

Full Circle Service Update

Corporate Parenting Panel
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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 2023/2024

- 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 continues to be embedded
- Virtual schools offer extended
- 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.



Summary of Outcomes

- In 2023/2024, 588 referrals were received into The Full Circle – an 8% decrease on referrals received the previous year, with an average of 147 cases open for ongoing work / support at any one time.
- Decrease in referrals, screening and consultations compared with 2022/23 - it was identified last year that referrals being made were not often appropriate, the wrong timing or the workers had failed to consider environmental factors around the child/family that could be responsible for the current worries.
- To try and tackle this the leadership team have developed a Full Circle Pyramid of Need, Care Proceedings leaflets and have at the point of referral provided appropriate advice, guidance and resources to help aid the understanding of the impact of trauma and reduce unnecessary screenings/consultations taking place. The impact of this has led to more appropriate referrals being made and decreased the pressure on The Full Circle team allowing them to concentrate on completing high quality work with the children and families open to us.
- 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)
 - 6 training sessions to residential staff
 - More than 87 hours of training to social care professionals and partner agencies



Development Aims 2024/2025

- 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 Children in County Durham.
- Continued work with Residential Services to review the clinical psychological and trauma informed support to Durham Children's Homes provided over the last year.
- 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.
- The focus for 2024/25 is to improve the quality of the training provided to professionals, foster carers, adoptive families and relative carers and development sessions have been set up for Quarter 1, 2, 3 and 4 to streamline the training.

The benefits – service feedback

Feedback from a C&YP receiving direct therapeutic support

“I understand it was your last session with R today. I’ve just spoken with her and she said that she is sad to see you go. I know you had a lovely relationship and I would like thank you for all you have done. I know she will keep in touch with you as she moves on to her next chapter. Again BIG thank you and it was lovely to meet you.”

Feedback from parents/carers

“Even from the snippets of conversation we had it has been really helpful trying to start to understand what might be going on with C. I think there is a lot to unpick but most importantly I just want to get her any help she may need to make things easier for her.

I hope its not the end of seeing you as I loved seeing C around you, he really absorbs himself into the sessions now and it is a lovely nurturing time for him. I feel that there will be a time to return as he has such affection for you. He is very comfortable with you and he has relaxed so much over time.”

Feedback from professionals

“The feedback from the staff training was extremely positive and the year 3 team are really keen to work with you some more.”