

Contacting NGAGE

We cover the whole county, and have dedicated workers for **Northampton, Kettering, Corby, Daventry, Wellingborough, South Northamptonshire** and **East Northamptonshire**. Get in touch, and we can put you in contact with the relevant team member.

NGAGE also has a named **Youth Participation Worker** who is committed to promoting the voice of young people in the design and delivery of the service, and who runs our youth group **Evolve**, offering positive activities and opportunities for young people to get involved.

All permanent staff members have undergone enhanced DBS checks.

Tel: **01604 633 848**

Email: ypnorthamptonshire@aquarius.org.uk

Our office is based at: **81 St Giles Street, Northampton, NN1 1JF**

You can also contact a specific member of our team:



EVOLVE is managed by **Aquarius**, a Midlands based charity that supports people to overcome the harms caused by alcohol, drugs and gambling.

Registered charity number: 1014305



Aquarius is part of **Recovery Focus**, a national group of charities inspiring recovery by providing bold, innovative services to support people on their personal recovery journeys.

NGAGE
with **aquarius**

Information for **Professionals**



Supporting YOUNG PEOPLE to promote positive choices about drug and alcohol use

We are **NGAGE with Aquarius**. We work with young people aged 10 – 18 years across Northamptonshire to provide early intervention drug and alcohol services. Our mission is to work with young people to prevent or reduce their use of drugs and alcohol through 1:1 interventions and introducing them to positive, meaningful activities.

What **NGAGE** offers

Our team offers a **free and confidential** service for young people, which includes:

- **Community based assessments** for young people who demonstrate behaviours associated with the use of drugs and/or alcohol
- **One to one sessions** with young people assessed as needing support to make positive changes to reduce the risk of substance use
- Working collaboratively alongside S2S with clients who need additional support such as prescribing, detox or residential rehab
- **Brief advice and information sessions** for young people at risk of or experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol
- Structured group work with young people
- Awareness raising sessions in community settings
- Working with our colleagues from other Aquarius services to identify opportunities and co-produce positive activities and events which our young people can engage in. This includes volunteering and training opportunities for young people using our service
- Working alongside our young people and other Aquarius colleagues to raise awareness about drug and alcohol use in local communities.

In addition to the support we provide to young people, we also provide bespoke training sessions to other professionals around working with young people and substance misuse.

Who can use NGAGE?

We support young people aged 10-18 in localities across Northamptonshire who are:

- Wanting advice and information about drugs and/or alcohol use
- Potentially vulnerable to substance misuse through peer networks
- Considered vulnerable to substance misuse due to living in a family where substance misuse is identified as an issue
- Using drugs and/or alcohol and would like to reduce the harm caused
- Wanting to reduce their drug and/or alcohol use, or stop completely
- Using drugs and/or alcohol to cope with negative emotions or anger issues
- At risk of drug or alcohol use negatively impacting their future
- Needing an opiate substitute prescription
- Needing support into inpatient detox for alcohol dependency.

“it helps to be able to talk to someone and let it out and get it out of my system”

NGAGE client

Making a referral

If you know a young person who might benefit from our support, you can make a referral to us as long as the young person gives you prior consent to do so.

If you have consent to make a referral, please contact a member of our team to request a referral form.

Upon receiving a referral form, we will contact the young person or referrer to book an initial assessment appointment to discuss the needs of the young person and what we can offer. We are a proactive service and will endeavour to engage the young person in our service in a way that best suits them.

This includes offering appointments at a time to suit them.

How we work

Following a referral to NGAGE, we aim to meet young people in schools, complimentary education settings, colleges, GP surgeries. If required, we will also arrange home visits.

The purpose of our work is to support young people to achieve their goals and we use Fraser guidelines regarding parental consent.

We work holistically with young people, not just focusing on the issues relating to substance use, but looking at all areas of a young person's life where they may need additional support.

We accept referrals from all agencies, parents and young people themselves.

Evolve with NGAGE

Experience tells us that positive and meaningful activities can have a massive impact on a young person's life and help them to achieve their goals. One way we support this is by introducing our young people to **Evolve**, a social value group of like-minded young people, run by NGAGE, who meet on Monday evenings.

Evolve has five core purposes:

Creating a youth-orientated service:

The Evolve group provide us with a range of feedback on various aspects of the services we offer for young people. A key part of this process includes involving young people in the recruitment, interviewing and selection of new members of staff, marketing and communications.

Peer mentoring: We train young people to be peer mentors to other clients, usually supporting them through the period of time after their formal drug or alcohol work has come to an end.

Training: We offer training around a variety of topic areas that young people tell us are of benefit to them (money management, for example)

“EVOLVE has helped me make friends and gives me pride knowing I'm part of a group and community doing productive work but in a relaxed friendly manner”
NGAGE client

You Can: You Can is a small fund which is used to enhance the opportunities of our clients – for example, to pay for music lessons. Evolve considers all applications to You Can and commissions funds to clients accordingly.

Peer education: Evolve develops education projects that are important and relevant to young people and actively works to campaign and educate their peers in the local community.



Aquarius is a Midlands based charity that has over 40 years' experience supporting individuals, families, organisations and communities to overcome the physical, emotional and psychological harms caused by alcohol, drugs and gambling.

Aquarius recognises that alcohol, drug and gambling use does not just affect individuals. More often than not, the consequences of these behaviours also have a great impact on families, friends and loved ones and we pride ourselves on delivering services that offer support to those affected.

Our services are underpinned by cognitive behavioural approaches and methodologies, all of which centre around the following concepts:

- That people use substances and carry out certain behaviours in order to cope with a variety of problems
- That people are responsible for their own thoughts, feelings and actions and are capable of change
- With the right support, at the right time, people can change their behaviours and find alternative ways in which to cope with their problems.

The recovery ethos is at the heart of the services Aquarius provides and this drives our commitment to work alongside our clients to discover new passions, meet new people and identify ways in which to challenge problem behaviours for a better future.

We believe that with the right support, at the right time, people have the ability to find their own solutions to the challenges facing them.

For more information about Evolve, please contact the team on 01604 633848