



## Our Children's Home and Integrated Care Offer

### Who we are

Witherslack Group provide inspirational education and care to children and young people, resulting in life changing experiences and countless stories of success.

We are the leading provider of specialist education and care for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs, communication difficulties (autistic spectrum conditions, Asperger's Syndrome, speech, language and communication needs) and complex learning needs.



### Our Care

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 poor educational attendance and attainment.

We are proud of what they 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 if appropriate live independently.



# Our Children's Homes

For children and young people who require 52 week care, we are proud to be able to provide them with a home environment that will give them the stability, support and encouragement they need. We offer an integrated package of high quality residential care and education, in conjunction with our schools, which consistently enables children to realise their potential, both academically and socially.

Each children's home provides a high quality group living experience within a welcoming and warm domestic setting. Young people have their own

en-suite rooms and all homes are furnished and equipped to the highest of standards.

Our passionate, experienced and skilled staff team support each young person to develop their social and independence skills, enabling them to consistently achieve and develop. Additional onsite support is available, as required, from our comprehensive team of qualified clinicians.

The integrated and tailored approach to meeting therapeutic, education and care needs provides each young person with a clear pathway for success.

## Emergency and Assessment Placements

Our 52 week emergency placement and assessment centre offers a homely, caring and nurturing environment for up to five children and young people.

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 great 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.

- We are 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 as part of a short term placement prior 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.
- 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 establishing an environment for the young person to settle and feel comfortable within.



# Our Integrated Therapeutic Provisions

Our Integrated Therapeutic Provisions allow us to provide sector leading standards of education, therapeutic support and care for small groups of young people, all on one site.

This approach mirrors that of a traditional children's home and school relationship, but considers the additional support required by young people with significant special educational needs.

The young people will live in a children's home located on-site. These purpose built homes provide an extremely high quality living experience for young people.

We offer a complete package of residential care, in conjunction with our on-site learning centre, that consistently allows children to realise their potential, both academically and socially.

Each young person is closely supported throughout their school day and home life. There are strong links between the children's home and learning centre to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved for each young person and that all of their social, educational and therapeutic needs are met.

The unique characteristic of an integrated provision is the delivery of 'wrap around' care, education and therapy to all young people, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



## The Integrated Offer:

### Therapeutic Support

- Specialist, dedicated support from our own Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Educational Psychologists and Mental Health Workers.
- Access to wide range of personal development programmes including anger management, social communication, restorative practice and self-awareness.
- Classroom environments that have been developed to take into account a wide range of sensory needs.
- Therapists not only work directly with the young people but also directly with staff to ensure all staff can work in a therapeutic manner.

### Educational Experience

- A class structure based on individual student needs and ability.
- Small class groups to support student development and access to the curriculum.

- Full national curriculum offered to all young people.
- Subject specialist teachers.
- A broad range of nationally accredited qualifications on offer.
- Extended evening activities and individual education packages.
- Access to state of the art computing technologies.
- Extended curriculum including forest schools, outdoor education and music tuition.

### Support Services

- A Pastoral Manager and Pastoral Care Team to support all social and emotional needs.
- A dedicated key worker for each young person.
- An ethos of positive reinforcement where points can be earned and exchanged for rewards.
- Structured lunchtime activities to enhance the school day and develop interests and social skills.

# Witherslack Group's Overall Care Offer

## Safety, Stability and Wellbeing

- Friendly, accepting home environment.
- Age range 8 - 18 years of age.
- 'Voice of the Child' embedded into the culture.
- High staff ratios which allows for the provision of highly personalised programmes for all young people. At night time there is a waking night staff and a member of staff sleeping-in.
- In-house therapeutic support including speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, educational psychologists and psychiatrists.
- Highest level of safeguarding implemented in every home and supported by Witherslack Group central safeguarding support staff.

## Education and Opportunity

- Highly integrated education and care in partnership with Witherslack Group schools.
- Full national curriculum offered with an extensive range of additional academic and vocational qualifications.
- Witherslack Group's Internal Team Around the Child (ITAC) approach embedded.
- An education champion present in each children's home to facilitate strong coordination between school and home.

## Structure and Consistency

- All staff skilled and experienced in working with young people with social, emotional and mental health needs, as well as complex communication and learning difficulties.
- Specialist autism training for all staff delivered by the National Autistic Society.
- All staff are trained in child sexual exploitation (CSE), radicalisation, safeguarding, mental wellbeing, positive behaviour support (PBS) and online safety.
- All home staff trained to a minimum of Diploma Level 3. Home Managers, Deputy Managers and Team Leaders all trained to Diploma Level 5.
- High retention levels of leaders due to strong shared values and 'ethos of care'.

## Superior Facilities

- High quality living environment with every young person having a bedroom with en-suite facilities.

## Hope

- A track record of successful outcomes with the most challenging young people, including those with multiple placement breakdowns.
- Minimum 18 - 24 months placements to ensure best possible outcomes for each young person and stability for the home.
- Each home is supported by Witherslack Group's Clinical Team who provide a combination of direct targeted interventions with young people, staff support and training, and attendance at statutory reviews.
- A central database that enables each young person's journey to be clearly evidenced and their ongoing development tracked through a range of different information, with almost every aspect of a young person's journey monitored.
- Implementation of a range of internal and external standards of measurement to track and report progress.

## Admissions Guidance and Support

- Comprehensive pre-admission risk assessments to ensure compatibility of young people with existing cohort. This approach enables successful transitions and high levels of placement stability.
- Advice and support provided to parents and carers, as appropriate, to facilitate positive transition back to local community.
- Website resources, training and support events offered to both parents, carers and professionals.

## Low Risk

- Internal and external quality assurance across all operations and activity.
- Total transparency of placement progress delivered by Witherslack Group's Authority Link database.
- Independent Children's Homes Association (ICHA) member.

## Superior Administration

- Dedicated Witherslack Group support function ensuring coordinated communication.
- Referral response within 24 hours.

## Exceptional Value

- Lifetime pricing.
- Family contact, holidays and a wide range of activities included within overall cost.
- All therapeutic provision included in placement cost.



Find out more by visiting  
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