

Cartref Plant Diogel



Hillside

Secure Children's Home

Safer, Brighter Futures – better outcomes for children and young people
Dyfodol Mwy Diogel a Llewyrchus – canlyniadau gwell i blant a phobl ifanc

Statement of Purpose



Quality and Purpose of Care

Hillside actively promotes wellbeing, good health and recognises the importance of enabling children and young people to achieve and to enjoy life in a safe way. We invest in children so that they have a voice, empower them to be active contributors during their time in the home and enable them to use these skills to enhance their opportunities on return to the community. The Home is purpose built to exacting specification and standards of a secure setting. Hillside includes an educational and has accommodation for 22 young people. The Home was opened in October 1996 and is split into three Units; Afan, Tawe and Nedd.

Each Unit has been designed to a very high standard and is structured to provide a physical environment which is comfortable and attractive. It offers a wide range of educational and recreational facilities.



The Home is set within attractive, landscaped grounds and offers a comfortable living and working environment in which young people are encouraged to invest and develop a sense of ownership. The educational and sporting facilities (which include a gym, fitness centre, all weather playing field and sports hall) are well resourced to a high level. Additionally, the living accommodation is comfortable, colourful and carpeted. Each young person has his/her own bedroom with en-suite facilities and access to television and music systems. Young People are encouraged to personalise their rooms with appropriate photographs, posters and other personal items. Under no circumstances will young people share bedrooms.

The physical environment is monitored daily by the Assistant Manager, Operations to ensure that high standards are met. Young people have input into how living conditions can be improved through residents' meetings and other forums such as the Children's Voice Forum.

Each young person has at least one nominated Residential Worker who will act as Keyworker and be responsible for individualised care management. Assistant Unit Leaders oversee the implementation of the Care Plan and this in turn is monitored by the Case Management Team. Each young person will have an appointed Case Manager who will be in charge of their care plan for the entirety of their stay. The plans are overseen by a Unit Leader who is accountable for delivering and achieving the best outcomes on each Care Plan. The plan is reviewed on a weekly basis through the in-house Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Hillside is committed to working in partnership with young people, their families, Children's Services, Youth Offending Service, Health and Education services to ensure that appropriate outcomes are achieved for every Young Person through their care plans.

We will work to ensure that steps are made to address the difficulties which have led to a Court's decision to place a young person in conditions of security. We endeavour to promote the best outcomes for any young person, identifying resources to facilitate this when they move back into the community.

Arrangements will be made to meet any specific cultural and religious needs for Young People that are identified, as part of the Care Plan and personal needs. We continue to seek advice and guidance to help us to support young people and provide culturally appropriate services. Hillside has access to Religious Leaders of all faiths who are able to visit the Centre on a regular basis.

Aims and Objectives

- to ensure the highest standards of health, physical, emotional and social care for young people which take into account, and makes provision for, their age, gender, race, culture, religion, current condition, sexuality and ability, without discrimination;
- to provide the highest quality of education in accordance with individual needs based on the recognition of their abilities and strengths;
- to provide a place where young people are provided with a platform where they can begin their recovery and have access to support to help understand the causes of their behaviour;
- to promote contact with the young person's family and friends, and to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for approved visitors;
- to help young people to take responsibility for their own behaviours and to set appropriate boundaries by agreeing general behavioural expectations applicable to both staff and young people, based on mutual respect;
- to meet the needs of the young people so they can develop confidence and the ability to reflect upon their past, and enable them to achieve a sense of fulfilment, purpose and achievement;
- to provide a setting where young people can be prepared, as far as possible, both emotionally and practically for their next placement;

Active Welsh Offer

Hillside has adopted the principle, that in the conduct of its business in Wales, that it will aim to treat the Welsh and English languages on the basis of equality wherever practicably possible. We acknowledge that our residents can express their opinions and needs better in their chosen language. We also acknowledge that enabling them to use the Welsh language is a matter of good practice rather than a concession, and that denying them the right to use their chosen language

could place them in a disadvantaged position. We will therefore offer young people the right to choose which language to use when dealing with us, wherever practicably possible, in accordance with the principle above.

Hillside Secure Children's Home Ethos and Philosophy

The service is structured around the Welsh Government's seven core aims for children and young people as summarised by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. (UNCRC)

The seven core aims are as follows;

1. Have a flying start in life
2. Have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities
3. Enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation
4. Have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities
5. Are listened to, treated with respect, and have their cultural identity recognised
6. Have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing
7. Are not disadvantaged by poverty

Staff within the service recognise the intrinsic worth of children and young people both within the confines of the Secure Children's Home and in the wider society.

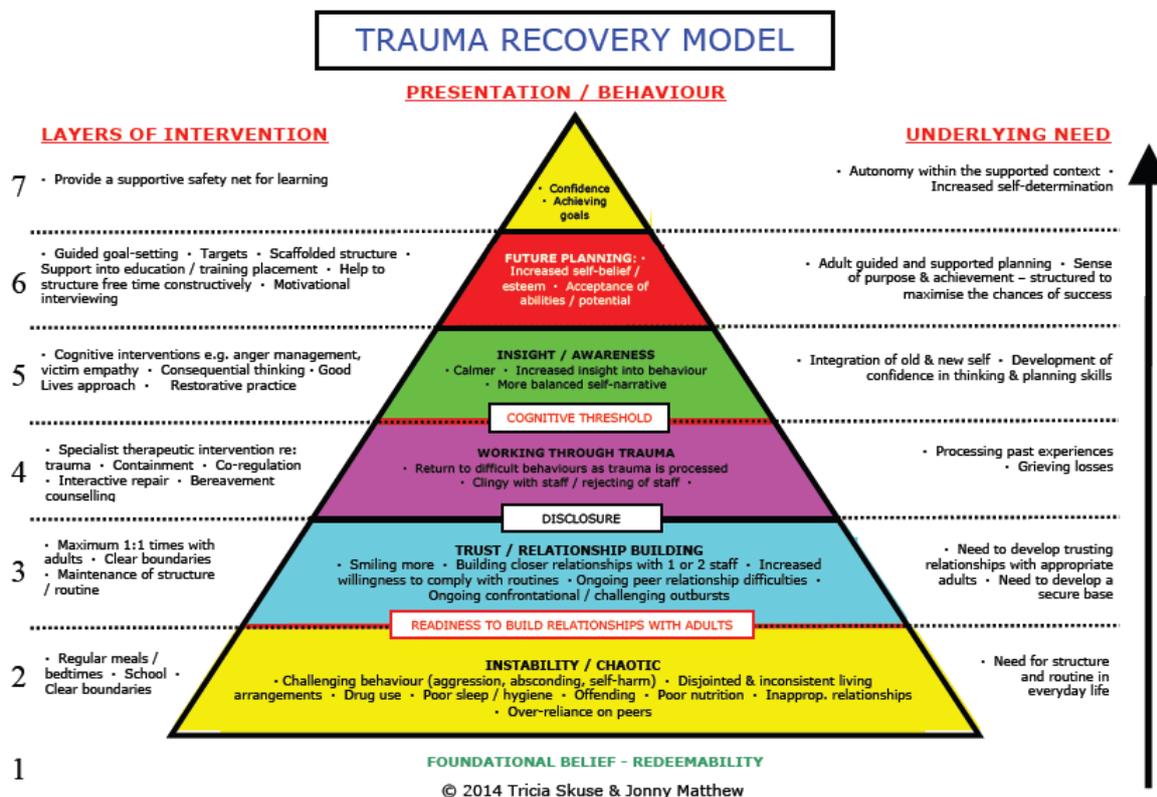
Children who are admitted to Hillside are vulnerable young people who often have complex needs which underlie their presenting behaviours. Staff within the service seek to engage with the young person in order to build a meaningful relationship, within which self-awareness and self-control is improved. The staff understand the impact that adverse childhood experiences can have upon each young person.

The Hillside Management Team, recognise their contribution and influence in providing an open, reflective and transparent culture, where the needs of children and young people are central within the culture and practice of all staff.

Managers welcome comments and views about any aspect of the service through exit surveys. The views of children and young people are actively canvassed in a number of ways including regular consultation meetings.

Achieving Better Outcomes for Young People

Hillside utilises a range of therapeutic approaches in conjunction to the Trauma Recovery Model. This includes understanding the effects of early childhood experiences. We use the Trauma Recovery Model, as a guide, to understand and inform our practice and to shape a programme of interventions that are sequenced according to each young person’s developmental and mental health needs. These are reviewed through the care planning process and weekly Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings which focus on achieving the best outcomes for each young person.



Positive outcomes are achieved through setting and achieving realistic goals and targets within the young person’s Care Plan, in order for them to fulfil their potential.

Through the care planning process all young people will receive:

- Cognitive/Psychometric Assessments (only completed on those that have not been assessed within a 2 year period.)

- Trauma Symptom Checklists, which could identify areas such as Depression, Post-Traumatic Stress or Psychosis.
- Speech and Language screening that may highlight a requirement for a full assessment.
- A SEDAL assessment within a 3 month period to establish Emotional and Social development.
- Assessments in their reading, spelling, comprehension and numeracy through the Education Department, who will then complete an individual Learning Plan.
- An admission medical undertaken by a GP/Nurse that is allocated to the centre.
- Substance Misuse Assessments if there are concerns, but this may also be educational.

These assessments inform the Clinical Team of when the young person is ready to connect with a specific type of intervention, which is sequenced to their cognitive, social and emotional level of functioning. This approach ensures that each young person's care plan enables them to reach their full potential.

Young People for whom the accommodation is provided

The Home is approved by Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales. It is registered to provide Secure Accommodation for up to 22 young people, both male and female, between the ages of 12 and up to 18th birthday, for whom a period of restricted liberty has been deemed necessary by a Court.

- Young people remanded to Youth Detention Accommodation as specified in the powers set down within the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.
- Young people sentenced to a Detention and Training Order (for periods of 4 to 24 months) as specified under Section 100 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts Act (Sentencing) 2000.
- Young people subject to a recall for breach of Licence conditions whilst serving the community part of a Detention and Training Order under Sections 104 or 105 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

- Young people sentenced through the crown court for grave and serious crimes under Section 90 or 91 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts Act (Sentencing) 2000.
- Young people subject to overnight transfer arrangements under the relevant sections of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984.

Hillside Secure Children's Home is contracted to provide 6 placements for children and young people to be accommodated by the Youth Justice Board. The Youth Justice Board may under certain circumstances permit Local Authority Children's Services to spot purchase a vacant bed at the unit to enable the Local Authority to place a young person on welfare grounds under Section 25 of the Children Act (1989).

A number of placements are also available to accommodate children or young people who are vulnerable under Section 25 of the Children Act 1989 and Section 119 of the Social Services Well-Being Act (Wales) 2016. Emergency requests for placements (i.e. up to 72 hour period) can be accommodated on authorisation by the Local Authority's Director of Social Services.

Local Authorities wishing to place a young person below the age of 13 must also seek permission from the Welsh Government Minister or Secretary of State at the Department of Education prior to the placement.

All admissions are planned with an opportunity for the Manager to receive information prior to the admission of a young person. Careful consideration is given to every referral in order to ensure that the service is appropriate for the child or young person's needs. Additional sources of information are also sought wherever possible. Previous placements are regularly contacted for further views about any potential service user.

Our Commitment to You

We will, on acceptance of your referral, begin a Case Formulation Process through our Multi-Disciplinary Team to ensure we can meet the needs of the young person and formulate a comprehensive Needs Assessment and Care Plan.

We will have an integrated approach to working with each young person. This provides a structured and effective approach to working with traumatised and complex young people.

We will complete a Cognitive Assessment and Trauma Symptom Assessment of each young person within the first 28 days if required.

We will complete a Speech and Language Assessment in conjunction with any additional Education Assessments if required.

We will ensure that the Multi-Disciplinary Team are integral in the assessment, planning and review of the needs of the young person.

We will ensure each young person's Care Plan is reviewed regularly and overseen by a designated Case Manager who has personal responsibility and accountability for the care of the Young Person.

We will provide an identified keyworker who will support the young person, using a nurturing approach through all aspects of their care. Where necessary, there are in house Programme Development Packs that can be used to guide sessions.

We will provide support to help each young person achieve their goals and aspirations within a structured and caring environment.

We will provide transparency and openness and a high quality of care.

We will hold daily admission panels and accept any young person whose needs we feel we can adequately meet, but respond to all enquiries within twenty-four hours with reasons as to why we can/cannot meet a young person's needs at the time of referral.

We will offer a Resettlement Officer to provide a transition package which includes education, training and employment as part of the resettlement plan.

What we require from you

A commitment that, together we can support the young person's journey through the home and provide improved outcomes for young people

A commitment that you will attend regular meetings and reviews and maintain regular contact with the young person.

A commitment to having a shared responsibility for the objectives you require us to undertake with the young person, including a clear exit plan.

A commitment to regular, open and honest communication.

A commitment to provide detailed and accurate information at the point of referral and working with us to achieve the best outcomes each young person.

Safeguarding, Child Protection and Bullying

Hillside is part of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Children's Services. The safeguarding policies and procedures encompass specific guidance in respect of how allegations, complaints or suspicions of abuse (actual or possible) will be responded to within the Secure Unit. Hillside's safeguarding policies have been agreed by the local Safeguarding Children's Board.

A copy of the Home's Child Protection (Safeguarding) policy can be obtained from the Home if required.

As a part of ongoing training and development all staff will receive training around Child Development, Attachment and adverse Childhood Trauma as part of the protection and Safeguarding training.

The staffing ratio allows continuous supervision of the young people both on the Unit and within their bedrooms. When they choose to stay in the privacy of their bedrooms, staff will check young people at designated times, depending on their level of risk but these will never exceed 15 minutes. Throughout the night, waking night staff keep regular checks on the young people.

The use of CCTVs within Hillside Secure Children's Home

Within and around the Secure Unit CCTV is used as a safety measure. Internally, CCTV is employed within the main reception environment so that security staff can manage and monitor visitors for the safety and protection of children/young people and staff. Stairwells outside of houses, the sports hall and parts of Education and House units also have CCTV in place. Open spaces within the secure perimeter are also covered.

Privacy is not compromised through surveillance. Children are made aware as to the use of CCTV within the unit.

The service is fully compliant with the Data Protection Act.

Arrangements for Control, Restraint and Discipline of Children

Hillside strives to maintain a safe and happy environment by ensuring that young people know what the expectations are and that each individual's rights and needs are valued and respected. These behavioural expectations are used as a framework for negotiation and discussion about how people behave towards one another. Understanding the early childhood experiences of the young person is incorporated into the needs assessment of each young person.

Understanding past childhood experiences helps form part of Hillside's Positive Behaviour Strategy. Within this strategy, it is recognised that sanctions should be used sparingly and as part of disciplinary measures, which help to develop inner controls in young people and/or generally promote good order in the Home. The strategy includes a range of measures other than sanctions, such as reparation, restoring practice and reward. They are intended to motivate our

young people to improve their behaviour by encouraging them to accept responsibility for their actions.

Any sanctions or consequences are maintained in accordance with sound management and good professional practice, and have been approved by Neath Port Talbot Social Services Committee. They are in line with the Children's Homes (Wales) Regulations 2002 and the guidance on Permissible forms of Control in Children's Residential Care (Dept. of Health and Welsh Office 1993). All significant incidents are recorded (Reg 29 (1) Schedule 5 of the Children Homes (Wales) Regulations 2002) and copies sent to appropriate authorities and are available on site for inspection purposes.

Sanctions that are used are intended to be relevant, age-appropriate, proportionate to the behaviour, fair and explained to the young person. The positive relationships between Residential Workers and the young people in our care are recognised as the most effective means of establishing positive outcomes. Hillside has an Incentive Scheme which was formulated through consultation with staff and young people and provides an ethos for self-development and control.

Careful monitoring of Major Incidents Forms following every significant incident are carried out by a Senior Manager. Further scrutiny is also carried out by the Safeguarding Officer.

The service also produces a Monthly Performance Report which is scrutinised by Senior Managers and examined for overall trends, themes and areas for improvement with regards to critical incidents and including control, restraint and disciplinary measures.

Staff are aware that physical intervention may only be used as a last resort and in accordance with the Children Act, Guidance and Regulations, Volume 4 and the National Minimum Standards for Wales (2002).

All staff within Hillside Secure Centre are trained to manage challenging behaviour in a variety of ways including specific training in the use of Control and Restraint techniques. This training is updated and attended by residential staff on a six monthly basis.

Staff are required to record all efforts to diffuse and de-escalate potential problems. The debriefing is used to enable the staff member and young person to successfully 'connect-break-reconnect' and to give them experiences of attuned and responsive parenting that they may have missed. These strategies

contribute to enabling young people to develop more appropriate self-management strategies. This is supported through a comprehensive debriefing process which enables a young person to reflect on their behaviour to identify any antecedents and awareness of alternative coping strategies. A review looks more closely at overall trends, themes and areas for improvement, e.g. major incidents including control, restraint and disciplinary measures.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board receives quarterly reports on physical interventions incidents and injuries at Hillside. The Local Safeguarding Manager visits monthly to scrutinise physical interventions with the Safeguarding Lead at Hillside.

Child Centred Practice

Hillside adopts a child centred approach for all work with young people and their families, to ensure that our objectives are met through assessment, care planning, interaction and review processes which are based on:

- the welfare and safety of young people;
- working in partnership with young people, their families and all agencies operating on their behalf;
- young people being listened to and included in any plans affecting their lives;
- young people being treated with dignity and respect;
- young people having individual needs which will be identified and recorded in a Care Plan;
- young people and their families not being discriminated against because of their race, gender, language, culture, sexual orientation, class, religion or disability;
- contact between young people and their families being supported and safeguarded appropriately;
- providing a quality of care to young people that is at least equal to that provided to young people in the local community;

Children's Voice

We believe that the most effective way of improving outcomes and practices within the Home is by including the young people in their development and all our actions are based on the fundamental principles of the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Regular meetings are held with young people to gain their views on how the service is run.

The Pupil's Voice group offers opportunities for young people to have a say in all aspects of daily living and learning at Hillside. We have an advocacy service, Tros Gynnal, who regularly meet, talk and advocate on behalf of young people.

The Home has a number of forums where young people's voices can be heard. These include:

- A weekly young person's meeting on each Unit where the young people set the agenda and which focuses on many aspects of day to day living and operation of their unit;
- Meetings with the Senior Management Team;
- Regular pupil's voice group meetings within Education;
- Questionnaires for Care Plan meetings, as well as the opportunity for them to have their say within all their meetings;
- Access to an Advocacy Service and Complaints procedure;
- Discharge questionnaires from young people allow us to take suggestions on board in order to improve the service we provide in the future;

Young people have access to a complaints procedure which is explained to them as part of their induction. The policy operates in line with NPT County Borough Council's Complaints Policy and can also be made available to the young person's primary carer or Professionals involved in their care.

If you have reason to complain you may ask to speak to the Centre Manager at Hillside Secure Children's Home, Off Burnside, Cimla, Neath, SA11 1UL or you may write directly to the following:

The Children's Commissioner for Wales
Oystermouth House,
Charter Court
Phoenix Way
Llansamlet,
Swansea
SA7 9FS

Health Needs Provision

We are committed to providing quality health services to all young people as outlined in the Department of Health guidance 'Promoting the Health of Looked-after Children'. Hillside Secure Children's Home provides in house health services for young people in secure accommodation. This includes the services of a Nurse and GP surgeries.

The principal aim of these services is to ensure that;

- All young people enjoy a standard of health comparable with young people living in the community;
- All young people have access to the same quality and range of health care services and health education programmes provided by NHS to the general population;
- All young people are supported and empowered to take increasingly more responsibility for their own health needs;
- Residential workers and other carers are supported to give due attention to health and education needs of young people in their care risk assessments including self-harm risks. These are carried out and reviewed daily and staff are trained in drug awareness, medicines and first aid.
- A range of specialist services are available to meet the identified needs of the young person. Hillside has developed an in-house Clinical Service and works closely with the Local Health Trust who form part of the team. The Clinicians meet on a weekly basis to provide advice and guidance for staff and to undertake assessments and direct work, as well as our in-house Psychiatrist and a Psychology Team made up of two Clinical Psychologists and an Assistant Psychologist.
- The young people will also have support from our Substance Misuse Worker and a Barnardo's Worker who work with young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour or those at risk of child sexual exploitation.

Education

Special Education Needs

Hillside caters for young people with Special Education Needs in accordance with Estyn/Department of Education SEN Code of Practice and ensures that all young people will have an Individual Learning Plan, which is based on assessment and is fully integrated with the young person's care plan. Young people will receive additional learning support where needed to enable them to achieve their learning goals. Each person also has a Tutor with whom they meet regularly during school terms and who is responsible for their education reports and liaising with their keyworker regularly.

Curriculum

All young people are expected and encouraged to participate in an individual educational programme relevant to their specific needs following their induction assessment. The Home's educational programme operates for thirty nine weeks of the year and is overseen by an Education Manager and Senior Learning Leader both of who are professionally qualified.

All Teachers are experienced and have Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), and in addition there are 5 experienced Teaching Assistants at Hillside. A typical class size will have 4 young people, a Teacher and a Teaching Assistant.

The education provision at Hillside is directly linked to the local secondary school, which allows for circulation of staff, and keeps their knowledge up to date and current.

The overriding aim of the education programme is to raise the self-esteem of the young people by providing them with as many opportunities to experience success as possible. Generally the programmes offered are driven by the National Curriculum with young people being encouraged to pursue accreditation at examination level, particularly in the core subjects.

Hillside is a registered examination Centre for GCSEs and other accredited qualifications such as Agored Cymru and AQA.

The Home provides a combination of core subjects such as Maths, English, Science and ICT and vocational subjects such as Food Technology and Design & Technology.

Cultural, Linguistic and Religious Needs

Hillside promotes the cultural needs of young people placed at the home which includes language, food and religion. The home has access to translators if required and the linguistic needs of the young people are assessed as part of the referral and induction process as well as throughout their stay.

Young people are encouraged to follow and participate in their chosen religious practice, and staff do their utmost to accommodate their needs in order to allow them to do so. Links have been made with local religious leaders and representatives from religious groups are able to visit the home, or arrangements made for young people to attend their place of worship when possible. Facilities for religious observance are also provided in respect of diet, literature and clothing upon request.

All young people receive a broader religious awareness as part of their education curriculum and all staff will receive appropriate training in cultural and religious awareness as part of their induction.

Promoting Contact

Contact with families or friends is actively promoted by the home, as it is considered to be in the best interest of the young people and can be agreed with 24 hours' notice. Where possible, visits should not interfere with the daily routine of education or mealtimes.

Young people also have access to telephones and are permitted to write and receive letters. There is also a video conferencing facility available.

Contact arrangements are made at the young person's Initial Planning Meeting and must be authorised by their Social/Youth Offending Worker. Young people will only be permitted contact with individuals specified and agreed within these meetings and staff will terminate any contact with unauthorised individuals.

FOR SECURITY PURPOSES ALL VISITORS TO THE HOME WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE FORMAL IDENTIFICATION.

Experience and Qualifications of Staff

The Centre Manager has Social Care and Managerial Qualifications and Residential Care and Secure Accommodation experience. They are supported by four Assistant Managers who make up the Senior Management Team. All of which are highly qualified and experienced in their respective areas or work and all hold relevant qualifications.

All Unit Leaders have qualifications in Social Work or Social Care and all Residential Child Care staff hold or are working towards the NVQ/QCF Level 3 and 4 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Caring for Children and Young People). All education staff and support services staff are qualified in line with their relevant posts and roles, and comprise of a mix of qualified Teachers, Instructors, Vocational Instructors and Teaching assistants.

All care staff are registered with the Care Council for Wales and must hold or have commenced NVQ/QCF Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Caring for Children and Young People) as a minimum requirement with the Care Council for Wales after six months of employment.

Individual staff development needs are identified and every effort is made to accommodate their needs within the context of their employment. A three year training plan is in place for all new staff and on-going training provide for established staff. All staff receive mandatory training in Safeguarding, health and safety, diversity, positive behaviour management and equality. They also receive attachment training to help them better understand the impact that early childhood experiences can have on the young people in our care and how to support each young person.

Hillside has developed a Clinical Team on site which includes Psychologists, Assistant Psychologists, a Psychiatrist, General Practitioner and a Nurse. The Team are supported by a Registered Mental Health Nurse, a Resettlement Officer, Substance Misuse Officer and a Speech and Language Therapist. The Clinical Team are all qualified within their area of expertise and registered with their respective governing bodies.

Please see attached Organisational Structure (Appendix 1)

How Positive Outcomes for Children and Young People are promoted within the Home

- Good child care at Hillside is based on assessment, planning, partnership and consultation. This means that at the outset we agree and discuss with, young people, the placing authority and their families, packages of care designed to meet the child/young person's individual needs.
- We acknowledge that an important part of looking after young people is to help them exercise control over their own behaviour by setting boundaries and where necessary, to impose control when this is in their best interests and in strict adherence to the Children Act.

Arrangements for Child Protection and Prevention of Bullying

One of the most significant ways in which the service can protect the children/young people accommodated, is by ensuring that the “right” people are employed to work alongside the children/young people accommodated. Staff also receive supervision and are able to access additional sources of support when they need to. An appraisal scheme is also in operation.

All children and young people or their carers are able to access the child protection services in the same way as children/young people within the community.

Staff disciplinary procedures are compliant with the requirements of the Children Homes Regulations 2002 Employment of staff Regulation 27 (2) (b) which states that,

“The registered person shall operate a disciplinary procedure which in particular-

(a) provides that the failure on the part of an employee to report and incident or suspected incident of abuse, of a child accommodated on the home to an appropriate person is grounds on which disciplinary proceedings maybe instituted.”

Social work staff are also contractually obliged to be registered with the General Social Care Council and to abide by the code of conduct for Social Workers.

Young people are afforded an opportunity to be seen by a healthcare professional following any physical intervention. Young people have open access to child welfare and protection agencies including Child-Line and Advocacy Services.

Hillside ensures children are protected through monitoring and reviewing the quality of care given to young people. A weekly Multi-Disciplinary Team Clinic is informed of all instances of restraint, risk, behaviour management plans and risk assessments are reviewed with changes made as appropriate.

The Procedure for Dealing with an Unauthorised Absence

If a young person absconds/escapes from the Home or from the Home's staff whilst on mobility the following procedure takes place:

- The police will be informed;
- Where possible staff will search the surrounding area;
- Placing authority will be informed;
- Parent/guardian will be informed;
- Senior Managers within Hillside informed;
- Senior Managers within Neath Port-Talbot County Borough Council informed;
- A written report will be sent to all identified personnel under Regulation 29 of the Children's Homes (Wales) Regulations 2002;
- The bed availability will be discussed and negotiated with the Placing Authority;
- On return to the home the young person will be interviewed by staff and also an independent person.

Recreation

The young people have daily access to a wide range of activities to make constructive use of their leisure time. The young people are actively encouraged to attend to broaden their interest, learn new skills and have **fun!**

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Home has been facilitating the scheme since 2009. It is a fun course that allows young people to try new activities whilst working towards a nationally recognised award. It allows them to develop their self-esteem, confidence, teambuilding and communication skills by completing the following areas:

- Volunteering
- Residential
- Skills
- Expedition
- Physical

Whilst the majority of the Award is completed at Hillside, there are opportunities for young people to attend external mobilities as part of the Duke of Edinburgh expedition. They can climb the highest peak of the Brecon Beacons, walk along the local canal and camp out in the residential unit garden.

Phoenix Fire Course

Hillside, in partnership with the Fire Service, has developed the Junior Fire Fighter (Phoenix) course. This is an intensive five day course that utilises Fire Service Personnel and resources through teamwork activities to develop consequential thinking and communication skills, whilst learning about the dangers of arson and hoax calls to the Emergency Services.

Bulldogs Boxing Gym

We have strong links with a local boxing gym called ‘Bulldogs’ that has been set up specifically “to create a better future for disadvantaged young people” by “using the power of boxing as a tool for the next generation” of local young people through an adaptation of the Fight for Peace methodology. The organisers work with the young people both internally at Hillside where they host regular workshops, but also externally at the gym which young people are able to visit if appropriate as part of their mobility package.

Towards the end of their stay a mobility package will be put together if appropriate to begin reintegrating the young person in to the community by arranging a number of outings and activities away from the Centre. These have included shopping, cinema, gym visits, beach walks, parks, horse riding, fishing, mountain biking, go-karting, bushcraft and many more. Young People are also offered a wide range of in-house activities which include, art, fitness, music, quizzes, cake baking, health and beauty and sports events.

Fire Precautions and Emergency Procedures

The Home is protected by a smoke and fire detection system where any out breaks can be identified and isolated. The system is connected to the Fire Service for instant response. The local Fire Officer inspects the establishment on a regular basis. The fire alarm system is tested on a weekly basis and fire drills are carried out monthly. Young people will be given instruction on fire precautions and appropriate procedures. Full records of all drills and procedures are maintained.

A protocol arrangement has been made with the Local Chief Officer of Police regarding emergency procedures.

Responsible Body

Hillside Secure Children's Home is maintained by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ and as such it is subject to the provisions of The Children's Act 1989 -Guidance and Regulations for Residential Care. Hillside is approved by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales for the purpose of restricting the liberty of children.

The registered person is Mr Nick Jarman, Director of Social Services and Housing. The business address is Neath Port Talbot Social Services and Housing Department, Civic Centre, Neath, SA11 3QZ.

Amended 170817



Hillside Secure Children's Home
Off Burnside
Cimla
Neath
SA11 1UL

Tel: (01639) 641648 Fax: (01639) 620236

email: hillside@npt.gov.uk

secure email: laschillside@npt.gov.uk.cjasm.net

website: www.hillsidesecurechildrenshome.co.uk

Hillside Organisational Structure

