to our unique expertise and environment, we see children and young adults make life changing progress, that has an enormous impact on their future.

We also deliver this support beyond our school and college to individuals, organisations and familes from across the country, this allows us to extend our reach and impact on the SEND community.....something we are proud to have been doing for over 200 years.

As experts in our field, we continue to lead the way. We demonstrate what works and use this to inform our own practice and the wider world. I'm delighted to share with you what we've been able to achieve.

This year we celebrated the first anniversary of The Moulding Foundation Building, a new environment for our school students and one which is already having a significant positive impact on progress, behaviour and wellbeing. We also launched the next phase of our Transforming Lives Appeal, to build a new home for our college. The Ged Mason Building will match the industry leading standard of The Moulding Foundation Building. With £3m left to raise of our £10m target, we need all the help we can get to make this much needed facility a reality.

This report gives a voice to the people we support, and to our colleagues, partners and funders who make it all possible. Together we are building a brighter future, not just for today or tomorrow, but I believe for generations to come.

Brandon Leigh
Chief Executive, Seashell

Our year in numbers...

In total, more than **8,000** people benefitted from our wide range of services and facilities in 2023/24. This included:

Education and care for over **130** children and young adults with some of the most complex disabilities in the country

Fully inclusive sports, activities and facilities accessed by over **2,600** children and adults from the community

Information, advice and training to over **300** families, to help them support their child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Training and support to almost **200** organisations and more than **300** professionals to enable them to become more supportive and inclusive

In 2018, we commissioned an independent assessment of the **social impact** and value of the education and care services we provide.

By significantly improving life outcomes of our students and their families, it is estimated that we reduce the cost of each student's health and social care needs by **£420,733**.

Our work doesn't stop there...

We are committed to understanding the complex needs population better, and are working with specialist organisations and condition specific charities to capture data that will help with planning of future provision. Our **National Complex Needs Survey** has already demonstrated that organisations like ours have seen notable changes to their cohort in the last five years.

Key achievements

We strive to celebrate all achievements, big or small. *To name just a few*, this year, we are proud to have been awarded:

Ofsted Outstanding for the fourth inspection running (since 2009) at Royal School Manchester

CQC Outstanding for our health services. Our report was featured on the government website as an example of consistent excellent practice

Autism Accreditation, Advanced Award and we are working towards 'Beacon award'

Investors in Volunteers and working towards **Investors in Diversity, Silver Accreditation**

A contract to deliver **MQ MSI PGDip** (mandatory qualification in MSI). We are one of just two providers nationally of this specialist course

Recognition as a **Limitless Focus Club**, receiving a plaque for our inclusive Bradbury Cycling Centre

Excellent in TILS (Tackling inequalities in Leisure Standard)

Investors in Volunteers with over 50 regular volunteers

5 star hygiene rating in our catering facilities

Our students' needs

The children and young adults who attend our school and college have a **high complexity of need**. All of our students have severe to profound learning disabilities with limited or no functional communication skills.

They will have conditions including:	They will require specialist multidisciplinary support including:	
Multisensory impairment (MSI)	Specialist MSI, VI, HI & ASC teachers	
Visual impairment (VI)	Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT)	
Hearing impairment (HI)	Occupational Therapy (OT)	
Autism spectrum conditions (ASC)	Physiotherapy	Audiology
Mental health needs	Art and Music Psychotherapy	
Behaviours of distress	Mental Health	Nursing
Complex health needs	Positive Behaviour Support	
Gross and fine motor disability	Assistive Technology	

Providing an education for this low incidence, high need cohort requires a highly specialist environment and skilled workforce - **Seashell is one of very few places that can provide this.**

School students

May have had previous placement breakdowns.

Residential placements focus on care needs, even when education may have been met within their Local Authority (LA).

May not have had their statutory entitlement to teachers with mandatory qualifications and specialist support.

College students

Approx 80% progress from maintained special schools (around 20% come from our school).

May apply for a residential placement as a stepping stone to supported living.

May not have had their statutory entitlement to teachers with mandatory qualifications and specialist support at school level.

We are so hopeful for Arthur's future...

Arthur was diagnosed with ASC (Autism Spectrum Conditions) when he was three years old - he is largely non verbal.

At his previous school he was very frustrated and overwhelmed. He was isolated a lot due to his behaviours, only being able to attend school for two hours a day. His anxiety was reaching such levels that he was self harming.

As a family we were desperate to find a better solution for Arthur. ***No local authority schools were able to meet his needs.***

When I was first shown a classroom at Seashell I nearly burst into tears, because I just thought 'this is what he needs'. The second he walked in his new space, you could immediately tell he felt at home.

The most important thing for us was that you could see how the staff were relating to Arthur. I could see it from the initial assessment he had. They had him interacting better than he ever had with someone he had only just met.

I can see him building his independence and confidence. He is mentally stimulated, and the staff have looked at what motivates him, and they use that to scaffold his learning.

If he is more independent in the future, that is beneficial to absolutely everyone. I can't imagine where we would be without Seashell.

Neryssa, Arthur's Mum

62 children attend
Royal School Manchester
12 of which are residential students

70 young adults attend
Royal College Manchester
28 of which are residential students

92% of our students require one-to-one support (or more) to access their education

88% of School students achieved their individual education plan targets for the year

88% of students achieved 'expected' or 'better than expected' progress during their time with us

98% of College students achieved their destination goals for the year

36% of College students reduced their need for support per week as they had become more independent

Our aim is for some students to be able to return to their local maintained provision. This comes at a lower cost to Comissioners, whilst enabling these children and young adults to achieve optimum outcomes.

We prepare our students for life, developing skills for communication, self-advocacy and independence.

Seashell students are more likely to progress into paid employment, with **25%** of College leavers progressing into paid employment in the last year (significantly higher than the national average of 4.8%).

Armaghan's Story...

Armaghan graduated from Royal College Manchester in 2023. When he first joined us, his ADHD and Autism meant he found it hard to communicate with others, and he could get easily distracted.

Benefiting from the routine and structure, Armaghan thrived in his College residential placement with us. He was able to explore his keen interest in art, and was given opportunities to explore this further, exhibiting and selling his creations in numerous outlets, including an art gallery in Manchester.

Using the skills, knowledge and behaviours he learnt during his time with us, he took on several work placements, including one at wholesale supplier, and longstanding Seashell supporter, Laltex. Thanks to his hard work and determination during his work experience, he secured a paid position upon leaving college.

Now, he is a calm, happy, young adult who is able to focus on tasks, and his attention to detail has been praised by his employers.

Armaghan's success truly represents what we set out to achieve for our students.

12 students live at Seashell in our **Children's Residential Care Homes**

12 children access our short breaks service

28 students live at Seashell in our **Young Adults Residential Care Homes**

5 young adults access our short breaks service

30% of our students have a full time residential placement. **12%** live with us part-time in our short breaks homes, giving their families vital respite.

24/7 Residential life helps students reach their educational outcomes as a result of our **24 hour curriculum**

Residents have more access to our industry leading facilities, as well as off site activities that help **increase independence and self discovery...**

Weekly social clubs include art, music & cycling. Off site activities, include trampolining, climbing, horse riding & visits to local National Trust sites.

34% of residential students reduced their need for support per week as they had become more independent

92% of families feel their child is safe, well cared for and enjoys residential life

Families have access to our family flat, which was booked out for **89** nights during this academic year

"Max really is living his best life!

Max lives part-time at Seashell as part of his college placement, and we couldn't be happier with the progress he has made already in his first year.

Before Max joined Seashell, he was socially isolated and found making friends near impossible. He is very dependent on the support of adults, especially us as parents, which could be very difficult as a family.

*Due to his syndrome, Max can find going outside challenging - we have even struggled to get him into our garden. But since being at Seashell, especially having the extended support through his residential placement, his confidence has grown and he happily takes part in a range of activities. This has enabled him to discover more about himself and what he enjoys doing...**we are so proud of the progress he's made.***

Having the opportunity to stay at Seashell during the week has increased his independence and self-esteem hugely. Although we miss him during the week, having that space helps us feel energised when he comes home at the weekends.

Paula, Max's Mum

47% of our students are non-verbal

We use our expert knowledge to develop our students ability to communicate their needs. **49%** of our students have been taught to use communication aids such as iPads, signs, symbols and objects of reference.

33% of our students have a sensory impairment

Our team of Qualified MSI Teachers, Speech & Language Therapists, Occupcational Therapists, Audiologists, Assistive Technologists and Habilitation Specialists, offering a holistic approach to supporting this unique population of learners.

Our specialist, multidisciplinary teams support both our **students on campus** as well as **organisations, professionals** and **families nationally**

Our external Health & Wellbeing team have...

Helped almost **200** organisations to become more supportive and inclusive of children and young adults with complex needs

Supported over **300** professionals with training, consulation and advice

Provided advice, training and support to over **100** families of children and young adults with special educational needs

Our **Seashell Active** team engage with over **15** key community groups and partners to ensure that we provide the best services in our local community to children and young adults with the most complex needs.

CADS is our inclusive sports and activity programme. It is one of very few provisions that is able to offer one-to-one support for participants. This level of support is essential for some of the children and young adults who attend.

42 children attend our weekly Saturday CADS

90 children attended Easter CADS sessions

170 children are attending Summer CADS

"CADS makes a huge difference to so many families. It has been life changing for us – thank you." **– CADS parent**

81 children with additional needs from the local community attend swimming lessons with us each week. **42** of which have one-to-one lessons.

For many of these children, this is the first time they have been able to access swimming lessons thanks to our specialist team & inclusive facilities.

345

enquiries from families about a placement with us

46

prospective student families welcomed to our campus

33

new student admissions to School and College

We receive new enquiries on a weekly basis and continue to work together to better understand family and local authority need

In 2024, our Family Services Team...

Gave direct support to **178** families (current and prospective students)

Supported over **400** parent carers from across our community through the delivery of free SEND workshops, coffee mornings and networking events

We are proud to be accredited **Charter Gold for outstanding practice in co-production.**

"...an excellent example of truly inclusive and person-centred provision" - Genuine Partnerships Accreditation Team

We strive to ensure the views of children, young adults and their families are embedded in our policies, procedures and services.
In our 2024 Family Survey, we found:

93% agree that we work in partnership with parent/carers

91% think Seashell provides all the information they need

93% feel well supported by Seashell

We held a host of events to give children and young adults with complex needs and their families valuable experiences, bringing our communities together.

Hallé Relaxed Concerts
A special, inclusive musical series allowing attendees the chance to discover the wonders of instrumental music in a new environment.

Intercollege Sports Day
A day of inclusive sport bringing together over **150** students from **15** specialist colleges from across the North West. Hosted by Seashell in collaboration with Natspec - the Association of National Specialist Colleges.

Seashell Summer fair
Over **1,000** joined us on campus for our superhero themed event.

713 members of staff make up our multidisciplinary team

52 individuals support our staff teams in a voluntary role

12 apprentices are beginning their career with us

182 **new starters** began their Seashell journey and joined our team this year

Training and development opportunities encourage our staff to **progress in their careers...**

12,080 staff training activities delivered (16 per staff member)

1,602 person centred training interventions delivered to build on staff skills and knowledge

We are proud to have achieved **Disability Confident Employer Accreditation.**

We have **4** supported employment roles, with **2** new starters joining this year

Our staff numbers have increased by **20%** since 2022

Our team are experts in supporting the complex needs of our students and service users.

"The staff are the best thing about Seashell. Their expertise, professionalism, care and dedication to helping our child progress and thrive is second to none." - Parent carer, Seashell Family Survey 2024

"I can't imagine working anywhere else!

I found out about Seashell while searching for a voluntary position during the school holidays - I previously worked as a teaching assistant (TA) in a mainstream primary school. As soon as I saw the amazing work Seashell does for children and young adults with the most complex disabilities, ***I could feel in my heart that was something I wanted to be part of.***

I joined Seashell as a Hybrid TA in 2020, working in the Children's Residential Homes and School. I learnt so much from my new colleagues including health care professionals, the behaviour support team, and of course the teaching and care staff, and all the creative ways they support the complex needs of our students.

During the weekends and holidays I began working at CADS, our inclusive health and wellbeing programme. Wow...I loved CADS from my very first shift! After a year of working as a Team Leader, I was given the opportunity to take on more responsibility and co-ordinate some sessions. I really enjoyed using my new skillset in the planning process, and was able to truly see how much CADS impacts families. I am proud to have progressed to my current role as Seashell's Senior CADS Development Officer.

I'm also an honorary member of the Fundraising Team, volunteering at events like the annual ball, as well as cheering on challenge eventers... it brings tears to my eyes when I see so many people from the wider community coming together to raise money for our incredible students.

Samantha, Senior CADS Development Officer

337 amazing individuals took on a challenge for us

28 organisations chose Seashell as their charity partner

673 individuals visited our campus on a corporate volunteer day

We need to raise in excess of **£1.5m every year** to enable us to offer the children and young adults we support with the best experiences

200+ runners in the Great Manchester Run, raised over **£25,000**

£25,000 could send 20 students to an inclusive activity centre so they can experience their first adventure holiday

104 players signed up to our lottery, raising **£3,209**

£3,209 could fund 1:1 support for 30 children so they can experience our inclusive activity and sports camps

278 supporters attended our Beacon of Hope Ball, helping us raise an amazing **£153,000**

£153,000 could fund a Rebound Therapy suite in The Ged Mason Building, the new home to our College

57 walkers did the Yorkshire Three Peaks, raising **£16,260**

£16,260 could fund Eyegaze Technology to support non-verbal students to communicate for the first time

Each time I visit Seashell, it is always a very humbling experience for me and I always leave with a more positive and resilient outlook to life.

Seeing first-hand the challenges and barriers that some members of our community face, and how they overcome them with the support of the amazing staff there. it always puts your own challenges into perspective.

I am lucky to have worked with Seashell for a number of years and am thankful for the opportunity I've had to support them in continuing to make a positive difference to the children and young adults who use their services.

Ryan, Together Money

Supporting Seashell is not just an opportunity; it's a commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of the children and young adults. Citation's involvement with Seashell allows us to contribute to a brighter future, empowering young individuals to reach their full potential and fostering a more inclusive society where every child's unique abilities are celebrated.

Melanie, The Citation Group

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Our students and community benefit from some of the best, inclusive facilities and equipment in the country.

Our 30-acre site provides a safe environment for children and young adults with the most complex disabilities to have experiences that are difficult, and in some cases, impossible to access elsewhere.

Our one-of-a-kind **Bradbury Cycling Centre** and fleet of **40+** adaptive cycles have given over **600** children and young adults with complex disabilities the opportunity to the opportunity to safely build their confidence and skills on a bike.

Our **Zochonis Audiology Suite** is sensitively designed to offer a highly specialist and accessible environment to allow young people with complex needs to access audiology services where previous environments have failed.

The facilities within **The Moulding Foundation Building** such as light, sound and temperature controls have enabled staff to design and deliver a positive behaviour support programme that has seen an **overall decrease of incidents** within the classroom for the **whole school cohort**.

The programme's findings saw:

70% decrease in 'anxious behaviour'

80% increase in 'calm behaviour'

70% decrease in 'low mood'

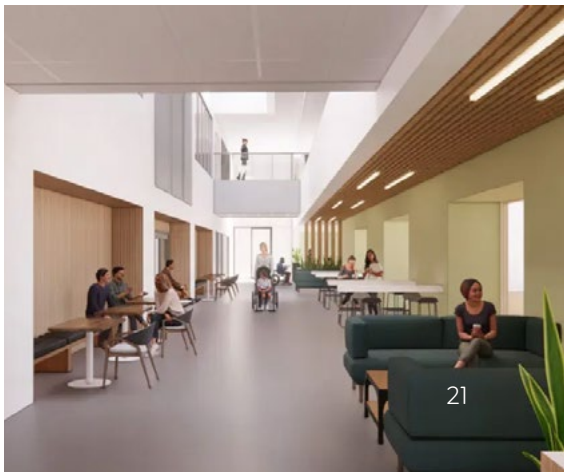
Building a better future

We have pledged to redevelop our entire campus to create facilities that set the gold standard for all special education establishments. Over the past decade, we are proud to have built Sir Norman Stoller Way, a close of 17 residential care homes, an all-weather sports pitch, The Bradbury Cycling Centre, an inclusive cycle track and trail, and The Moulding Foundation Building, the new home to our School.

We are now in the next phase of our campus transformation and are building a new college - The Ged Mason Building - with facilities that will help prepare our students for a fulfilling life in the community.

Since launching this phase of our Transforming Lives Appeal in November 2023, **we have raised £7m, with £3m still to go.**

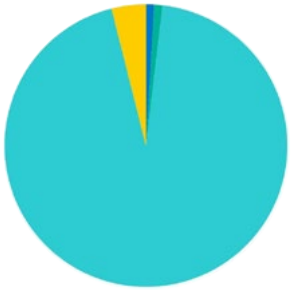
Our ambition doesn't stop there. We will continue to plan for the ongoing development of our campus in order to extend our reach and grow our impact. We are excited about the future - one in which we anticipate more children, young adults and their families accessing our services and facilities, and where our unique knowledge and skills can be shared with a growing number of organisations, professionals and families.



Year ended 31 August 2023

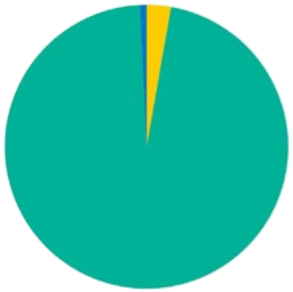
Annual income & expenditure*

Unrestricted **Income**



	£'000
Charitable activities	19,692
Donations and legacies	840
Investments	66
Other trading activities	65
Total	**20,663**

Unrestricted **Expenditure**



	£'000
Charitable activities	19,922
Raising funds	576
Other	94
Total	**20,592**

*The Trust aims to record a small financial surplus, before depreciation charges, each year and, in the year, reported a surplus before depreciation on unrestricted funds of £71,000.

"Seashell has changed my life..."

My name is Mollie, and I am the Fundraising and Engagement Ambassador at Seashell.

Back in 2020, I started as a student at Royal College Manchester. I'm grateful to the teachers, the support workers and all the other staff who helped me along the way, enabling me to take on new challenges.

Thanks to Seashell, I am here today with the confidence and skills to go forward and start my career in fundraising. I am so proud to be able to work for the charity that helped transform my life.

Being part of the Fundraising Team is a dream come true!

I've been lucky to have so many fantastic experiences already. From doing a Q&A with Gethin Jones, welcoming HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh to Seashell, and raising vital funds at the Beacon of Hope Ball.

I can't wait to see what exciting things will happen in the future.

Mollie, Fundraising and Engagement Ambassador

Keep in touch

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