

reach

Issue 17

Spring

Looking for Outcomes? We'll give you Outcomes!

Why look to Continuum Care and Education Group for your residential or educational placements?

- Consistent, targeted therapeutic interventions which can:
 - address trauma
 - lead to the establishment of better attachments and social functioning
 - stabilise behaviours contributing to placement breakdowns
- Staged entry and transitional arrangements
- A comprehensive individualised therapeutic intervention plan
- Good matching processes
- Good care planning and case management / tracking
- Successful residential placements leading to lasting 'family' or independent placements

Young people who experience placements with Continuum Care can become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors whose life outcomes mirror those of their peers.

Date For Your Diary
The Continuum Group will be speaking about our unique outcomes measurement model (The House of Resilience) at the **Impacts & Outcomes Conference on 19 May** in London. To book or to find out more information on the event visit: www.measuringoutcomes.co.uk



Examples of the HOR online and paper based reporting

Reporting on Outcomes

In 2006 the Continuum Care and Education with its partner Clinical Psychology Associates, pioneered the development of an outcomes measurement model the House of Resilience™. This model which is still the only one of its type within the care sector took as its foundation the Every Child Matters agenda and added priority 'pillars' which identified the area of most need and provided a statistically valid measurement tool to assess progress and identify risks.

Reports are produced at the end of a 28 day assessment period and then every two months. Each report is produced by the house management team, reviewed by our in house clinical specialist and subject to an independent overview by a registered psychologist. Reports are created and stored on an electronic system, which is available via a secure connection instantly for social workers, placement managers and commissioners. All residential placements are inclusive of the House of Resilience Outcomes monitoring reports.

Claire's a High Flyer

Claire Reid, the manager at our Broadfield home in Somerset, has been nominated as a representative of the residential children's sector on a prestigious DfE national working group in London on 4th March. The group, chaired by Shelley Stewart-Murray, is developing a communications strategy to help children's homes improve their practice in the context of changes to legislation and policy, such as the coming implementation of new inspection requirements.

Claire is attending the meeting as the Continuum Group representative for ICHA (the Independent Children's Homes Association) and will be feeding back on the working group's findings. Well done Claire for getting yourself put forward; we will await the feedback with interest!

Did you know....

90%+

of our residential provision
is rated
Good or Outstanding by
Ofsted - March 2011

Bowburn

Our new Residential Home in the North East

Our Managing Director Bob & our North East Manager Lorna are both big Alan Shearer fans, which means we couldn't do a story without including him!



Bowburn offers placements to young people of either gender between 10 and 18 years of age. This 4 place group home is located in the North East, within easy access to Durham, Hartlepool, Newcastle, Sunderland, Darlington and Middlesbrough.

We strive to exceed the National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes and work on a resilience framework to enhance the outcomes for all young people in our care. We are strong believers that in order to enhance a child's life chances we need to provide them with a holistic support package. We achieve this through following the principles of the social pedagogy in our north east services, taking the form of:



- The professional – we base our work on the model of resilience, work heavily with cognitive behaviour management techniques and give a strong commitment to reflective practice.
- The personal – we use relationships as a catalyst for effective communication, developments and positive change.
- The practical – we embrace experiences with the young people to develop life skills and social links.

★ Bowburn



Above: Bowburn, our new home in the North East

When a child comes into our service we ensure that collective residential, health and education planning takes place, this allows us to look at the child as a whole person to shape their support package. Education, clinical and residential staff, work as a collective team to progress outcomes.

To organise a visit to the home or obtain a Statement of Purpose please contact Lorna Fearon, Regional Operations & Service Development Manager on 07896 560 696.

New Kid on the Block

The Continuum Care & Education Group welcomes Julie Barnes, our new Head of Education. Julie has been bought into the senior management team on account of her past success and profound commitment to ensuring educational attainment for those young people who may struggle to achieve in a mainstream setting. In her first interview with *REACH*, Julie speaks about her experience and more information on our education provision.



Where did you work before Continuum Group?:

I've been in teaching 20 years, initially as an English teacher then up through school management in various mainstream secondary school settings. My most recent role was as Director of Inclusion in a secondary school in Salford. This role was a senior management role and I was responsible for overseeing all aspects of SEN including Behaviour Support, EAL, and all other SEN issues.

What are your qualifications?:

BA(Hons) – English and Community and Youth Studies, NPQH and M.Ed – Educational Leadership

End of an Era



Since 2005 we have worked with Hertfordshire to support young people to return to their families or foster placements in a time of crisis in their lives. STEP 33 has provided a safe and caring environment to enable care teams to have the time to plan the next stage in the young persons life, rather than resorting to the '4 o'clock' phone call.

Over 200 young people have stepped through this provision and it's made a huge difference. This template has been so successful the authority has set up it's own provision, adopting our model of care – a great partnership arrangement.

Is there any particular area you are focusing on this month across the Education provision?:

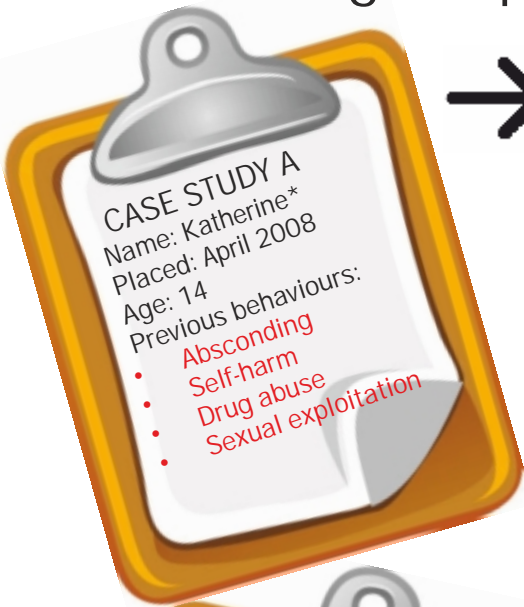
Ensuring that our pupils are given the best opportunities to achieve by making sure their personal targets are challenging and appropriate, making sure the schools are offering the widest range of qualifications they can and ensuring that teaching, planning and assessment are all strong.

What do our schools offer which is different to mainstream schools?:

1. High staff-pupil ratio
2. Committed and experienced staff teams for pupils with behavioural, social or emotional difficulties
3. Personalised learning
4. Range of qualifications offered
5. Range of enrichment opportunities offered
6. 1:1 pastoral support

REFERRALS: 0800 731 3805

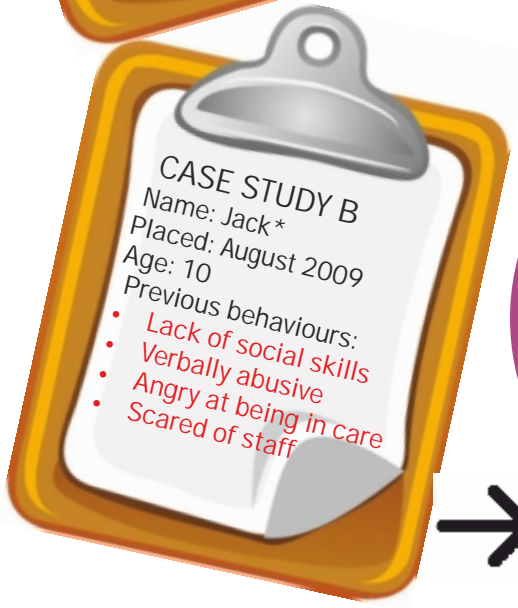
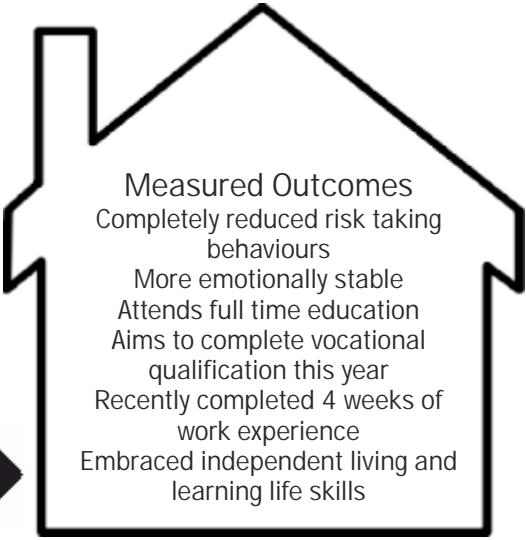
Real Young People: Real Solutions: Real Outcomes!



What support does Katherine receive?

- Keyworking
- Nurturing environment
- Risk reduction work
- 1:1 Clinical Sessions
- Counselling
- Multi-Agency working
- Specialist education

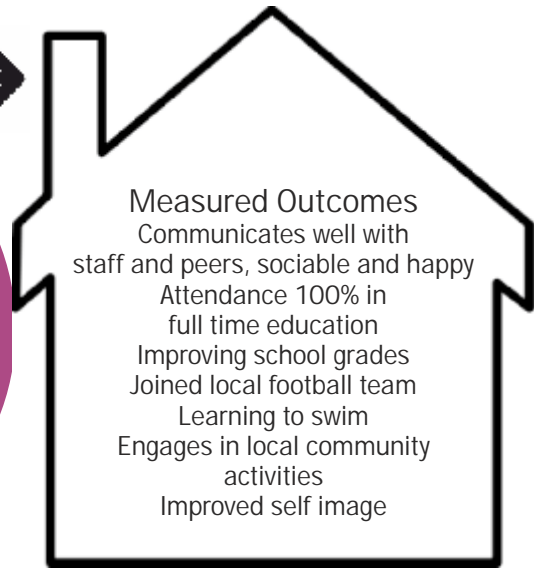
Type of Placement:
Group home and moved to independence flat



What support does Jack receive?

- Keyworking
- Re-parenting work
- Structure and boundaries
- Clinical Psychological sessions
- Outdoor activity sessions
- Specialist education

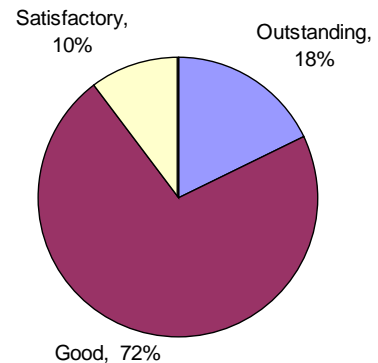
Type of Placement:
Intensive home and moved to group home



*Names have been changed to protect identities.
Both case studies based on current children in care of the Continuum Group.

Residential Provision Ofsted Ratings

March 2011



LONDON ROAD: OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Our specially designed independent and care leaver accommodation welcome young people who have previously been in our residential care and those who have been placed elsewhere.

Our new property in Catteris, Cambridgeshire has room for four young people in ensuite accommodation. This is underpinned by 24 hour staff support and guidance as young people become more integrated into their community networks. We accept care leavers and young people who require support but wish to live independently. As each of our supported living support services are individually packaged, costs can vary. We can provide additional enhanced support as required.

The benefit of a package from Continuum Group Support Services ensures that features such as supervision, education, clinical assessment, transport and other support services can be included or not included in a tailored plan for the young person. Using individual key working, each young person has a detailed independence plan and programme of support. The Continuum Group also aims to support the Placements Northwest Minimum Standards for Leaving Care Provision pilot to ensure delivery of quality services.

For more information call Andrew O'Reilly on 07966 545 882.

Poetry in Motion

Well done to Nancy*, in the Nene Home who recently won the Under 18's Poetry Gold Award in the 2010 Koestler Trust Art Prize. She received a certificate, along with £60 in prize money. Such a prolific poetry writer, Nancy was even unsure to which of the poems it was she entered!

The staff were extremely impressed and say she has tapped into using creative writing as an outlet. We wish her all the best in her future writing career! *names have been changed

Continuum Charity Challenge

We've had a steady start to our Continuum Charity Challenge and we are half way in achieving our grand total of £10,000. A big thank you to all who have put in the hard work and raised some much needed cash by donating their hourly rate, having open days at your school, quizzes, raffles and even growing moustaches!

With the money raised we are able to donate to our worthwhile charities - Shine Foundation, Hope for Children, Cancer Research UK and Glads House plus we intend to fund staff and where possible our young people to embark on some life changing voluntary abroad working with disadvantage children and communities.

It's still not too late and we'd delighted to reach our target of £10,000 so please continue in your homes, schools and offices in helping to achieve this.

For further information on donating money please contact jenny.howarth@continuumgroup.org.uk or alternatively visit our Just Giving page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/continuumcharitychallenge>

twitter



Follow Us.. and Join 500 others!

Follow updates from our homes, schools and services, along with industry information and news on children's social care and education. We already have over 500 followers who tune in daily to see what we're tweeting about! You'll find us listed as: @ChildrenInCare so just head to www.twitter.com and click follow. We look forward to tweeting with you soon!

Northampton gets Arty

As part of the regeneration of Northampton School students were asked to provide some ideas on ways to highlight their skills. The idea of making some signs out of symbolic materials led to the construction of these unique signs.



REFERRALS: 0800 731 3805

Domicillary Care

Our care and support teams are trained specifically to meet the needs of children with physical and learning disabilities, behavioural problems and complex needs in the family home, or in the community.

Our qualified staff team are available:

- before or after school
- at weekends
- during the day or overnight
- to look after the child in the home
- directly from the child's school, returning to school the following day if necessary

Supported and Supervised Contact

Our supervised and supported contact centres in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire are designed to provide assistance for families on contact visits. The rooms are purpose designed and include comfortable spaces including books, toys and games.

Our trained and qualified staff are able to provide varying levels of supervision and support as required, with or without written reports. Depending on the needs of the family, we can also provide supervised and supported contacts at neutral or suitable activity venues within the local community.

If you would like to find out more information about our Family Support Services please contact Joanne Martin on 01992 550 427 or email joanne.martin@continuumgroup.org.uk

NVQ completions

Congratulations to the following staff who have been awarded an NVQ in recent months:

Margaret Marshall	Claire Daly	Richard Simpson
Rachel McManus	Nikkilea Wilkinson	Angela Griffith
Jason Magee	Jackie Pickavance	James Jackson
Christina Tiryakioglu	Alison Baker	Shelly Hayden
Nicola Bloyce	James Palmer	Sara West
Cheryl Lee	Bonn Rogers	Claire Smith

Chinese New Year Feast!

Students at our Warrington School prepared a feast (see right) during a recent Food Technology Lesson.

Incorporating Chinese New Year they made a variety of traditional dishes using spices, meat, vegetables and noodles!



CONTACT US

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