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Photo: Dex

Treat the Whole Family to an Unforgettable Day at the Whirlow Farm Fayre 2024, sponsored by GRI Group!

Whirlow Hall Farm Trust is excited to announce the return of Whirlow Farm Fayre for 2024! The event is sponsored by long-term Whirlow supporters, GRI Group. A spectacular event promising a day filled with laughter, thrills, and unforgettable memories for the entire family. Mark your calendars and join us on Sunday 7th July for an amazing day out with activities and attractions for everyone. As with all Whirlow's events, all money raised will go to supporting some of our region's most vulnerable children and young people.

With adult tickets priced at just £6 and kids enjoying FREE ENTRY, this is the perfect opportunity to treat the whole family. Plus, to make your visit completely hassle-free, we have FREE car parking!

A World of Excitement Awaits!

Kids Workshops, Games & Exciting Activities: From archery and axe throwing to football and an exhilarating assault course, your little adventurers will be in their element!

Rides and Slides: Buckle up for fun on our rides and slides, perfect for children and the young at heart.

Live Entertainment: Enjoy toe-tapping tunes and captivating performances throughout the day!

Street Food and Pop-Up Bar: Treat your taste buds to delicious street food delights, including Whirlow's own barbeque, and adults can relax with a refreshing drink from our pop-up bar.

Pony Rides: Let the kids experience the joy of pony riding, creating unforgettable memories.

Dog Agility & Flyball: Bring along your furry friends for a day of canine excitement! Watch them show off their skills in our dog agility and flyball activities.

Stalls: Discover a treasure trove of goodies at our stalls, offering everything from handmade crafts to local produce.

Classic Cars: Admire the timeless beauty of classic cars on display, a treat for enthusiasts of all ages! This showcase is proudly organised by Abbeydale and Vulcan Sheffield Rotary.

Graham and Sue Royle of GRI Group said "GRI Group are delighted to sponsor the Farm Fayre again this year. Over the years we have sponsored many Whirlow Hall Farm events as they are such great days out for the whole family. As a main sponsor we are privileged to know that all the money raised on the day will go to children who will benefit from additional support. Well done Whirlow Hall Farm!"

Join us for a day packed with fun, laughter, and excitement at Whirlow's Farm Fayre 2024! Don't miss out on this fantastic event, and support some of our region's most vulnerable children and young people.

This event will help support youngsters like Dex.

Dex's Story

Dex came to Whirlow when they were 14 years old. They weren't coping at school; they were struggling with their identity, feeling lost and their mental health was suffering.

Dex's school thought the Whirlow LIFE programmes would be the best place for Dex as they were unable to cope in school five days a week. Dex is bright and articulate but at this point in their life, they needed additional support with education to ensure they could get on further.

"I came to Whirlow at my lowest point" recalls Dex, "But the Whirlow staff were there for me. They created a safe space where I felt comfortable and able to just be myself. They cheered me on and were always by my side"

Dex spent time on the farm, working with the animals and developing new skills. They particularly enjoyed lambing season. "Seeing the beauty of a new life being born in just incredible. I knew I wanted to do something like this, and after the experience at Whirlow and with the support of the staff, I went on to study animal care."

Dex went to Bishop Burton College and gained a Level Two Technical Diploma in Animal Care. This qualification can lead to careers in a wide range of areas ranging from Animal Science and Zoology to Law!

"Whirlow staff continued to encourage me even after I left the Whirlow LIFE programmes. If I was feeling unsure about my new course, or anything else, I could phone them up or pop in, and they would encourage me, and remind me I could do it."

Dex is now working out what they want to do next. For now, they are enjoying having just turned 18 and like to visit Whirlow regularly to enjoy countryside walks and visit the animals.

"Coming to Whirlow feels like coming home."

Editors Notes

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Who we are

Whirlow Hall Farm Trust is an educational and environmental charity based on a working farm in Sheffield. Whirlow exists to reduce anxieties for children and young people who experience complex and debilitating disadvantages and acute trauma.

Our alternative programmes are known as Whirlow LIFE (Learning In a Farming Environment). They are split into two categories:

Secondary Provision (Ages 11 – 18); Working with schools across Sheffield to ensure children with complex needs such as Autism, ADHD, and trauma, and including school refusers, are able to access educational provision focused on progression and reengagement (or reintegration) with education. We work in partnership to deliver to all students from Becton and Kenwood Schools. Becton School is part of the Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust and provides education for children who are unable to attend mainstream school due to medical or mental health reasons. Kenwood School is a special school which provides full-time education for neurodiverse young people with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) for communication and interaction needs alongside social, emotional and mental health needs. All students have a diagnosis or traits of autism.

Post 16 Provision for young adults aged 16+ with moderate to severe Special Educational Needs (SEND). All students have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Outcomes

Our aim is to inspire them to explore their capacity for growth; physically, emotionally, and creatively. Our priority is to reduce anxiety. We can then support the child/young person to re-engage with education.

Eighty-five percent of those we support show a reduction in anxieties within 12 weeks at Whirlow. For those who stay longer, we this increases to 95% within six months.

Success looks different for each child or young person. This could be returning to their school and being more engaged, moving on to a new school, starting at a special school or gaining qualifications to move onto further education. At the end of July 2023, 81% progressed in a way that was suitable for them and their abilities. In July 2022, this was 86%.

Support for our young people aged over 16 with learning disabilities is longer term and our retention rate is 96% which shows this is the right place for them. Ninety-three percent maintain (7%) or improve (86%) their mental and social wellbeing. They also work towards individual targets set by their Education, Health and Care Plan.