

# An Introduction to Park Side Intake and Assessment Centre



**Park Side Children's Home in Leicestershire offers a homely, caring and nurturing environment for up to four children and young people. The purpose of the home is to provide short term care, education and support in a therapeutically managed environment that meets the nurturing, management, social, emotional and moral needs of each young person.**

Park Side is able to accept emergency placements, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Young people often arrive having experienced multiple failed placements and can stay for a short term placement or for a 28 day assessment with a view to being placed in a suitable long term setting. Young people are supported on a one-to-one basis, with the ability to support to higher ratios, if required.

While at Park Side the placement stability of each young person is maintained through a clear and personalised framework of nurture, support and encouragement. From the moment a young person arrives at the home the experienced staff team engage quickly to ensure positive rapport and relationships are developed. The first few hours and days are vital in developing an individualised approach and environment for the young person to settle and feel comfortable within.

We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for young people, where issues and concerns affecting both their past and their futures can be positively addressed and supported. The home's staff team have high levels of experience and expertise and ensure that strong bonds with each young person are created quickly through one to one attention and support. All staff members have a high understanding and are specially trained with regard to the assessment process. They are also trained to be able to support a wide range of behaviours and conditions and this enables a highly nurturing environment to be established.

All young people will have their own en-suite bedroom and the home offers a warm, friendly, family oriented setting, which is finished to the highest standards of quality and safety. Park Side is an activity driven home where young people will access a wide range of past times and experiences, including trampolining, bike riding, geocaching, attending the local cinema or even just enjoying reading their favourite book with a member of staff. The home also takes advantage of its location to offer new opportunities and broaden the horizons of the young people.



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# Our Approach

The aim of each placement at Park Side is to complete a baseline assessment and, where appropriate, use a range of clinical assessments to identify the individual needs of each young person, which can inform the work required to take place in their follow-on placement. We work in partnership with families and professionals to enhance each young person's achievement possibilities; increase their levels of self-confidence; and create opportunities for them to learn, develop and succeed.

Within a short period of time a planning meeting is held to ascertain if needs can be met and, if so, a transition plan will be developed in partnership with the designated Witherslack Group destination home. The young person's key worker and the registered manager of the new home will contribute to this process to ensure high levels of coordination.

Park Side staff will continue to support the young person and can even work within the long term placement home to minimise stress and trauma for the young person and ensure that a well-planned, supportive and coherent transition is achieved.

## Our Commitment

- ▶ We will settle, support and stabilise a young person's behaviours
- ▶ We will, through a comprehensive assessment process, identify a young person's long term needs and appropriate placement option
- ▶ We will work with each young person to develop their self-esteem, confidence and aspiration
- ▶ We will prepare each young person for independence, build their life skills and widen their interest and ambitions
- ▶ We will provide them with a learning environment that will cultivate their long term educational achievement and attainment



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# Our Service Model

## Our Care

- ▶ Emergency and same day placements
- ▶ Boys and girls
- ▶ 8 - 15 years of age
- ▶ ASD, ADHD, Asp, SEMH - associated complex needs and challenging behaviours
- ▶ Specialist expertise in supporting young people with a history of self-harming, missing from care, conduct disorders and emotional instability.
- ▶ 1:1 young person/staff ratio (2:1 staffing also available)

## Our Therapeutic offer

- ▶ All therapy assessments sessions take place onsite.
- ▶ Menu of assessment models including:
  - Complete Resilience Web and Social Development Profile.
  - Baseline assessments in Numeracy, Literacy and Science.
  - CONNORS Profile, Mental Health Screening Tool (ACE Adverse childhood experience, Trauma Systems checklist)
- ▶ Mental health screening with dedicated Therapists who support both the young person and staff.
- ▶ On-site therapy suite which enables therapeutic professionals, including Therapist and Psychologist to offer:
  - Complete psychological and mental health assessments
  - Expert support and advice in regard of each young person's emotional and mental health needs
  - Support to home staff through advice, training and supervision
- ▶ Additional support from the wider Witherslack Group Clinical Team comprising of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and therapists with specialisms in trauma and child sexual exploitation.
- ▶ Short and long term treatment plans shared with local authority professionals and social workers.
- ▶ Progress measured and reported through cognitive profiling and ongoing assessments of mental health and social & emotional wellbeing.

## Our Education

- ▶ Upon arrival at Park Side all young people access education immediately through the home's partner school - Dovetree School.
- ▶ The school has a specialist and dedicated learning environment for all Park Side young people within the school site. Only young people living at the home are part of this cohort to ensure a stable and tailored learning environment.
- ▶ If a young person transitions to a long term placement within a Witherslack Group children's home, they in turn can easily move across to main school life through a cohesive approach between home and school staff.



## Part of Witherslack Group

Witherslack Group's overall focus is on the journey of every young person in our care. Before joining us, many of our young people have already experienced multiple placement breakdowns and very limited educational attendance and attainment.

Our children's homes and schools work in partnership with one another ensuring that the best possible outcomes are achieved for every young person. We pride ourselves on our unwavering commitment and we encourage and support each young person to have high aspirations.

We are proud of what our young people achieve and how they grow into young adults with confidence and ambition. Our aim is to provide young people with the necessary skills, knowledge and resilience to enable them to make a positive contribution to society and assist them in returning to live in a family context or live independently, if appropriate.

### What people say about our homes

"His relationships with staff are perhaps the highlight of his time so far." **Social Worker**

"Children make outstanding progress living here. Staff have the skills required to engage children quickly. This ensures that the assessment process can start as soon as a child arrives at the home." **Ofsted**

"The home is managed really well and staff are warm and empathetic in their dealings with the young person." **Social Worker**

"Children develop excellent relationships with the staff. Children receive care and support that is consistent and child centred. Children respond well to this. They trust staff and quickly learn that the home is a safe and supportive environment. One young person said, 'In all the homes I have been in I've never trusted someone straight away... you believed in me.'" **Ofsted**

"I would like to highlight the positive support and nurturing environment that you provided in a time of crisis for a 9 year old child. He was extremely anxious, but the friendly approach of staff and the strategies put in place made him feel welcome, part of the household and able to engage quickly." **Social Worker**

"Professionals speak highly of the home and of the progress that children make." **Ofsted**

"The staff team are supporting and nurturing. The home feels homely and the young people are very contented and relaxed there." **Social Worker**

"The quality of care practice is excellent. Practice is informed by good assessments, clear planning and continuous monitoring and review." **Ofsted**