

After the cuts, a new era in supporting children

By Richard Curtis
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A service set up to support children, families and schools in West Sussex has worked with 20% of schools in the first ten months. The Root Of It provides a unique one-stop shop for support to primary, secondary and special schools in West Sussex and the South East.

The Root Of It was founded out of a background of local authority cuts and overloaded remaining services that have struggled to cope with demand and left families, children and schools struggling. The founder, Richard Curtis, says "the cuts to local authority budgets have left a huge deficit in specialist support for schools, we were founded to help provide these services in the new era of commissioning, academies and free schools." Richard himself worked for a local authority prior to leaving to establish the service schools have desperately needed.

"We are passionate about helping people get to the root of a child's difficulties. Behaviour is a symptom of an unmet need and our responsibility is to give a child the right tools to use to enable them to succeed in school and the next stage in their life. We want to help change a child's life for good."

Since May 2013 Richard's team has expanded to 18 professionals, including 2 Educational Psychologists, an Education Welfare Office, 6 therapists, 3 Advisory Teachers, a Clinical Psychologist, 2 Speech and Language Therapists, a Youth Worker, a Social Worker and a Family Support Worker.

Together they have provided a range of services to over 95 schools in five local authority areas, including hosting a conference for the Nurture Group Network, training for school teams, work in family homes, running groups in schools, advising on next steps to help children engage in learning, supporting schools in preparing for OfSTED and providing therapy for children. Alongside this they have also developed a personalised book for children with autism and have launched an online support service for schools

"The last ten months with the team have been inspirational; the impact for children has been amazing, the whole team is proud of the difference we have made in schools and homes. Parents, teachers and head teachers have been thanking us for setting up and are keen to hear what we will be offering next." says founder Richard Curtis.

About The Root Of It

The Root Of It was founded in April 2013 to help children with complex needs and disabilities succeed. Richard Curtis has brought together a team of professionals to provide a wrap-round service that includes Clinical Psychology, behaviour advice, Social Work, family support work, Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Play Therapy, Counselling and support for ethnic minorities and low attenders. Richard says "Poor behaviour is a symptom of an underlying difficulty, just like good behaviour is a symptom that a child's needs are being met. The Root Of It work as a team to address the underlying difficulties." The Root Of It provide support to schools, families, early years settings and organisations. For more information, please visit <http://www.rootofit.com>.

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