



# INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

**NGAGE** is managed by **Aquarius**, A Midlands-based charity supporting people to change their behaviours and live a life they value.

# Why **NGAGE**?

**We are NGAGE with Aquarius.** We work with young people aged 10–25 across North Northamptonshire, providing specialist drug and alcohol services. Our mission is to support young people to prevent or reduce their drug and alcohol use through 1:1 interventions and by introducing them to positive, meaningful activities.

Supporting young  
people to make positive  
choices around drug  
and alcohol use



# 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 partnerships** 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 10-25 in localities across North 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 use 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 or benzodiazepine 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.

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

## How we work

**Following a referral to [NGAGE](#), we aim to meet young people in schools, complementary 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.



# Evolve and Rise

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 young people aged 10–17 to **Evolve** and those aged 18–25 to **Rise**. These are **NGAGE** social value groups where like-minded young people meet fortnightly to connect, take part in activities, and get involved in opportunities.

**Evolve & Rise** have **four** core purposes:

**Creating a youth-orientated service:**

Both Evolve and Rise 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).

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

**“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**

**For more information about Evolve or Rise, please contact the team on: 01604 633848**



# AQUARIUS

**We are a charity supporting people affected by alcohol, drugs and gambling across the Midlands and beyond.** For over 40 years, we've worked with individuals, families and communities to help them understand their behaviour, overcome harm and move towards a life they value

Everyone's experience is different. That's why we offer support that adapts to individual needs, life stages and communities:

## Alcohol

We help people explore their drinking, reduce harm, and build strategies for change.

## Drugs

We offer support to anyone affected by substance use, whether it's themselves or someone else's.

## Gambling

We support both adults and young people across the region with advice, intervention and recovery.



# CONTACT US

We cover **North Northamptonshire**. Get in touch, and we can connect you with the relevant team member.

**NGAGE** also has a dedicated **Youth Participation Worker** who is committed to promoting the voice of young people in the design and delivery of our services. They also run our youth groups, **Evolve** and **Rise**, offering positive activities and opportunities for young people to get involved.

**All staff members have undergone enhanced DBS checks to ensure a safe and supportive environment.**

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**Phone:** 01604 633848

**Website:** [www.aquarius.org.uk](http://www.aquarius.org.uk)

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**You can also contact a specific member of the NGAGE team:**

**NGAGE**  
with Aquarius



**AQUARIUS**