**Terms and Conditions**

**for the neurodiversity hub social communication groups**

**Description of service**

We will be running social communication groups for 8 weeks at the neurodiversity hub in Bitterne between February and March 2025.

Group topics will include:

* Self-awareness and self-esteem
* Emotional regulation

If you are interested in joining a group you will be asked to tell us your 1st and 2nd choice and we will do our best to put you in the group which is your top choice. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so if your top choice is not available you will be offered your next choice.

You will be offered a block of 8 sessions. The sessions will be for 1 hour and will take place at the same time every week for 8 weeks. The group will include up to 6 people plus 2 facilitators.

The sessions will run as follows:

Week 1:

* Getting to know you activities
* Setting of communication goals to work towards your life goals
* As they get to know you, if the group facilitators think one of the other groups would be more suitable, they will discuss this with you.

Weeks 2-7:

* Focus on one topic from the list above, including fun practical activities and group discussions

Week 8:

* Review of the group’s communication targets and life goals
* Agree next steps for each individual
* Celebrate our achievements!

**Timings**

The timings of the groups are:

**Teenagers (Years 9 – 11)**

9.30-10.30 Emotional regulation

11.00-12.00 Self awareness and self esteem

**Adults (18+)**

1.00-2.00 Emotional regulation

2.30-3.30 Self awareness and self esteem

The groups will run on the following dates:

* Friday 7th February
* Friday 14th February
* Friday 21st February
* Friday 28th February
* Friday 7th March
* Friday 14th March
* Friday 21st March
* Friday 28th March

The group you attend will run at the same time each week for 1 hour. You are expected to attend all 8 sessions so please talk to the group facilitators if there are any sessions you are not able to attend. If the group facilitators think you would be better in a different group after the first week, they will talk to you about this.

**The Speaking Space staff**

Tors Walsh is a speech and language therapist who works in our day service and schools. Mike Terracciano is the lead for social communication in our day service team. Tors and Mike will run the groups together. If one of them is unable to attend due to illness we may need to ask another Speaking Space staff to attend instead so the group can still run.

**Group rules**

It is important that everyone feels safe in the groups. In the first session Tors and Mike will set group rules. This might be things like showing each other respect, listening to each other, keeping what is spoken about confidential. Everyone will be expected to follow these rules during the group.

**Arrival and cancellations**

You will be offered group sessions at an appointed time. Please arrive in good time and ring on the front door of the hub. If you are unable to attend, please telephone 02380 987134 prior to the appointment. If you arrive late, you may or may not still be able to join the group for the remainder of the time. The group leaders will need to decide this depending on the time and if this will disrupt the activities.

**Confidentiality**

Speaking Space (Romsey) Ltd is registered with the Information Commissioners Office and will act in accordance with the GDPR Regulations. Please see our website for more details. This means that any personal details you have shared with us will be kept in a locked secure environment. We will also ask for your consent to use any photographic or electronic data if required.

**Insurance**

If you wish to bring expensive or valuable items, please ensure you have adequate insurance arrangements of your own as we are not liable for any such loss.

**Conditions**

It may be necessary for Speaking Space (Romsey) Ltd to terminate your place in the group without notice. Examples of when this will happen include:

* Behaviour which has an impact on the services being provided or to other group members
* Non-adherence to the terms and conditions or group rules