

# CP2425-23

## Health and Wellbeing Services into Atkinson Secure Childrens Home

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# Purpose of todays session

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- Background of Atkinson Secure Childrens Home
- Outline Health and Wellbeing services delivered
- What are we looking for in recommissioning?
- Opportunity for questions
- Supplying the South West Portal
- Feedback



# What is Atkinson Secure Childrens Home?

- We are a national purpose-built secure children's home managed by Devon County Council providing full residential care, healthcare and education on site in dedicated facilities. Our home can accommodate up to 8 young people who are aged between 10 and 17 years and accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989.
- There are 14 secure children's homes in England and Wales. Seven of them are welfare-only (where children and young people are placed in security for their own welfare by their local council and the court). The remaining secure children's homes are for sentenced young people via the Youth Custody Service.

## Background of Atkinson Secure Childrens Home

- We have been specialising in the welfare needs of young people for over 30 years and young people are placed with us due to either having a history of absconding or are likely to abscond, likely to suffer significant harm or likely to injure themselves or others.
- Our home provides a nurturing and caring atmosphere which develops young people's confidence and self-esteem. All staff are trained in attachment, trauma and restorative approaches enabling us to effectively manage behaviour and repair relationships.

*We believe that all children and young people who have experienced abuse should be supported by professionals who fully understand the impact of trauma emotionally, socially and physically. We are committed to delivering therapeutic holistic interventions through trauma informed practice.*

Many of young people that come to live with us at Atkinson do so because they have come to a point of crisis and a family court Judge has granted a secure order under section 25 of The Children's Act 1989. **These orders are granted to protect a child's welfare as they have been displaying risky behaviours and at this stage in their lives no other form of accommodation could keep them safe.**

## From the Registered Manager....

Most of our young people have experienced trauma through adverse childhood experiences such as abuse, neglect, sexual harm, CSE and CCE. **This impacts many aspects of their lives, such as their ability to manage healthy routines and build and maintain relationships with others.** These experiences can often leave young people with a level of mistrust and wariness around professionals, which makes it more difficult to engage them in direct work, schooling or therapeutic input.

This can mean that getting to know our young people is not always a straight forward process, it can be full of bumps in the road and setbacks. **The key to working through this is to be resilient and respectful of the young person's story, to get alongside them and to allow them to feel heard and valued.** Staff working with our young people may need to repeat the process of returning back to a young person many times, 'hanging out' and letting the connection and trust build over time before there is any formal work completed.  
input.

# About a Secure Childrens Home – what does this look like?

Building

- Locked Doors
- Keys
- Alarms
- High fences

Young People

- Use of restraint
- Highly emotional
- Dysregulated
- Avoidant





# Outline of Health and Wellbeing services delivered currently

- Devon County Council currently commission the following Health and Wellbeing Services:
  - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
  - GP
  - Nurse
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Speech and Language Therapy
- These are commissioned as standalone contracts.

# What are we looking for in recommissioning?

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DCC are looking to recommission these services during 2024/25.

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Services must work to the National Healthcare standards and specifications for children and young people in secure settings as well as local strategies.

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Services will be offered to all young people within Atkinson Secure Children's home, whose placements are court ordered and may be from anywhere in England, not just Devon.

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Must work in ways that support the implementation of SECURE STAIRS and engage in true partnership working.

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Must be passionate about working with children and young people





## Navigation

# Supplying the South West Portal

- [Supplying the South West Portal](#)
- This portal provides a user friendly, intuitive process to advertise all open tenders and quotation opportunities for councils in the South West. The procurement portal is FREE to join for businesses

# Opportunity for questions



Following this session,  
please can you  
complete the feedback  
form to help us  
understand the  
markets appetite to bid  
on future tender  
opportunities

Health and Wellbeing Services into  
Atkinson Secure Childrens Home

