

## MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release – 1pm 19.06.24*

### **Respond trauma informed charity to join the Bild Group in 2024**

**The Board of Trustees of Bild (the British Institute of Learning Disabilities) and Respond, a national charity that supports people with learning disabilities and autistic people who have experienced trauma, have announced plans for Respond to join the Bild Group in 2024.**

Respond provides specialist psychotherapy, advocacy and trauma-informed training and consultation and will join three other charities within the Bild Group - Bild, the Restraint Reduction Network (RRN) and Bild ACT.

Bringing Respond's vital work into the Bild Group unites the charities' shared commitment to supporting people with learning disabilities and autistic people through trauma-informed working and championing human rights.

All charities within the Bild Group operate independently with their own Board of Trustees and governance arrangements, whilst sharing a common goal – to help build a more inclusive society where everyone can enjoy the same rights and opportunities.

Ben Higgins, CEO of the Bild Group, said: "We are really looking forward to working more collaboratively with Respond. Respond provide a vital service in the sector and are an example of best practice in trauma-informed and relational working. This positive step enables us to continue and strengthen our collective commitment to improving support for people with learning disabilities and autistic people."

Georgina Hoare, Interim CEO of Respond - who will step down from her role within the organisation at the end of July - said: "I am delighted that Respond is joining the Bild Group and that by working together, we can continue to focus on delivering life-changing trauma-informed services, whilst benefitting from the Bild Group's wider expertise in training delivery, influencing and coproduction.

"This move builds on years of collaborative working between Respond and the Bild Group as members of the Valuing People Alliance and most recently co-hosting trauma-informed conferences, webinars and workshops. There is a natural synergy in values that will allow us to have the biggest impact possible for people with learning disabilities and autistic people who are living with trauma."

Respond will continue to be London-based whilst also offering remote support. There will be no changes to the services received by Respond clients and no roles are at risk of redundancy within Respond or across the wider Bild Group.

A Director of Respond is being recruited, with the process being advertised by the British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (BACP), The Survivors Trust and CharityJob from the 21<sup>st</sup> June.

For further information, and to keep up-to-date with developments, sign up to Bild's newsletter at: <https://bit.ly/BildMail>

**-ENDS-**

### **Media contact**

For further information or to speak to a spokesperson, please contact Clare Stephen, Director of Communications at the Bild Group on [c.stephen@bild.org.uk](mailto:c.stephen@bild.org.uk) or call 0121 415 6960, ext 1026.

### **Further information**

#### **About Bild**

Bild is a national charity that, for 50 years, has protected and supported the rights of people with learning disabilities. We want a more fair and equal society where everyone has the same rights and opportunities.

By working in partnership with people with learning disabilities and autistic people, drawing from research and evidence, we identify best practice and what works. People want the right kind of support so they can make choices and decisions about the things that affect their lives.

The Bild Group - [Bild](#), the [Restraint Reduction Network](#) and [Bild Association of Certified Training](#) – are three independent charities with their own governance arrangements who share the same common goal. Where possible and appropriate, members of the group share resources to enable the group to have a bigger impact and deliver their charitable objects.

#### **About Respond**

[Respond](#) is a national charity providing specialist support services including psychotherapy, advocacy, training and consultation for autistic people and people with learning disabilities, who have experienced trauma and their families.

Our vision is that all people with learning disabilities and autistic people who experience trauma are empowered to thrive. We reduce the impact of trauma in the lives of people with learning disabilities and autistic people, by developing trusting relationships, through psychotherapeutically informed services.

We are committed to bringing about positive change for our clients and their families, enabling them to lead richer and more resilient lives.