



# THE VECTIS RADIO 4Ps PROJECT

**NOW IN IT'S SECOND DECADE  
OF CHANGING LIVES**

The Vectis Radio 4Ps Project gives young people something powerful: a voice.

Launched in 2012 as part of the Isle of Wight Council's Youth Offer and becoming a registered charity in 2018, the 4Ps Project has helped over 400 young people aged 11–19 (and up to 25 with additional needs) develop confidence, communication skills, and a sense of purpose — all through radio.

The "4Ps" stand for Presenting, Production, Podcasting, and Promotion — but what we really deliver is self-belief. Whether they're speaking live on air, editing a podcast, or learning how to promote their work, learners are gaining skills that matter far beyond the studio.

Our programme is free, inclusive, and life-changing. It has supported students from all schools across the Island — including those who struggle in traditional settings — helping them re-engage, express themselves, and discover what they're capable of.



**PRESENTING PRODUCTION  
PODCASTING PROMOTION**

In 2020, we extended the course to disadvantaged adults aged 19+, providing vital social contact and renewed confidence to those facing isolation, unemployment, or poor mental health. Many have called it life-changing.

With support from the Isle of Wight Council, Southern Railway Fund, and the Isle of Wight Foundation, we've built a model that works. Now, we want to reach even further.

The need has never been greater. The impact has never been clearer. We are currently working with many schools in particular St George's School and the newly formed Lionheart score which is helping students reconnect with education community and self-worth.

Because when you give a young person a voice, you give them a future!



## CELEBRATING THE STUDENTS OF ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

### VOICES THAT INSPIRE

Since March 2016, students from St. George's School in Newport have been part of something remarkable: their own radio show. As part of the 4Ps Project, twelve students with severe and complex needs have taken to the microphone, sharing their passions — from cooking and gaming to history, football, and local news.

This project isn't just about broadcasting. It's about growth, confidence, and the power of being heard.



George was once afraid people would laugh at him. He struggled to speak clearly and rarely used his voice. Now, just three months in, he confidently presents his own Top Five podcast. His speech has improved dramatically — but more importantly, so has his self-belief.

*"The 4Ps Project has been life-changing."*

Each year, students leave school and have a better chance in life and more students join. Each term, new voices rise. The impact is real — and we can't wait to hear what they say next.



Ben found it hard to concentrate. At first, spinning in his chair was more fun than the studio. Today, he delivers radio segments with focus and clarity, sounding like a seasoned presenter.



Timmy, along with the rest of the group struggled at first, but he now comes in every week delivering his Timmy's Travels feature. When we play it back to him, he can't believe it's him. They've built something special — not just a radio show, but a supportive, creative space where every student shines.

"The 4Ps Project has been life-changing," says Oliver Clare, Work Experience Coordinator. "You can't put a price on what this means. Confidence, self-belief, communication, even reading and writing — the progress is unbelievable."





# THE VECTIS RADIO 4Ps PROJECT

## INSPIRING STORIES FROM THE 4Ps PROJECT

Thanks to funding from SGN, the 4Ps Project is helping 16 to 25-year-olds build confidence and communication through radio. Georgie, 23, struggled with extreme anxiety - described by tutor Ian Mac as the most severe he's encountered. "I was so nervous for my first session, I didn't think I'd last the full two hours," Georgie recalled. With gentle encouragement, she slowly found her voice. Early sessions were challenging, especially recording with unfamiliar people nearby. Ian said it choked me up seeing Georgie aged 23 having to hold her mums hand to get through a recording of her podcasts it was unbearable to watch. Fast forward 6 months, she's gone from silent sessions to speaking live on air - and is now learning to operate the studio desk for her own show, independently.



### Supporting Young Learners

Lionheart School, a newly established Pupil Referral Unit on the Isle of Wight, offers a safe and supportive space for vulnerable students aged 11 to 16. These are young people who face emotional, mental health, or medical barriers to attending mainstream education. Since launching in 2025, Lionheart has partnered with the 4Ps to offer weekly radio sessions. Using radio as a tool for self-expression and skill-building, the program is already helping students regain confidence, improve communication, and take steps toward reintegration into full-time education.



### Adult Learning Through Radio

Launched in 2020 with support from the Isle of Wight Council, our Adult Learning initiative targets isolation by welcoming learners aged 19+ into the world of radio. Many participants had no previous experience but shared a desire for connection and purpose. Through structured sessions, they've learned radio basics—and more importantly, gained community and confidence. The results speak for themselves: over 10 adult learners are now regular contributors to their own radio programs, transforming loneliness into a sense of belonging.





# SHORT BREAKS SATURDAYS

**CONFIDENCE, COMMUNICATION, AND A SPACE TO SHINE**

Short Breaks, funded by the Isle of Wight Council's Children's Services, offers more than just a break for parents and carers — it opens doors for young people with disabilities and additional needs and offers respite care for parents and carers.

Each Saturday morning, the 4Ps Project transforms our radio studio into a place where these young people build real confidence, develop essential life skills, and take centre stage. On a Regular basis we organise an outside broadcast and take the format out on the road so people can see what we do and they are more than happy with this and it doesn't phase them at all.

During the 10 am hour the students put together a podcast that airs that evening. From 11am to 12 noon, only the young presenters are allowed in the live studio — adults can watch through the window, but the mic belongs to the students. At first, many feel nervous. But week after week, they rise to the challenge, surprising even themselves with how far they've come.

Through this course, they learn more than radio. They learn to adapt, to communicate, to trust, and to be proud of who they are.



The impact is clear: improved speech, greater independence, better social interaction — and the pure joy of being heard and understood.

We're proud to have the support of the Isle of Wight Council and the Isle of Wight Foundation. But after the setbacks of the pandemic, the need for connection and confidence has never been greater. We are committed to expanding this programme — and reaching even more young people who need it most.

Because when you give them space to speak, they find the courage to grow.

Discover more about the 4Ps Short Breaks Course at [www.4ps.org.uk](http://www.4ps.org.uk)