

# Full Circle Service Update

Michelle Summerbell  
Team Manager, The Full Circle





# How do we work and what do we offer?

- The Full Circle service works right across children's services and early help, but the majority of our support is provided to children in care and families seeking post-adoption support. This is because therapeutic support requires safety and stability around the children with all basic parenting in place.
- The Team has close links with agencies such as CAMHS and the NSPCC and over time The Full Circle service has developed a positive and respected reputation, feeding into the development of local service provision and Children's Services development through various working groups.
- The Full Circle provides consultation, advice, guidance and resources to parents, carers and a wide range of professionals.
- The Full Circle also provides training for professionals and carers around attachment difficulties, the impact of trauma on children and how to help them heal.
- We also provide therapeutic support directly to children and young people (C&YP), their families and carers using a range of evidence-based approaches to therapeutic intervention.



# Key Developments 2022- 2023

- Therapeutic Assistant & Trainer post and a new Clinical Psychologist post.
- Increased offer to DCC residential homes
- ADaPT Trauma Focussed CBT trial
- A new clinical pathway & resources
- New set of operational processes, updated criteria created and information leaflets/sheets.
- Trauma training offer and workshops roll
- Virtual schools offer extended. Over the last academic year, we have provided 208 hours of training and consultation
- Successful joined up working due to weekly attendance at weekly CAMHS SPA huddles – helping to determine most appropriate mental health support/therapeutic intervention for C&YP in Durham. Promotion of Traded Services via this route.
- Full Circle were proud to receive the **Investing in Children Membership Award™** in 2022 to positive feedback, with further work ongoing to continue to shape service provision and the renewal of this award. Children in Care Council meetings made some valuable suggestions which we are addressing. A celebration opening to take place to showcase C&YP work in helping to design new therapeutic space.

# Summary of Outcomes

- In 2022-2023, 639 referrals were received into Full Circle – a 7% increase on referrals received the previous year, an increase on the same time last financial year, with an average of 165 cases open for ongoing work/support at any one time.
- Outcome measures identified that, just over 95% of children who had been open to Full Circle had improved outcomes across a range of areas.
- In addition to school training, Full Circle also provided:
  - 36 hours of training to kinship carers
  - 76 hours of training to foster carers and parents (adoptive)
  - 14 training sessions to residential staff
  - 71 hours of training to social care professionals and partner agencies.
- Ofsted feedback (2022): As well as regularly highlighting positive practice throughout the Inspection, in their report, Ofsted also said:

*"They receive tailored and highly effective support with their emotional needs from the specialist therapeutic Full Circle team. Foster carers and adopters are well supported by social workers and Full Circle in the transition and continuing care of children placed with them."*



# Development Aims 2023-2024

- Establish clear Governance arrangements for Full Circle - this will include a review of resources and exploration of a financial contribution from health.
- Reviewing and updating the performance and quality assurance framework - developing new key performance indicators and systems development to support performance and quality monitoring.
- Ongoing process and clinical pathway review to ensure the team resource is meeting the needs of the Children in Durham.
- Continued work with Residential Services to understand the level of resource required to provide clinical psychological and trauma informed support to Durham Children Homes and how this can be met.
- Ongoing development of traded services and income generation through the Adoption Support Fund, traded services, Virtual Schools SLA and DSCP training. Work with Marketing looking at promotional material, resources and web presence.
- Ongoing Team development.

# The benefits – service feedback

## Feedback from a C&YP receiving direct therapeutic support

*“You have been brilliant 😊”*

*“i just want to say i have received your letter and i wanted to say thankyou, thankyou for always helping me a for listening to me about my childhood trauma. i am happy i met you and i am glad i got to share them with you for you to help me with them even know they have been hard to speak about.”*

## Feedback from parents/carers

*“Can I take this opportunity to thank you for all the work you have done with R, I could see a difference in him after the first couple of sessions so I can't thank you enough. You really are superb at what you do and I am indebted to you for how you have helped us all”.*

*“Our worker guided us through some very tricky situations with reassurance and endless practical support, which in turn helped E settle and flourish.”*

## Feedback from professionals

*“Thanks for all you have done, it has been a great pleasure working with you and thanks for all the support you have given to the team, in order for us to support J. We have taken a great deal from you. The team have expressed how much they enjoyed the training today and were buzzing when they returned to the home.”*

*“ Thanks for this update. I went out to see the children yesterday and did find \* far more talkative and expressive. He told me he thought things were going well and he had no specific worries and would speak to \* if he had any wobbles. I think the work you have completed with him has helped him understand his feelings and process things better. Thanks for the work you have put in as it has made a difference for \*.”*