



Aldine House Secure Children's Centre

Aldine House Secure Children's Centre is a modern, safe and secure 8 - bedded unit catering for 8 boys and girls aged between 10 and 17. It is inspected by Ofsted It is approved and licensed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It is owned and managed by Sheffield City Council Children and Young People's Directorate. Aldine House has been rated Outstanding / Good in Ofsted inspections and the Youth Justice Board has consistently rated Aldine House as performing at the highest level.

Young people are admitted having been :

- *Remanded by the courts;*
- *Sentenced by the courts or;*
- *Admitted via Children Act 1989 criteria whereby the needs of the child are unable to be met in any other form of accommodation.*

The purpose of Aldine House is to serve both local and national communities by looking after those children and young people who need a safe and controlled yet child centred secure residential environment in order to prevent harm to themselves or to others.

Recent Achievements

- Aldine House was evidenced in the White Paper - Care Matters: Time for Change (page 92) for it's good practice in relation to its work "securing the emotional health and well being of its residents".
- Aldine House led the national development of the National Children's Bureau's Improving the Emotional Health and Well-being training package. This major training package has now been disseminated to the staff group.
- Aldine House was part of the National Centre for Excellence in Residential Child Care (NCERCC) pilot project for the implementation of the Healthy Care programme. This has resulted in the development of a toolkit for practitioners which is now available for residential child-care establishments across England and Wales. Aldine House has achieved both the Healthy Care and Healthy Schools award.
- Having obtained funding from the Children's Bereavement Network Aldine House has developed their bereavement and loss service. They now have a good library of resources, have devised a staff training package and have supported a member of staff in qualifying as a bereavement counsellor.
- The independent review into the Use of Physical Restraint conducted by Lord Carlile of Berriew QC made a number of positive comments in respect of Aldine House's management of behaviour. As part of their induction for new staff Aldine House provides a comprehensive seven day initial behaviour training package with the emphasis on promoting positive behaviour.

The services and programmes are provided in part by the Centre staff group and in part through partnerships with external agencies and individuals. All programmes are based on the following theoretical models, Solution Focussed Thinking, Pro-Social Modelling and Cognitive Behavioural

Principles

Sheffield Forensic CAMHS team advise and support Aldine House staff in the development of new individual and Groupwork programmes and packages. These packages include:

- Self image and esteem
- Stress Management
- Resistance and Refusal Skills
- Anger Control and Self Management
- Cognitive Reasoning and Decision Making
- and Victim Empathy and Awareness.
- Assertiveness
- Consequential Thinking
- Peer and Gang Pressure

The Forensic CAMHS service to Aldine House includes Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychiatric and Psychology input, Assessments, Training and Support to Staff, Court Reports and Therapies (cognitive, inter personal and family).

Aldine House also provides a full health care service including dentist and optician. Sexual health screening is undertaken a full and varied substance misuse service is offered. Education is provided on site which provides the full national curriculum. VOICE, an independent advocacy service, is available for the young people.

Like other secure children's homes Aldine House provides a high quality, multi disciplinary approach to working with some of the most difficult and damaged children. Often we have successful outcomes whilst the young person is placed with us for example achievements in education, in specific programmes of work and with Forensic CAMHS.

Secure care provides a real opportunity for direct work meeting the needs of the child. However the positive improvements and achievements are often undermined by what is to be offered when the child leaves. Whether this is suitable accommodation, appropriate education, family contact or structured support to enable the young person to make what is understandably the challenging transition from being secured to being back into the community

Aldine House endeavours to influence the development of a robust exit plan and package by raising the issue of resettlement from the beginning of the placement. Aldine House offers to work with those involved in the resettlement both pre and post discharge. Despite this plans are often left until the last minute and are poorly formulated and the ultimate decision about what resources will be in place lies with the placing authority social workers and youth offending teams and can be heavily influenced by cost.