

Aycliffe Secure Centre Statement of Purpose and Function



August 2020

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Aycliffe Secure Centre provides each child and young person with a safe, secure and caring home. Encouraging and inspiring each individual to be the best they can be in all aspects of their life, enabling them to achieve their potential and take their place in society.

Core Purpose

Aycliffe Secure Centre actively promotes good health, recognises the importance of enabling children and young people to achieve, and invests in children so they have a voice, empowers them to be active contributors during their time in the home, and enables them to use these skills to enhance their opportunities on return to the community.

The service respects the rights of young people who are supported and encouraged to develop personal awareness in all areas of their life including choices affecting their present or future wellbeing. At the centre young people can safely develop the skills and confidence necessary to help them maximise their full potential.



COVID-19

Following the issues raised by the pandemic, the centre has instigated a number of changes to normal procedure and processes to ensure the centre can continue to care holistically for young people, whilst maintaining a safe and hygienic environment for young people, staff and visitors.

The centre has always used Government and localised guidance supplied by Durham County Council to inform practices. Alongside this the centre has developed a Covid-19 'Recovery Plan' to log, track and review decision making.

The Senior Management Team meet daily to review any guidance changes and consider the implications for the centre (meeting twice weekly from 24th August 2020). These meetings are used as a launch pad for communication to the wider management and staff teams.

Staying Safe

The centre has impelled strict hygiene protocols including the washing of hands on arrival and leaving the building, added 2m social distancing markings in communal high traffic areas, provided hand sanitiser in key areas and we have established safe working areas for support staff.

The centre has implemented extraordinary regimes of cleaning across the centre, in particular in high traffic areas. Surfaces, light switches and door handles are cleaned multiple times throughout the day and any meeting spaces must be booked via reception staff to ensure that facilities staff are notified to clean the room after use.

The above also applies to areas such as the pool and gym to reduce the risk of cross infection. The facilities Team must ensure that cleaning takes place before sessions begin. In the absence of facilities staff, care and education staff must undertake this task.

Description of the Location of the Children's Home

Aycliffe Secure Centre is located within County Durham in a quiet rural area, on the A167, yet has access to local amenities within the town situated not far from the Centre, and with easy access routed to most major towns and cities via bus and rail.

The Range, Gender, Number and Needs of Young People Accommodated

Accommodation is provided for young people of either sex, from the age of 10 – 18, for whom a period of restricted liberty has been deemed necessary by a court. In circumstances where a young person reaches 18 and is deemed by the professionals involved to be particularly vulnerable if transferred to another facility, we will continue to work with them until an appropriate placement can be found.



With support from external health care, substance misuse service, both primary and mental health, and education services, we provide a wide range of services to young people with universal to complex specialist health and education needs.

The establishment is licensed by the Department of Health (DoH) to provide a home for up to 38 young people between the ages of 10 to 18 years, or over 18 years where it is deemed by the professionals involved the individual is particularly vulnerable if transferred to another facility. The home is also registered with OFSTED to accommodate children/young people as outlined above. 8 places are commissioned via a contract with the Youth Custody Service (YCS). Children and young people may also be referred by Local Authorities because of serious concerns about their welfare.

How Positive Outcomes for Young People are Promoted within the Homes

Good childcare in Aycliffe Secure Centre depends on planning, partnership and consultation. This means that at the outset we agree and discuss with young people, the placing authority and their families, packages of care designed to meet the child/young person's individual needs.

We acknowledge that an important part of looking after young people is to help them exercise control over their own behaviour by setting boundaries, and where necessary, to impose control when this is in their best interests and in strict adherence to the Children Act 1989.

We will do this by: -

- actively pursuing and raising self esteem
- listening to, and acting on, the needs and feelings of young people
- helping young people learn to negotiate, and to accept the consequences of their own behaviour
- using incentives through the BRILLS scheme rather than sanctions, wherever possible
- providing clear behavioural expectations and targets through BRILLS based on treating each other with respect and dignity, and keeping each other safe
- saying what can happen when these expectations are not met

Where a young person experiences significant difficulty with specific behaviours an individual programme is negotiated with them to help address the problem. Monthly discussions of behaviours take place at Team Around the Child meetings.

Aycliffe Secure Centre Ethos and Philosophy

Staff within the service recognises the intrinsic worth of children and young people both within the confines of the secure children's home and in the wider society.

Children and young people who are admitted to Aycliffe Secure Centre are vulnerable users of the service who often have complex needs which underlie their presenting behaviours.

Staff within the service are seeking to engage with the child/young person in order to build a meaningful relationship, within which self-awareness and self-control is improved. The overall aim is to reduce the likelihood of re-offending, reduce vulnerability, and improve life chances of the individual creating choice and better outcomes for the young person.



Communication, co-operation and evaluation are essential elements of this process, between the service, the placing authorities, the child/young person their parent/carer and representative and the other agencies involved.

All staff recognise their key contribution and influence in this area. To this end significant investment has been made by the service so that an open, reflective and transparent culture is striven for where the needs of children and young people are viewed as central.

All staff welcome comments and views about any aspect of the service through exit surveys. The views of children and young people are actively canvassed in a number of ways including young people's meetings, regular Investing in Children's meetings (My Space) and School Council.

Promotion of Recreational, Leisure and Cultural Activities which Enable Young People to Enjoy and Achieve

The Centre recognises the importance of exercise and recreation and the link between emotional and physical wellbeing and physical exercise. The service promotes the good health of children and young people by encouraging and facilitating a range of activities.

There are several in-house facilities within the leisure centre including a swimming pool, sports hall, and outdoor sports courts. As part of the recruitment process, the service aims to employ a diverse staff group with a range of skills and experiences, which they can bring to their work with children and young people. During themed weeks in education time a dedicated team draws up a range of activities. External presenters or facilitators, who are suitably qualified and vetted, work alongside residential staff to engage young people in structured activity programmes. We have a range of games and activity within the house units to help engage young people in conversation and build relationships with peers and staff. The ethos is one built on these bonds and identification of individual needs and aspirations, exploring talent in areas such as the arts or music. Feedback from children and young people about such activities is sought following the completion of activities so this can be considered when planning for future events.



When a child / young person has approached the end of their time in the centre they can access the community via an agreed “mobility” program, which supports preparation for leaving. A programme of activities is drawn up so that external facilities within the community can be enjoyed. The value of enabling a child / young person to experience achievement through enjoyment of leisure and recreational activities is a shared belief within the service.

Admission procedures consider the need to ascertain the religious and cultural needs of the child / young person. The diverse need of individuals within the wider society is also a topic which may be explored within group work sessions with children / young people. The Centre has a clear policy in relation to Equality and Diversity.

A further innovation is the introduction of the Arts Award. We have several accredited Arts Award Advisors amongst the staff who steer young people through Bronze Level of this nationally recognised qualification in the plastic and performing arts.

Arrangements for Meeting Religious and Cultural Needs

Religious observance is identified during the admission process. The child / young person will receive all necessary assistance from staff to maintain their religious practices. We provide some of the necessary practical help in relation to access to for example the Koran, and prayer mats and facilitate observance of festivals like Ramadan. We also have made contact within the local community for religious leaders of all faiths to visit the centre where needed.

Contact Arrangements for Young People

We actively encourage young people to maintain contact with their families and friends, and access is provided to private telephones for this purpose. Young people can make calls from their own personal phone via a preselected numbering system. Visits are encouraged, and facilities are available for this purpose. Family contact is seen as being a vital part of care through-planning and of paramount importance for all young people. We continue to improve how we work with young people's families and are continuously developing our approaches in line with effective practice. All visits are risk assessed and supervised initially, in agreement with families and professionals. At present we do not have social media or email facilities for young people due to security concerns; however, we have the use of video conferencing and Skype to help with long distance relationships in particular. Technology developments within the centre have also enabled young people to contact their families through videoconferencing via use of IPAD tablets.

Arrangements for Consultation with Young People and Promotion of Positive Relationships

Our aim is to provide the best possible service to the children and young people who live here. In order to do this, we are able and willing to listen to what people have to say about the way we do things and make changes where necessary.

Children and young people are regularly consulted about matters affecting them. For example, following any incident the views and opinions of the young person are sought and recorded within the debrief. Visual debrief tools are also utilised. Prior to planning and review meetings the young person is consulted and can have representation through advocacy services if needed. Young people also have regular key worker sessions which are standard practice in the centre giving opportunity to share views with staff in the home. Young people's views are sought in respect of running of the home for example with regards to meals and menu planning; they are also part of the staff recruitment process undertaking interviews with new staff. We seek feedback during exit interviews and run surveys on several initiatives to consult young people such as our incentive scheme BRILLS.

Young people are also invited and supported to engage in meetings relevant to their care including Placement Planning meetings, Secure Reviews; Sentence Planning Boards and psychological formulation meetings.

Young people are also invited to complete Young Person Questionnaires (YPQs) to explore their views on mental health provision. They are also invited to complete the Essen Climate Evaluation Scheme (EssenCES) to explore their views on the therapeutic climate within the centre. These findings are shared within Senior Management Team (SMT) meetings and the Integrated Governance Board meetings to continue to support consultation with young people to help develop provision within the centre.

We have achieved *Investing in Children* status. Regular meetings are held with young people to gain their views on how the service is run. The School Council forms part of the process along with the 'My Space' project located within county Durham, which offers opportunities for young people to have a say in all aspects of daily living and learning at Aycliffe Secure Centre. NYAS work with the young people and regularly advocate on their behalf advocates visit the centre on a weekly basis and freely associate with the young people.

Anti-discriminatory Practice and Respecting Young People's Rights

Aycliffe Secure Centre adheres to Durham County Council's Equal Opportunities Policy and is committed to actively promoting equality of opportunity for all who live and work within the centre. We recognise the promotion of equality is a dynamic process requiring continuous monitoring, evaluation, development, and training. We have a complaints procedure that is easily accessible by young people who can use this in confidence to contact a manager or external agency. There are regular visits to the centre by NYAS representatives, CORAM Voice, the YCS monitor and Ofsted inspectors all of whom young people are given the opportunity to speak with in private. We have also on occasion used the services of the Howard league to advocate on complex legal matters surrounding particular young people's cases. The right to representation and advocacy is communicated to young people during the admission process and subsequent planning and review meetings.



The Accommodation, Adaptations, Facilities and Services

Aycliffe Secure Centre has a reception area to welcome visitors. Young people are admitted in a separate area. Staff have a dedicated corridor for their entry into the workplace which can only be accessed via hob inducted staff. There are 5 homes; 4 homes have 8 places, within the main secure area. The 5th home is now operational (see addendum number 1) from 13th November 2017 and will accommodate up to 6 young people placed on welfare grounds

Our school is housed in a 2-storey building which provides a wide-ranging set of academic and vocational programmes dependent on the individual educational needs of each young person. The timetable is structured to include both academic and vocational work, we have also developed links with local businesses in respect of work experience through the 'Brighter Futures' programme.



All homes are furnished to a high standard to enhance group living. Bedrooms are decorated to a high standard, and young people can personalise these to reflect their individual tastes. Each home has a lounge, dining area, kitchen, bathroom / shower and toilets, computer and games area, craft and art activity area, as well as functional rooms such as offices. Bedrooms are in corridors leading out of the main living area.

The physical environment is monitored by the Facilities Manager to ensure that high standards are met. Young people have input into how their home can be improved through residents' meetings and other forums such as the Investors in Children's meetings. The unit is fully accessible by wheelchair and the rooms have en-suite facility to give privacy to the young people. Every young person has their own care plan; identifying how their needs will be provided for during their time at the Centre and the accommodation is flexible enough to accommodate these needs.

Accommodation and Bedrooms

Each of the five houses is comfortably furnished in a manner that is intended to enhance group living. Bedrooms are decorated to a high standard, and young people can personalise these to some degree to reflect their individual tastes. Each House has a slightly different layout, but generally consists of a lounge area (with television, DVD and video), dining room and kitchen, computer and games areas, as well as functional rooms such as offices and a laundry. Bedrooms are in corridors leading out of the main living area. Each bedroom has its own attached storage for clothes and personal items; there is an IPTV system that gives access to a range of TV, media and music. The bedrooms are all en-suite which means that young people can have privacy within the home for personal care.



Arrangements for Safeguarding, Child Protection, Anti-bullying, and Missing Young People

All our policies are in line with Durham Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) procedures and all of these are available on the website. Staff receive continuous training and development in safeguarding procedures through our

partnership with Durham LSCB. The Centre takes safeguarding of children and young people extremely seriously and will respond with rigour to any complaint raised. We will share information to protect and safeguard children and young people in line with professional protocols and our own LSCB guidance.

All children and young people or their carers can access the child protection services in the same way as children / young people within the community. Any matters of concern are reported via the council HUB and investigated by the local safeguarding team.

One of the most significant ways in which the service can protect the children/young people accommodated is by ensuring that the “right” people are employed to work alongside the children/young people accommodated. We undertake a rigorous recruitment and selection process and ensure all references and DBS checks are undertaken. We also include young people in the process with each candidate interviewed by them. Staff members receive supervision and can access additional sources of support when they need to. Appraisals are completed annually or within probationary guidelines for newer member of the team.

As part of the multi-disciplinary admission process an individual risk assessment for each young person is compiled and reviewed daily. The strategy for managing risk includes high levels of supervision throughout the day (5-minute checks) and it is standard practice for five-minute checks to be carried out throughout the night for seven nights after a new young person is admitted. All children and young people are then checked at fifteen-minute intervals throughout the night. A Safeguarding Record is generated for each youngster every night to monitor any disturbance in behaviour or mood which can then be addressed by the key workers involved.

The risk assessment also considers vulnerability factors or the likelihood of bullying for the individual child / young person. On admission the admitting Manager makes clear that bullying will not be tolerated. Any issues raised are dealt with promptly either through educational work or restorative processes. In more serious cases the police liaison officer is contacted for further advice or intervention.

Another practice to ensure children are protected is through monitoring and reviewing the quality of care given to young people. Any instances of incident,

restraint is reviewed on a daily basis by a Senior Manager the day following the incident or in the case of a weekend on the Monday morning. Risk assessments are reviewed in line with this process and changes made as appropriate. All staff are also tasked with ensuring that the services Secure Operating Procedures (SOP's) are adhered to.

The Procedure for Dealing with Unauthorised Absence of a Young Person

Staff have clear procedures to follow when a young person is deemed to be absent from Secure Services without authority. The Police are informed and given details of the young person, and those with parental responsibility are advised as soon as possible, and are kept informed of events, the YCS are also informed along with notification to Ofsted.

When a young person returns, those with parental responsibility are again informed as soon as possible. All actions taken are recorded and once the young person is safely returned, relevant staff explore the reasons for their absence.

Where necessary following the unauthorised absence of a child or young person, staff can call for a review so all events and any further considerations regarding risk management and care planning can will be made involving the multi-disciplinary team.

Admission Criteria

Aycliffe Secure Centre is contracted to provide 8 placements for children and young people to be accommodated by the YCS. A number of placements are also available to accommodate children or young people who are vulnerable under Section 25 of the Children Act 1989. The previously mentioned legislation must apply before young people can be admitted to the centre. There is also provision to admit young people under an emergency 72-hour rule under the children act 1989, which allows opportunity for an at-risk child to be accommodated prior to arrangement of a formal section 25 secure order hearing. This part of legislation can also cover admissions made under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act

1984, with agreement of the centre manager. Admissions with the YCS are agreed within a 30 min timescale of the initial referral with exchange of relevant Asset and PSR's. Welfare referrals are made via the central 'HUB' located in Hampshire who then co-ordinate the available beds and admissions across all the LASCH's.

In the main, admissions are planned with an opportunity for the multi-disciplinary team to receive information prior to the admission of a young person. On some occasions this is not possible due to the emergency nature of some referrals; however, we make every attempt to contact all stakeholders to gain a full picture of the needs of the young person. Careful consideration is given to every referral in order to make sure that the child or young person's needs can be met by the service. Additional sources of information are also sought wherever possible. Previous placements are regularly contacted for further views about any potential service user.

The Centre can accommodate children with emotional and behavioural difficulties, and children with physical, mental health and substance misuse needs, who do not require highly specialist input from a 24-hour inpatient setting. In exceptional circumstances where a child is younger than 12 years of age the home may still be able to admit the child following approval with OFSTED and the Secretary of State.

Children and young people live in groups of 6-8 so the needs of the existing group of children are an important consideration in deciding to admit a child/young person. The multi-disciplinary team will decide to admit a child on the basis that the service can fully meet the assessed needs of the child/young person as presented at the time of admission.

We respond to all admissions on an immediate basis, all young people are admitted usually on the day required and our procedures reflect what is required to keep young people safe during this period. We take admissions at any time of the day and at weekends; young people receive an induction and information on their arrival to help them settle into the home.

Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints

Young people who are resident at Aycliffe Secure Centre (and their families) can make complaints using the Complaints Procedure, a copy of which is given or sent to both young people and their families at the point of admission. In the first instance an informal approach is adopted to look to resolve issues at a local level through negotiation and restorative approaches.

Young people and families are encouraged to think about any complaint and use the procedure to give them the best outcome. Young people may choose to use the services of the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) and/or CORAM Voice to assist them with this, their representative's visit regularly or get support from their individual key workers on the house. Young people can telephone this service or others at any time. If young people or families prefer, they can use the complaints procedure and service from their home Local Authority.

On admission to Aycliffe Secure Centre, complaints information and a number of contacts are provided for both Young people and parents to access. The young people have a post box on each unit where they can discretely make representation. These boxes are emptied independently to the house unit to maintain confidentiality.

The Centre deals with complaints as quickly and rigorously as possible so that the person making the complaint has an outcome as soon as possible. If the Assistant or Home manager of the home cannot resolve the matter then it may be escalated to senior management, advocacy services or where necessary child protection teams or the police. A telephone hotline available to young people for concerns/compliments or complaints has also recently being installed.

These procedures are in line with County Durham's complaints procedures and have been written to fulfil our duties under the Children Act 1989. The Complaints Officer Children's Services monitors any complaints.

The Use of CCTV within Aycliffe Secure Centre

CCTV is used within and around the Secure Unit, as a safety measure. Internally CCTV is employed within the main reception environment so that security staff can manage and monitor visitors for the safety and protection of children/young people and staff. Stairwells outside of houses, the sports hall and the swimming pool, and parts of Education and House units also have CCTV in place. Open spaces within the new secure perimeter are also covered. Privacy is not compromised through surveillance. Children are made aware as to the use of CCTV within the unit.

The service is fully compliant with the Data Protection Act.

CCTV is used to review incidents and create learning from a range of situations; it supports management review of practice and performance and can be used to give crucial feedback to members of the team.

Arrangements for Behavioural Support, Restraint, Discipline of Young People and Staff Training

We strive to maintain a safe and happy environment by ensuring that young people know what the expectations are, and that each individual's rights and needs are valued and respected. These behavioural expectations are used as a framework for negotiation and discussion about how people behave towards one another. Within this context it is recognised that sanctions should be used sparingly and as part of the "BRILLS" programme whenever possible restorative approaches are used.

Disciplinary measures are defined as any measures which help to develop inner controls in young people and / or generally promote good order in the home. They include a range of measures other than sanctions, such as reparation, restitution and reward. They are intended to motivate our young people to improve their behaviour by encouraging them to accept responsibility for their actions.

We have developed an incentive scheme ("BRILLS") through consultation with staff and young people which provides an ethos for self-development and control. Sanctions which are used are intended to be contemporaneous, relevant, age appropriate, proportionate to the offence, fair and explained to the young person.

The positive relationships between staff and the young people in our care are recognised as the most effective means of establishing good care.

Quality assurance is routinely carried out by managers across the centre, this is also monitored by the senior management team. The service has a performance team who then provide data for monthly performance meeting where issues can be raised, and action planned.

Teams are aware that physical intervention may only be used as a last resort and in accordance with the Children Act, Guidance and Regulations, Volume 5 and the Department of Health's Guidance on Permissible Forms of Control in Children's Residential Care. The multi-disciplinary team are also supportive of national government drivers including Reducing the Need for Restraint and Restrictive Intervention in young people's services (HM Government, 2019).

All staff within Aycliffe Secure Centre are trained to manage challenging behaviour in a variety of ways including specific training in the use of Protecting Rights In a Care Environment (P.R.I.C.E) techniques This training is updated and attended by residential staff regularly within PRICE guidelines.

Teams are encouraged to record all efforts to diffuse and deescalate potential problems.

The Registered Provider and Manager

The registered provider is Durham County Council (DCC), Children and Young People's Services.

The responsible individual is John Pearce (Corporate Director Children's Services) delegated to Martyn Stenton (Head of Early Help, Inclusion).

The address for DCC Children and Young People's Services, County Hall, Durham. DH1 5UG. The telephone number for County Hall is 03000 260000.

The Registered Manager for Aycliffe Secure Centre is Selwyn Morgans.

Details of Provision to Support Young People with Special Educational Needs.

SEN provision at Aycliffe Secure Centre has three focus areas: -

1. Assessment and Administration
2. Implementation of the SEN Code of Practice
3. Additional Educational Needs –literacy, speech & language etc.

Assessment and Administration

Initial Curricular Assessment is completed on all young people normally within 3 days of admission. This provides English & Maths, Curriculum baseline levels.

Within 5 days a SEN assessment is completed by the SENCO on all young people. This comprises an IQ screen and educational background checks. SEND information is expected to be released from a home authority including EHCP documentation.

Home authorities will be informed of any evidence gained during initial assessment and onwards if there are concerns surrounding any possible education deficit.

If there is evidence to suggest it would be in the interest of the young person an EHC needs assessment request will be completed by the SENCO.

A reading assessment is completed comprising reading age and a functional reading capacity test. These tests will ascertain if literacy is at risk and if so the promotion of an individual reading programme will be completed.

It is a statement of purpose at Aycliffe that where possible all young people leave with at least a functional reading age of 10yrs 6mths.

Implementation of the SEN Code of Practice

Purpose of Code of Practice	How the school fulfils the requirements
To ensure that needs are identified through the expression of concern by parents /carers or teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening procedures used on admission, to identify y/p who may need help in class to overcome barriers to learning, or access to additional provision from the school's provision map • Regular school tracking systems • SEN register
To encourage a thorough assessment of the factors which may be contributing to a y/p's difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of information from outside agencies' assessment • A broad range of school assessments • SENCO trains/coaches' colleagues in involving the y/p in identifying strengths, difficulties and what helps • Regular school conferencing systems
To ensure that all relevant staff and outside agencies know what the y/p's needs are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil-held personal profiles that record strengths, difficulties and what helps • All information and guidance held within an ILP
To help staff and pupils identify key priorities and learning targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole-school systems for setting individual target with all y/p are embedded. • SENCO advises colleagues on how to choose appropriate learning objectives for y/p functioning below expected age-related levels
To ensure that effective strategies are put in place to support the y/p	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy sheets available for education and care staff • Regular case co-ordination meetings • SENCO supports colleagues through training and advice on what works for lower attaining y/p and those with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties • Regular whole-school systems for differentiated curriculum planning – Teachers meeting.

<p>To review progress and celebrate success</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective tracking systems that monitor progress through regular teacher assessment • Assessments used before and after an intervention • Regular whole-school tracking and review systems • School data collection
<p>To ensure that parents/carers know what is being done to help their child, and to what effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An individualised provision map detailing what a y/p is accessing. • Regular testing / assessment of progress, reported at each review meeting • Progress review meetings with parents and y/p
<p>To ensure that parents/carers know what they can do to help their child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All effective strategies are recorded and reported at regular review meetings

Additional Educational Needs

Aycliffe Secure Centre is able to support, where there is evidence, literacy which may be at risk. This may include teaching support, 1:1 reading programme and assessment for Dyslexia and Speech and Language assessments. Aycliffe Secure Centre will support all young people to attain a functional reading age.

We are able to identify, and support Speech and Language Development needs and Cognitive Impairment needs.

The Educational Curriculum

We recognise education as a key element to success in all young people's lives and pursue good outcomes both in school and at home. We encourage young people to learn continuously about themselves, the society in which they live and their impact upon it. Education within Secure Services offers young people access to a range of educational opportunities. This occurs within a framework of individual learning plans which must not only take account of students' immediate educational needs, but also try to prepare them for education after they have left. Education takes place within a suite of class and specialist rooms

and, outside areas within the secure boundary. The curriculum has been praised by Ofsted for its breadth and balance, and the way in which it helps young people prepare for the next steps in their learning journey.

Placements at Aycliffe Secure Centre are mostly very short, representing only a tiny fraction of the time a child should spend at secondary school (around 2%). Placement length can never be fully predicted or planned for as it can be extended or reduced at short notice for both YCS and Welfare students.

Initial planning meetings tell us that most of our students have had fixed term and/or permanent exclusions from their previous schools. These also tell us that the majority have had significant gaps or disruption within their educational journey.

Initial assessments show us that last academic year only one young person in the KS4/5 group arrived working within national age-related expectations, meaning that 80% of our total cohort did not, and a third were significantly below where they should be for their age and stage.

Neglect, physical and emotional abuse, sexual and criminal exploitation are common factors amongst our learners, as is a lack of self-worth and ability to selfcare.

Not surprisingly, questionnaires on entry tell us that our students do not yet believe they have the attributes of successful learners or have any belief that they can succeed in school.

How we Engage and Support the Learning Journey

We make relationships a priority

Every young person has a named tutor who introduces them to school and reviews their progress with them every week. They celebrate what has gone well and help each young person consider what they need to do to improve.

We make sure that developing Functional English and Maths skills are essential and non-negotiable

Every young person, even those in Key Stage 3, is expected to progress these skills and achieve qualifications to prepare them for the next stage in their educational journey. This is literacy is a basic human right:

“Achieving literacy for all means working towards ‘literate families’, ‘literate communities’ and ‘literate societies’ made up of independent, confident and effective lifelong learners”

(UNESCO Education for all global monitoring report: why literacy matters)

We plan and carefully consider our curriculum

Our students need to learn how to learn, so we researched and carefully considered what curriculum model to implement. We chose ASDAN because research shows that young people who follow the structured programmes offered make greater improvements in their English and Maths.

We have designed our wider curriculum so that it constantly and consistently reinforces and allows young people the opportunity to practice key learning skills in:

- Working independently
- working with others
- problem solving, literacy
- numeracy
- ICT

The wider curriculum encompasses subjects that enable all young people to progress in their social, emotional, and physical education - this aims to fill the deficits in their knowledge of how to care for and respect themselves and others, emphasising the unique value and talents of every individual.

Assessment and Attainment

All learners receive an initial assessment in English and Maths, which identifies their functional skill level. Further assessment is carried out in all curriculum areas in order to establish a starting point by which to measure progress. Learners are encouraged to review their own learning and work towards their aspirations. Teachers are required to produce focussed and accurate reports which measure progress and inform future placements.

In addition, all learners receive a reading assessment and a SEN assessment which is used to identify further need and trigger appropriate referrals for additional interventions.

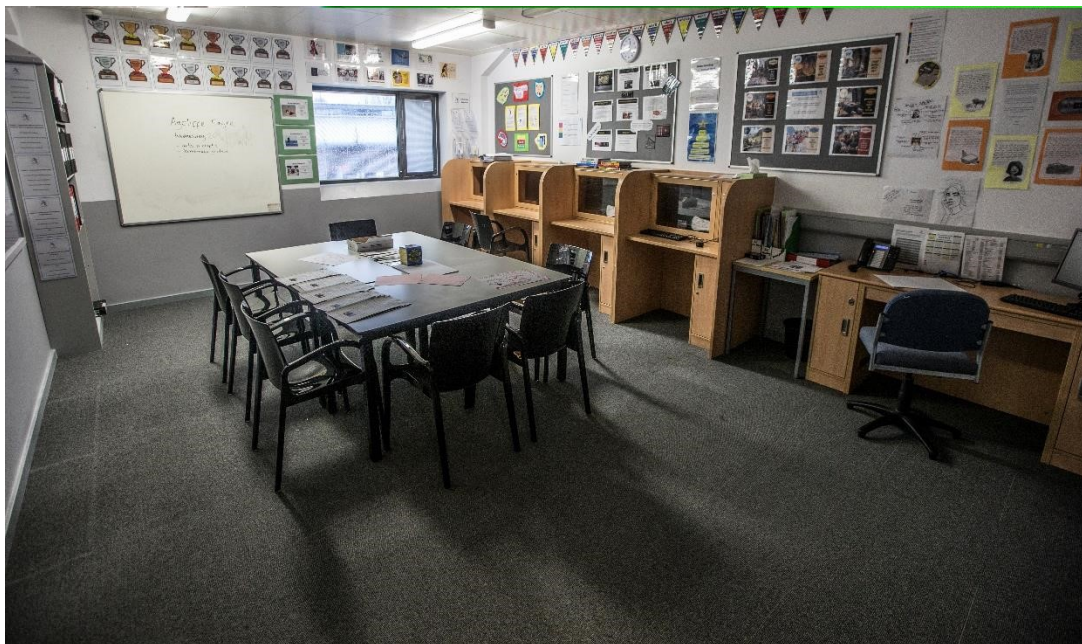
We employ integrated interventions co-ordinators who are responsible for the development and coordination of all formal and informal interventions identified under the YCS contract. These include individual and group offence-related work, structured use of leisure time and personal, health and social education outside school hours.

Interventions are increasingly included within the integrated educational day.

Accreditation

Where appropriate, learners follow a range of nationally accredited and transferable courses in single and cross curricula areas. These include:

- AQA unit awards
- Entry Level Certificates
- Functional Skills qualifications (from entry level to Level 2)
- GCSE



We deliver individual and group offence-related work; we provide structured use of leisure time and personal, health and social education outside school hours.

Interventions are increasingly included within the school day.

Transitions planning is very important to us. We have a dedicated team of professionals from, Health, Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Education to ensure that the plan for life after Aycliffe Secure Centre is carefully implemented.

One of the overarching principles is that young people need to feel safe with us. Emotional wellbeing is of paramount importance. The anti-bullying service is nationally accredited by the NSPCC and Childline. The service has thorough documented procedures which are carefully implemented and monitored. Cases of bullying are taken very seriously, and the victim(s) receives all necessary support. We have close links with the local Child Protection Teams and often call on their expertise to assist in cases when children are distant from their home authority.

We are committed to working with young people to help them to explore the reasons for their being in a secure environment and to help them to move on.

We provide centre-wide:

- Personal and social development
- Understanding My Story formulation work
- Motivational and Goal Setting Work
- Emotional regulation work
- Communication Passports
- General and specific offence-related work
- Citizenship skills
- VINTOC, OINTOC and Ross intervention programmes
- Personal and social education
- Homework clubs
- We encourage community-based projects and try to bring into the unit as diverse a range of educational opportunities as possible
- Health promotion in sexual health and substance misuse
- Opportunities for private study

Details of any Health Care or Therapy Provided, and its Effectiveness including:

Health Team

The Physical Health Care Team consists of six nurses from different nursing backgrounds and levels of experience. In addition, the Team has a healthcare assistant /administrator. The team are responsible for ensuring that all young people whilst accommodated in Aycliffe Secure Centre have the same access to primary care services as any other young person when in the community. Every young person is offered a health screening on admission and a care plan is devised according to their individual need. The Physical Healthcare team work alongside Mental Health, Substance Misuse Teams and Residential Care staff to promote health and wellbeing of our young people. The Centre has close links with a local GP Surgery and Pharmacy. A dental team visits the Unit twice a month to provide dental check-up and treatments. Young People access vision screening as part of their mobility. Referrals for other primary care services are made when a need is identified.

Services are delivered from purpose- built health facilities where privacy and dignity can be maintained. The Team are all employed by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and are subject to their policies and procedures, mandatory training, clinical supervision, appraisal and revalidation processes.

Substance Misuse Team

Staff are full time and based within Aycliffe Secure Centre.

1 Senior Practitioner and 1 Recovery Worker contracted in from nationally recognised provider Humankind.

How the Children's Home Measures the Effectiveness of its Approach

The health services within Aycliffe Secure Centre use the validated CHAT (Comprehensive Health Assessment Tool) commencing on admission and measure their effectiveness against the Intercollegiate Health Care Standards and are awaiting National performance indicators.

The Evidence Referred to by the Children’s Home to Demonstrate the Effectiveness of its Approach

Monthly and quarterly reporting to Aycliffe Secure Centre Senior Management Team, monthly reporting to Secure Centre performance meeting, substance misuse enter into the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, Partnership board meetings, exit survey completed by young people, within OFSTED and YCS monitoring and Inspection, and health progress plans produced by the team. The Kolvin Service routinely provides outcome data to NHS England (NHS-E) and Secure Stairs central teams regarding SECURE STAIRS Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Nursing staff work within NMC standards and complete statutory registration requirements.

All staff work within both Aycliffe Secure Centre and their employing services own policy and procedures – inclusive of DBS (disclosure barring service) and supervision, clinical supervision, personal development plan, line management and appraisal processes via the NHS trust.

Promotion and Protection of Health Needs of Young People

We are committed to providing quality health services to all young people as outlined in the Department of Health guidance ‘Promoting the Health of Looked-after Children’, Healthy Child Guidance 5-19 years, DoH/YCS and NICE guidance. Aycliffe Secure Centre works closely with the County Durham and Darlington Healthy Schools Service and has received the Healthy School Award from 2004 to present. The unit also works closely with Public Health NHS England and the Health and Justice

Commissioners department and has received the ‘Working for Health’ bronze, silver and gold awards and the Clean Air gold award.

Health & Justice commissioning team on behalf of Aycliffe Secure Centre have entered into an agreement with County Durham and Darlington Foundation NHS Trust, Cumbria Northumberland Tyne and Wear (CNTW) and third sector services to provide general health, mental health and substance misuse services for young people in secure accommodation. Young people have access to nurse triage, 2 GP clinics per week within the Centre and nursing team have close links with the local GP Surgery.

The Kolvin Service is an adolescent forensic mental health service that provides services for young people residing within Aycliffe Secure Centre.

The Kolvin Service is part of wider provision of children and young people's forensic mental health services delivered by Cumbria Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW).

Specialist Consultant Substance Misuse are available on a needs lead basis.

Multi-disciplinary health care team works within the home and provide a valuable service to children and young people from the point of admission through to transition of care when they leave the care of Aycliffe Secure Centre. Children and young people are supported to develop understanding of their needs and are encouraged to take an age appropriate responsibility. The multi-disciplinary team support young people with their health and wellbeing through joint working with the additional specialist services described above.



The principal aims of the contract are to ensure that:

- All young people enjoy quality health and care provision which is as a minimum comparable with young people living in the community
- All young people are supported and empowered to take increasingly more responsibility to meet their own needs as able and make informed choices
- Residential workers and other carers are supported to give due attention to health, care and intervention needs of young people in their care

Risk assessments, including self-harm, are carried out and reviewed daily, and staff are trained in medication administration and first aid.

The Kolvin Service provides two distinct levels of service provision at Aycliffe Secure Centre including both; (i) direct, and (ii) indirect provision. The Kolvin Service provides specialist psychologically informed formulation, assessment and treatment for young people at the centre. The provision is designed to meet

presenting needs of young people from the point of admission through to transition out with ASC.

Supervision, Training and Development of Employees

Aycliffe Secure Centre ensures that children and young people placed in its care are treated with respect and free from all forms of abuse or mistreatment.

The Centre believes that a safe working environment is based on the development of clear, safe policies and procedures which make explicit the practice all employees are expected to adhere to. These policies and procedures form part of the induction process and made available to staff where they work.

Staff have a nominated supervisor who ensures that supervision takes place on a monthly basis, for all staff. An annual appraisal takes place, and this forms the basis for further personal and organisational development. For newly recruited staff probationary reviews are held at 6 weeks and 3 months after appointment. At 6 months a decision is made regarding the permanency of the post. Education staff are supervised by their line managers either head or assistant head of the department.

Promotion of Appropriate Role Models

We have an equal balance of male and female staff to promote appropriate role models. We include this practice as part of our rota and timetabling plans to gain a balance within teams of experience and gender.



Durham House (Addendum Number 1 - November 2017)

Ethos

Durham house has a focus on working engagingly, with hard to reach young people, often these young people have had life experiences that have resulted trauma and/or attachment disorder.

We strive to provide a secure, structured environment, where young people are actively encouraged to develop physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually.

In order to create an environment which recognises the significance of allowing young people to flourish, the Durham staff team employs the P.A.C.E. model of thinking, feeling and communicating. This intuitive method of working, cultivates positive, meaningful relationships with young people and assists young people in making positive connections with a wide range of adults.

We acknowledge the importance of actively including family members, legal guardians and professionals in key decision milestones on the young person's journey and will provide.

Mental Health

All young people will undergo an initial mental health and Neuro-disability screening as part of the health CHAT assessment. Where clinically indicated, the Kolvin Service can undertake specialist assessments that may include cognitive assessments, executive functioning assessments, assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Additional assessments including SALT and Occupational Therapy (OT) assessments can also be undertaken where identified as a clinical need. The Kolvin Service can also undertake forensic assessments, when indicated.

A key component of the Kolvin Service role at the centre is the provision of psychologically informed formulation care and treatment pathways. The Kolvin Service psychologists lead on embedding psychologically informed formulation-based approaches across the centre.

The Kolvin Service can provide extensive therapeutic work when guided by psychological formulation that may include: Understanding My Story work, Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT)- Informed therapeutic work, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT), Trauma-Focussed CBT; Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) Cognitive Analytic Therapy (CAT) amongst others.

The Kolvin Service team also deliver reflective practice sessions to multi-disciplinary professionals at the centre. The current provision involves monthly individual reflective practice groups for each house settings and the middle management team.

The Kolvin Service works collaboratively with the multi-disciplinary team to lead on implementation of the SECURE STAIRS framework at Aycliffe. The Secure Stairs framework is a whole system approach to integrated care within the Children and

Young People's Secure Estate drawing from trauma systems therapy, Sanctuary Model, Enabling Environments (EE) initiatives, Psychologically Informed Environments and Psychologically Informed Planned Environments (PIPEs).

The Secure Stairs framework represents a shift in focus within the secure estate from interventions focussed solely at young people, to interventions focussed on the whole system.

The Secure Stairs objectives include: (i) integrated vision and consistency of care; (ii) staff trained and supported in Secure Stairs whole-system model; (iii) comprehensive formulation and care for each young person; (iv) development and monitoring of individual goals for each young person; (v) goals for stay developed with young person's environment; (vi) intervention programmes developed with environment with aim of delivering sustainable change post-discharge; and (vii) develop an evidence base to demonstrate performance to secure recurrent funding.

Nursing Service

There is a team of five highly qualified and experienced nurses at Aycliffe Secure Centre and a full-time administrator for the team, who are employed by County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust but work exclusively in the unit to meet the comprehensive health needs of the young people. The nursing cover is 8.30am – 19.30 Monday to Friday and 11 – 17.00 on Saturdays.

All young people are seen within 24 hours for admission for CHAT health assessment by the nurse and all young people have a care plan which is updated every regularly. The local GP visits on a Monday (for boys) and Tuesday (for girls) and the young people will have the opportunity to meet the GP and have a discussion and health check within 7 days of admission to the unit.

The nursing team offer a comprehensive service in the unit including routine health care such as immunisations, health promotion sessions and sexual health screening. The young people will also be offered an appointment to see the optician and dental treatment in the dental suite on site. There is also access to a physiotherapist and podiatrist who will visit the unit to see the young people if required. In addition to this service we have access to all secondary services in the local hospitals in Bishop Auckland, Darlington and Durham.

The nurses at Aycliffe Secure Centre work very closely with the multidisciplinary team including YDASS (substance misuse) and the nurses, psychiatrists and psychologists from the Kolvin service to provide the young people with comprehensive and holistic care.

Interventions

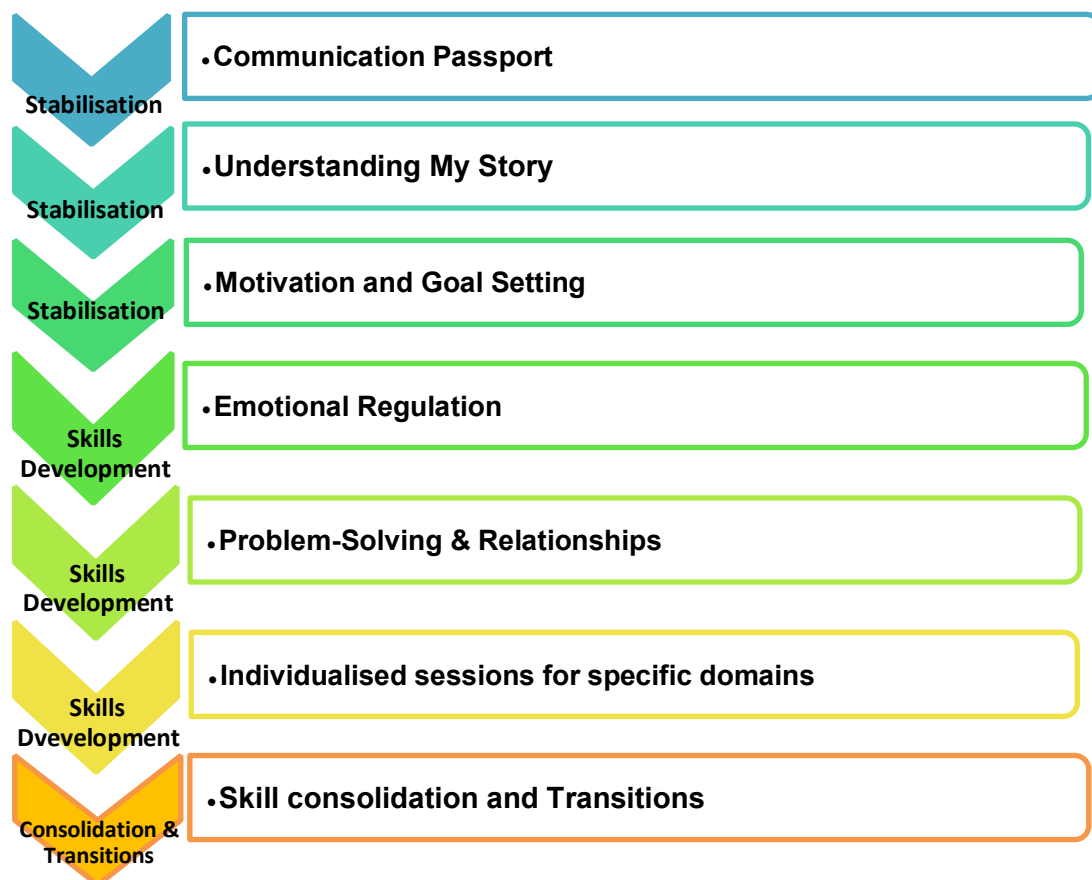
All interventions are targeted at the individual needs of the young person. The interventions model at Aycliffe Secure Centre is based on cognitive-behavioural principles (Williams, 2016), trauma-informed and attachment approaches (Hughes, Golding & Hudson 2019), Pyramid of Need (Golding & Hughes, 2012) and the Good Lives Model (Ward, 2010) (Figure 1).

The interventions model is also underpinned by risk/need/responsivity principles that indicate the importance of matching the intensity of presenting need to the intensity of provision.

The ASC DCC interventions model is premised on existing evidence of the importance of; (i) stabilisation and safety prior to working towards; (ii) skills development; and, (iii) consolidation and transitions.

The model involves multi-agency working with agencies across the centre including the Kolvin Service. This integrated approach is also consistent with the SECURE STAIRS framework.

Figure 1 Aycliffe Interventions Model



Examples of Interventions may include:

Cognitive Behaviour programmes, focusing on how thoughts and feelings influence behaviour.

Offending is Not the Only Choice programme, 24 sessions focusing on altering pro-criminal patterns that have been identified in repeat offenders.

Violence is not the Only Choice programme, 16 sessions focusing on attitudes, relationships, problem solving, consequential thinking and sociomoral reasoning.

Ross Programme, 16 sessions with a focus on ant-social behaviour, looking at developing skills that will assist in pro-social competence.

Interventions may also explore specific domains including arson, robbery, burglary, violence, motivation to change, anti-bullying, anger management, risk awareness, gang & weapons, anti-social behaviours, expressing feelings, communication skills, homophobic bullying, peer relationships, equality and diversity, victim empathy, self-esteem, domestic violence, emotional resilience, teen talk, CSE and hate crime.

Education

Young people will be educated within the main centre curriculum and in groups assessed by our education team as appropriate. There is also the availability of teaching within the house unit on a smaller group or individual basis should this required within care planning processes.

Behaviour Management

Durham house has a ratio of staff that allows more discrete and or 1:1 working with the young people. It is anticipated this will allow young people with complex needs, who are often difficult to find appropriate placements, to be cared for in ways that can flexibly meet their needs.

Organisational Structure

