

Aycliffe Secure Centre Development of Transitions Home



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Why do we need a transitions home?

- There is a national drive and external demand for new and innovative ways to look at the resettlement of young people leaving a secure environment.
- Once the Transitions home is open, it will provide a service that no other secure children's home is offering. Thus establishing Aycliffe Secure Centre as a market leader.
- This would be an alternative offer after secure orders and prepare young people in a better way to integrate back into the community.
- The overall aim of the home would be to reduce the likelihood of re-offending, reduce vulnerability, and improve life chances for the individual, creating choice and better outcomes for the young person.
- This will offer the opportunity to pilot the new concept of a transitions home that is able to be replicated across the Country.

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What have we done so far?

- Developed an options appraisal for the location and size of a new transitions home – this included looking at the re-use of existing space in the centre, building a purpose built unit away from the secure site and an extension to the existing centre.
- The decision was made by Children and Young Peoples Management Team to progress with the investigation of the option of converting the existing space.
- Discussions have begun with the DfE and Ofsted to request support for the transitions home. Both are very supportive of the proposal.
- Appointed an experienced architect to develop design options for the existing space.
- Reviewed the current staffing numbers and improved recruitment processes to encourage staff retention.
- Established indicative charging models in order to meet financial commitments.
- Successfully retained “Outstanding” status with Ofsted.

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Next steps...

- To receive detailed fit for purpose and innovative designs from the architect and full feasibility studies on the proposed design including costings (Nov 2020)
- To submit a bid to the DfE for financial support for the building works (Dec 2020)
- To submit a paper to MOWG to gain support for the build and possibly for a financial investment on a repayment basis (Dec 2020)
- Full timescales for opening to be developed following approval of the chosen design.

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