

# Aycliffe Secure Centre Integrated working



Copelaw, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham,  
England.



- Aycliffe Secure Centre is a Local Authority Secure Children's Home (LASCH) run by Durham County Council
- The Centre is licensed to have 42 young people across 5 houses. Currently there are 32 young people (18 youth justice and 14 welfare beds) across 4 houses residing at Aycliffe with a view to open the 5<sup>th</sup> unit in the very near future.
- There is also a step down unit where young people can stay to help prepare them to return to the community.
- There is a high ratio of residential staff to young people. The Centre has some of the most vulnerable young people in society, many of whom have complex problems and need intensive support to help turn their lives around.
- Facilities include: a separate Education Centre, a gym, swimming pool, sports hall, outdoor astro turf football pitch, and a horticultural area.

# Therapeutic services



- There is a full interventions programme which aims to provide the young people in our care with the opportunity to address the behaviour that has resulted in their being placed in a secure environment.
- The focus is on exploring with young people the nature of risk that led to them being secured and to help them see what choices they can make in the future.
- Depending on the needs of the young person this work can be carried out on a one-to-one basis or in a group setting. All work is overseen by our interventions co-ordinators.
- The interventions include OINTOC, VINTOC, ROSS, Peer relationships, building self esteem etc.. The programmes can be tailored towards the young people's need.

# CHAT



## (Comprehensive Health Assessment Tool)

CHAT (Comprehensive Health Assessment Tool) is a standardised and validated assessment tool for young people in the youth justice system, we also use it with the young people who are on welfare court orders.

The CHAT assesses:

- Physical health
- Mental health
- Substance misuse &
- Neuro-disability needs

All young people are offered all of the components within the CHAT.

From this a young person's needs are identified care planned reviewed and forwarded to the relevant agencies on discharge.

# General physical health

- The centre has 5 experienced nurses (equates to 146 hours a week of nursing service) who are employed by CCDFT. A shift programme is in place so that a nurse is on site 8.30am -19.00 Monday to Friday and on call on Saturday.
- All young people have a comprehensive health assessment (CHAT) within 24 hours of admission to ensure that all their needs are met while they are here and that they have a discharge pathway.
- Nursing staff work very closely with the residential staff and young people.
- Services offered include:



# Mental health in-reach

## The Kolvin Service

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear 

NHS Foundation Trust

- The Kolvin Service provides in-reach mental health to the young people at Aycliffe Secure Centre. The in-reach team also cover Kyloe House (Children's secure service in Northumberland). The Kolvin Service is commissioned by NHS England.
- The mental health in-reach team comprises of:
  - Consultant Forensic Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist 0.6WTE
  - Consultant Clinical & Forensic Psychologist 0.4 WTE
  - Registered mental health nurses 2.0 WTE (The Kolvin Service have access to a Learning disability nurse who works closely with the team and will offer assessment, support and intervention for those young people who require this).
  - Psychology assistant 0.4
- On admission all young people are offered a Mental health and Neurodisability screen as part of the CHAT assessment.
- Provision of consultation to the secure unit in relation to the care and management of particular young people, especially those with a diagnosed mental disorder, or those who present with significant emotional, psychological and behavioural difficulties;
- The Tier III CAMHS functions that the Kolvin Service will undertake include interventions for:
  - Suicidal ideation and intent;
  - Self-injurious behaviours;
  - Acute anxiety / worry;
  - Obsessive thinking / compulsive behaviours;
  - Psychotic decompensation;
  - Reactive low mood / depressed mood;
  - Emotional distress;
  - Support and advice for bereavement
  - Support and advice for family matters and relationships
- The Kolvin Service will offer a consultation role that provides advice and guidance to each of the secure units regarding models of care and use of technologies (interventions) when addressing offending behaviours in young people detained in the secure estate in the Northeast. This would include programmatic interventions delivered by staff in host establishments through the “**core forensic needs programme**” approach.

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- In addition, The Kolvin Service will provide a direct role in the delivery of forensic interventions for sentenced young people which will address: 1) sexual offending 2) offences involving arson and 3) in 'atypical' and less frequent serious crimes that may be associated with significant mental health morbidity. These interventions will be available to sentenced young people who will be in the secure setting for longer than 6 months. This is because interventions of these sort require a protracted period of stay in the secure setting and because the young person's forensic needs are unlikely to be met by the "core forensic suit of programmes".
- The primary role of the in-reach team is to support staff in looking after the sometimes very complex needs of our young people. This includes, where appropriate, addressing acute presentations of mental health problems and monitoring young people's mental health during their stay.

# Drug and alcohol services

## Lifeline Project

- There are 2 full time workers (YPDASS) who are employed by Lifeline to support the young people with psychosocial interventions - a senior practitioner in substance misuse and a Recovery Co-ordinator.
- The Centre has support from a Consultant Psychiatrist in Addictions who is employed by the Kolvin Service to support the unit staff and young people who are admitted with drug addiction and withdrawal from substances. She visits the unit, assesses the young people and advises on programmes for the young people.
- The nursing staff work with the Consultant Psychiatrist and local GP to facilitate detoxification programmes. The drug workers complete psychosocial work and the teams work together to provide the young people with a high standard of care and support.
- The Consultant Psychiatrist also provides training for all staff in the unit around substance misuse issues, local trends, identifying withdrawal and advice on what action / support would be needed.

# Speech and Language Therapy.



- Speech and Language Therapist employed by Sunderland City Hospitals visits the unit twice a week and completes a SALT screening on all the young people.
- These assessments are vital to support the teachers and residential workers on how to support the young people and help them promote effective communication with those young people with complex needs.
- This information is vital to ensure the young people are given the appropriate care in the Centre, but more importantly for planning for the future – placements, education and support.

# Barnardo's



- A full time Barnardo's worker is seconded into the unit to work as part of the health team to work with young people who have been exploited in the community.
- She works intensively with the young people to help them overcome the trauma of what has happened to them and help them move on. She provides the young people with strategies to help them cope in with risk taking situations in the community.
- The Barnardo's worker refers the young people to CSE services in the community to enable continued support for the young person.



# Education



- The education of young people is an essential element of the holistic approach to meeting individual needs. Our Learning Centre provides a broad, balanced, age relevant timetable based on meeting the requirements of the national curriculum.
- Young people are assessed on admission by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) and an individual plan is developed in response to their individual needs.
- We provide learning for 50 weeks of the year and aim to provide as normal an educational facility as possible.
- Formal examinations and accreditation are available and a variety of qualifications at Entry Level, GCSE, ASDAN, AQA Unit Award, OCN and Youth Achievement form part of the curriculum for the young people.



# Integrated Working



Within Aycliffe Secure Service there are a number of ways in which the health care team and the other agencies integrate to ensure that the young persons needs are met whilst in security.

- Multi-disciplinary team meetings-These occur once a month and the attendance includes, case managers, health care teams, substance misuse team, education, Barnardo's, speech and language. All young people are discussed, plans/interventions reviewed & actions set.
- Care Planning meetings-These occur weekly and are held between general health care, mental health and substance misuse. Integrated care plans are reviewed.
- Local authority care planning meetings, Youth offending meetings & Secure reviews- Although these are held by the local authorities the teams within Aycliffe contribute to these meetings.
- Formulation meetings-These are predominately led by the Kolvin Service however all involved in a young persons care are part of this.
- Training-All of the health care team provide training in their areas to staff at Aycliffe Secure Centre.

All of the Health Care Teams have their own recording systems, within Aycliffe this is overcome by all the teams contributing to one system in an agreed and governed way.