

“I do a lot of listening”



Mark Wedden from the Surrey Care Trust's STEPS programmes supports young people in school

My work involves working in four schools offering intensive support to pupils who are struggling in school and have been highlighted as needing this service.

Being male, a lot of my clients are chosen due to the fact that they have no or limited experience of a positive male role model, hence mostly boys.

The issues that arise are mainly anger and frustration. They feel that teachers and supporting staff do not understand their issues.

I offer a service that is non-judgemental, honest, confidential and safe.

By not being a teacher, I can give them quality time that encourages them to explore these issues and not put pressure or demands on them.

Many people have asked me "How do you evaluate or quantify your effectiveness?"

The simple answer is "I can't".

What I do know is, that the young people have told me that it gives them a chance and opportunity to

talk and express their feelings and "get things off their chest". This is the reason why I do, and enjoy my job. I went through a tough time at school myself and would have greatly benefited from this kind of support.

Their attendance is consistent, and I gauge my effectiveness by this.

Not all the young people respond. Maybe they don't like or trust me, or it is not the right time for them to receive help and advice. My training has equipped me with the skills to deal with this and to not take it personally.

The joy and pleasure for me is when, as happened recently, a pupil walked in to the session wearing a strange coloured tie. I asked why he was wearing it and he said that the school had recognised a vast improvement in his attitude and behaviour and had awarded him by making him a prefect. He was made up that I was made up.

He is working towards being a physiotherapist, but the downside is that he supports Reading!

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10 ways to make a difference by supporting the Surrey Care Trust

- 1** Let us organise an event, large or small, in your house or in your garden,. We recently held an extremely successful cookery demonstration and lunch in a supporter's kitchen.
- 2** Organise your own fundraising event such as a lunch for friends or a coffee morning on our behalf.
- 3** Place an order for Phoenix Cards or sell them to friends to help us raise funds.



- 4** Recommend the Surrey Care Trust as a speaker at groups such as WI, Rotary, Round Table, Soroptomists and Probus.
- 5** Suggest the Surrey Care Trust as a charity of the year at clubs where you are a member or the schools your children attend. We can visit to explain what we do.
- 6** Collect old stamps or mobile phones for recycling.
- 7** Donate unwanted auction items for us to sell on www.buyoncegivetwice.co.uk.
- 8** Become a Friend of the Surrey Care Trust by making a regular monthly or annual donation of any amount.
- 9** Call our events and fundraising team **TODAY** on 01483 412751 or 412762 if you can help with any of the above or if you want to suggest idea number **10**.

"I will make a difference..."

Remembering the Surrey Care Trust in your will ensures that your generosity lives on for future generations