

**Portland**

**Residential Children’s Home**

**“STATEMENT OF PURPOSE”**

**August 2019**

 **Responsible Individual:** James O’Leary

 **Registered Manager:** Vacant

 **Covering Manager:** Stephan Dillon

Prepared in consultation with

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**Portland Children’s Home**

**Responsible Individual:** James O’Leary

**Registered Manager:** Vacant (Stephan Dillon covering manager)

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Registered number:** SC390434

**Website:**  [www.crystalcaresolutions.co.uk](http://www.crystalcaresolutions.co.uk)

**Email:**

Portland Children’s Home is regulated by Ofsted and if you wish to contact them, the address to write to is:

**Address:**

Ofsted

Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester

M1 2WD

**Telephone:** 0300 123 1231 - Children’s Services and General Enquires

60085 – for text messages

These help lines are available from 08.00 to 20.00, Monday to Friday.

**Email:** enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

**Introduction to the Portland Home**

Portland Children’s Home is a 4 bed detached dwelling located in the Norton Heights area of Stoke on Trent. The premise is privately owned and is managed by a team of appropriately qualified managers and residential workers. The home is situated on a private residential estate with nearby recreational facilities and easy access to local town centres.

The Portland Home is a residential children’s home providing short-term to long-term residential placement for young people, catering for no more than 2 young people at any one time of any gender between the ages of 8 up until 18. The homes arrangement is for two staff to sleep over at night. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties (EBD)

We have experience in working with a range of young people with various complex needs, some of whom are statemented under the Education Act 2011. The young people who live at Portland Children’s Home will have come from a range of settings and experiences, e.g. home, family/relatives breakdown, fostering breakdown, other residential Homes. With support, guidance and assistance, we aim to:

1. Work within the Care Plan as agreed with the Local Authority and to rehabilitate the young person within a family environment.

2. Provide short to long term residential care placement.

The young people who come to live at this home will be offered an on-going assessment and a programme of social care, promoting education, providing a stimulating environment where young people have the opportunity to reach their potential. By providing nurturing, structured and supportive care we can enable the young people to establish equilibrium in their lives. Crystal Care Solutions exists to provide a high quality living environment for young people offering a child centred approach which is tailored to meet their individual needs.

The following Statement of Purpose follows the model shown whereby our mission and vision are translated into the actual delivery of services. Throughout this process issues of dignity, equality and individual rights used responsibly will be seen as cross-cutting elements of our delivery.

**Ethos**

Crystal Care Solutions are a specialist care provider with a strong history of delivering high quality Care and Support to children and young adults across the Midlands, North West and Wales. Our services include:

* Children’s residential homes;
* Therapeutic placements;
* Specialist placements;
* Semi independence placements;
* Supported tenancies;
* Training and Consultancy.

Our dedicated team ensure that a young person’s emotional needs and well-being are always at the centre of our practice and our specialist child or young person-centred approach consistently achieves the best possible outcomes for our service users.

Our paramount duty to a young person entering our care is to support them to feel safe. This is achieved through the provision of a stable living environment and laying the foundations of a trusting relationship with the staff team.

We believe that in order for a young person to engage with us effectively they should have an understanding of their situation, their options and the expectations upon them.

We believe that it is only fair to support individuals in a way which reflects their own aspirations and is realistic and achievable. We support the idea that young people may change their perspectives and priorities and would support them to engage with services to express their views.

Our practices acknowledge and accept that young people can make mistakes and may need to be supported to move forward.

Through a consistent and fair approach we ensure that our young people are given the praise and encouragement needed to build confidence and self-esteem. It is our view that improved self-confidence is the key to improved behaviour and motivation and that any step in the right direction should be acknowledged.

It is our hope that a nurturing and accepting environment will support young people to stabilize, to deal with past traumas and to develop the skills to live healthy happy lives.

Crystal Care Solutions work in partnership with Local Authorities and other professional organisations. We identify and address the specific needs of the young person and develop a placement plan which mirrors the aims of the young person’s care plan, setting achievable targets and goals.

We at Crystal Care Solutions believe that communication is the key to effective multi agency working, in order to ensure the needs of our young people are met. As such we ensure that all relevant professionals receive regular reports and updates ensuring a true ‘team around the child’ approach.

Crystal Care Solutions go the extra mile and will seek and engage any other services or professional support as required to meet the needs of the young people placed with us. We don’t give up and have very low instances of placement breakdown.

**Values**

We believe that:

Residential care should provide children and young people with skilled support from

committed staff in a safe, caring and ordered environment. We have a responsibility to ensure that children and young people in residential care are protected from abuse and neglect and that care should form part of a range of services, which combine to meet children and young people’s needs and support their families and carers.

We should recruit and support staff that are carefully selected and have opportunities to

develop skills and professional practice through training and supervision.

We have a number of values, which are important to the home and for the children and young people who are looked after.

• **Dignity and Respect**: recognising the value of young people, their uniqueness and their right to be treated with dignity and respect.

• **Equality:** ensuring that the services and facilities of the home are accessible and available to all. The service provided by our staff should not judge children and young people’s circumstances, backgrounds and lifestyles. It should not discriminate on the grounds of race, culture, language, religious beliefs, gender, sexuality or disability. Individuality will be valued.

• **Quality:** promoting quality services which are based on agreed standards and meet legal and good practice requirements. A commitment to ensure that staff working with children and young people will do what they say they do.

• **Independence:** a commitment to provide opportunities for children and young people to think and act independently whilst ensuring their safety at all times. To include a child or young person’s need for privacy.

• **Rights:** a commitment to children and young people, rights and entitlements

• **Listening:** a commitment to listen to children and young people and help them express their wishes and needs in whatever way is best suited to the individual child or young person.

• **Development and fulfilment:** recognition that young people are children first; all encouragement will be given to realise their full potential and to help children and young people achieve their hopes and ambitions and to develop their abilities in their daily lives. A commitment to ensure they have a good start in life.

• **Confidentiality:** treating all personal information in confidence

**Aims and Objectives**

*‘To provide nurturing, structured and supportive care to enable young people to establish equilibrium in their lives.’*

This aim will be supported through the following objectives;

* To provide a style of care that minimises institutional aspects of substitute living environments.
* To develop mechanisms whereby young people are fully participative in their care and educational programmes
* To use child centred approaches and provide a continuity of care in the residential settings we provide.
* To provide for the educational needs of young people through a combination of attendance at mainstream or specialised provision within the local area and individual tuition, determined by a Personal Education Plan.
* To realistically prepare young people to integrate into a family environment, or further residential provision, and/or to equip them with the practical and emotional skills for successful independent living.

**These aims and objectives are supported through:**

* The provision of a high standard of primary care within a stable environment as a medium within which to achieve the objectives of Care Plans of young people we look after.
* A policy of equal opportunities, including the consideration of positive action to ensure equality of opportunity where young people are experiencing difficulty engaging with or accessing our service because of a protected characteristic as defined by Chapter 1 Section 4, 2010 Equality Act.
* Offering a comprehensive range of activities to recognise and help fulfil the needs of the young people resident for legitimate excitement, adventure and the acquisition of developmental skills. To further promote the constructive use of leisure time through an individual activity programme
* Assisting young people in developing the skills required for their safe interaction within the wider community and to assist them in establishing and developing appropriate social networks within the community.
* Fully involving young people in their daily lives by their participation in a shared living experience
* Providing a homely and warm environment which steers away from an institutional model of care and which facilitates the learning of basic living skills
* Providing support with the recognition that young people require on-going parenting and the development of internal values as opposed to purely supplying and enforcing a set of abstract rules
* Providing a medium for the development of positive relationships with adults and peers to enable the development of the individual’s identity and self-esteem
* Building confidence to enable the young people we look after to take on the responsibility of adult life including the acquisition of appropriate parenting skills
* Providing an environment for undertaking appropriate work either inclusive or exclusive of the young people’s family
* Providing assistance to help young people come to terms with the fact that they are in residential care and understand their place within their near and extended family
* Providing an environment that values learning and promotes further education and/or vocational training that will develop young people’s skill base and subsequently enhance their life opportunities and access to employment
* In order to achieve these aims and objectives a supportive partnership is established between young people and the care team. Regular informal and formal discussions and reviews are held which enable the views and opinions of the young people to be sought and thereby taken into consideration within the daily programme.
* In certain circumstances external therapeutic input and assessment may be provided but only on condition that it is provided by suitable qualified and experienced practitioners with the support of independent supervision

**Location and Safe Area Report**

The Portland home is dual occupancy, 4 bed detached dwelling, situated on the Norton Heights estate within Stoke on Trent. The property is privately owned and is managed by a team of highly qualified managers, and residential care workers. The home is situated on a new-build housing estate and has close nearby recreational facilities with easy access to the city, and town, centres. The Portland Home is a Residential Children’s Home that provides care for young people with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties between the ages of 8 and 18. The home can accommodate no more than 2 young people in residence at any one time.

The Norton Heights estate where the Home is located is a relatively new, modern housing estate which is home to mainly young families, and is for the majority of time quiet. There are no shops, parks or community centres within the estate, which eliminates the congregating of groups or gangs and as a result of this anti-social behaviour within the estate is extremely low.

The home comes under the policing team of Ford Green and Smallthorne with the local police station being in Burslem. Crime in the area is currently deemed to be low. The most prominent crimes in the Ford Green and Smallthorne are:

* Theft and Burglary
* Anti-Social Behaviour
* Criminal Damage and Arson
* Violence and Sexual Offences

Risk Assessments have been completed for all prominent crimes within the area and it is judged that all the crimes and concerns raised can be adequate and effectively managed by the home.

The Portland Home is a member of the Neighbourhood Watch programme and Smart Alert. Staff are in touch and aware of the relevant crimes or issues in and around the estate. The main issues currently identified by Neighbourhood Watch and the local PCSO are Theft from Vehicles and parking issues. Visitors to the home, including Staff, are to be advised that valuables such as Satellite Navigation Systems, handbags, and mobile phones, should not be left in their vehicles or in sight. To eliminate the parking issues visitors are encouraged to use the car park behind the Portland home and Staff are to use the homes driveway.

As well as strong links with the Police and other crime-prevention services such as Youth Offending and Neighbour Watch, the home also boast excellent links and professional relationships with a number of therapeutic services within the local area. This has meant that the home can effectively manage the needs of young people placed at the home. Services in the area can provide support for Mental Health, Self-Harm, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Bullying, Mental Distress, and can offer therapeutic support through Mind and Changes YP.

Meetings the health needs is a vital element of the placement referral process, and fortunately Health Care provisions within the area are plentiful, and there is easy and local access to Doctors, Dentist, and opticians from the Portland home. There is also a Walk-in Medical Centre and Accident & Emergency (Within the main North Staffordshire Hospital) within 3 miles of the home. Registration at any of the medical provisions mentioned is simple and can be done on arrival of all new placements.

Education providers and provisions are also plentiful within 3 miles of the home. There are 7 Primary schools and infant schools within 1 mile, including school’s catering for special needs. There are 3 secondary schools within 2 miles, one being a St. Margaret Ward Catholic School with specialism in Art and a dedication to the Catholic faith. There is also a Specialist Sports College, Holden Lane, which is a safe walking distance from the home. For young people with SENs or with Learning Difficulties there are known special schools within the area such as Abbey Hill. There are also Independent Education Providers that specialise in re-engaging young people in education who have previous been expelled or have difficulty meeting the national curriculum. Numerous Faith schools are also available in the area including Catholic and CofE.

Stoke on Trent is a very diverse area, that offers a vast array of religious places of worship. Within 3 miles there are Churches from each major denomination of Christianity, there are Mosques, Temples and other Assemblies of God, and Kingdom Hall of Jehovah. The home would be able to provider for, and meet the religious and cultural needs of, most young people placed.

The home is able to meet the needs of Young People, from all backgrounds and cultures, and encouraging involvement and integration into the local community is a primary objective. Within a 3 mile radius of the home there are numerous Youth Groups and Clubs which offer social interaction and also help promote and develop young people’s hobbies and interests. The home again, has good links with local sports teams including Football and Cricket, and the Stoke on Trent area can facilitate almost all interests.

**Summary**

Overall, after exhaustive research, assessment and information gathering, including responses and involvement from a range of professionals, it is judged that the Portland Home is placed in an area that poses **Low Risk** to young people placed at the home. Strong multi-agency working, highly qualified, trained and dedicated Staff, and effective mitigations ensure that all risks within the area are sufficiently and effectively managed. Facilities and services within the area ensure that the home can meet the needs of the majority of young people who may be referred to, or placed in, the Portland home.

Overall, Young People can be kept Safe within the area, and the home is deemed to be well placed with little concern around its location.

**Facilities, Services, Accommodation**

Portland Children’s Home is a private home which has been adapted for use as a

residential children’s home. Portland is a Children’s Home, situated in a private residential estate in the Norton area of Stoke on Trent. It is a detached house with 4 bedrooms, 1 communal bathroom, 1 en-suite bathroom, a kitchen, lounge, conservatory, downstairs toilet, office/Staff bedroom, and a garden. There is an external, detached garage with driveway parking.

The ground floor comprises of an entrance hallway; an office/staff bedroom;

kitchen; lounge, conservatory and a WC.

On the second floor, there are three bedrooms and a main bathroom.

The home is well furnished and tastefully decorated throughout.

Parking facilities are available to the rear of the home in form of a car park, and also room for 1 car on a private driveway.

**The YP bedrooms** are lockable and consist of:

A single or double bed, A Television with DVD player, A Wardrobe and a Chest of drawers as a minimum.

**The Staff Bedroom** is lockable and consists of: A single bed, a chest of drawers

**The Lounge** is a communal area and consists of:

A Television with Sky including Sports Package, 2 x 3 seated Sofas, A selection of DVD’s

A games console with a selection of games is also available.

**The communal bathroom** is lockable and consists of:

A bath with shower head, a shower, a toilet, a washbasin.

**The Kitchen** is lockable andconsists of:

A fully fitted kitchen with an oven and hob, a fridge/freezer, a Microwave, a washing machine, a tumble dryer, a kettle, a toaster, all utensils and cookware that is required in a kitchen for preparing and cooking meals.

**The Conservatory** is a communal area and consists of:

Dining Table and Chairs, and a sofa. This room will also be used as a meeting room and a quite area where the YP can study or complete homework.

**The Garden** consists of:

An enclosed paved area, an enclosed grassed area, the gardens are overlooked in places but generally private and there is access to the garage and also to front of house.

There is a landline house telephone located in the lounge for Young People to use and to enable contact with family, friends and professionals.

**Religious Instruction and Observance**

We do not prescribe to a particular religious belief but great emphasis is placed upon the importance of the individual beliefs of the young people we accommodate.

Where a young person does have religious beliefs, they are seen as fundamental to the self-identity of that individual. Their chosen belief or religion will be supported and encouraged according to the individual’s needs and wishes.

Prior to and on admission the significance of religious belief in the child’s life will be established and information regarding places of worship, times of worship made available. Places of worship within the local area will also be identified and support provided to access these.

Within the home, if required, time and space will be made available to children for religious observance. Staff members will also be sensitive to any dietary or dress/clothing needs in relation to beliefs. No young person would be expected to compromise their religious observances unless there was an identified risk of harm with that observance and there was no other way of reducing that risk. The staff group is committed to the ethos of anti-discriminatory practice and will not make negative value judgements regarding the religious observance or beliefs of young people accommodated.

**Equality and Diversity**

## Equality and Diversity for Children and Young People

* We encourage children to develop respect for themselves and for others;
* We deliver services that recognise and build on the strengths of children and young people from all cultures, religions, gender, age, sexual orientation, ability and backgrounds; in ways that meet their needs and help them to achieve their full potential;
* Every effort is made to ensure that Homes are welcoming to all children and young people and others significant in their care and wellbeing; this effort is reflected in the communication around the Home, including: posters, information boards, displays and leaflets. In addition to this, resources used to develop work with children and young people are chosen for their suitability and anti-oppressive nature;
* Children are offered opportunities to try out new experiences, which are not restricted by traditional gender options;
* Staff are expected to challenge attitudes, behaviour and language that are non-inclusive and discriminatory, in a positive way;
* Managers are expected to monitor the range of children and young people placed within the Home in terms of ethnicity, gender and disability. This is to ensure the service provision is reaching all and not creating barriers to certain groups.

##  Inclusion for Children and Young People

* All children are given the opportunity to be cared for and educated. Where possible this is alongside their peers in order to develop their full potential;
* Children are encouraged and supported to understand their rights and be well-informed about ways of challenging discrimination;
* Home's managers are expected to identify local community resources that contribute to meeting the needs of individuals- these are highlighted and promoted and where they do not meet required needs alternatives are sought and suitably identified regardless of geographical location, for example hairdressers who specialise in braiding or cutting African Caribbean hair;
* Children are cared for by staff who have been suitably trained in all aspects of equality and diversity including legislation and their responsibilities;
* Home's managers ensure that assessments of the child and the families specific needs is carried out with an aim to support and develop their full potential;
* Home's managers are expected to examine ways in which diversity can be valued and activities adapted to meet the Individual child's needs including food preparation and menu choices;
* Staff are expected to acknowledge the importance of maintaining a link between the child's home and the Children's Home in meeting the individual's need;
* Staff, are expected to offer appropriate support to aid inclusion and ensure that the children and young people can fully participate in the Home's activities. If necessary seek additional support in order to do this;
* Additional support is offered to staff and/or Children who are finding difficulty in understanding diverse or complex situations.

**Complaints**

Young people, parents, carers and advocates have legitimate rights to express concern or make complaints. We will always respond to complaints.

 All complaints are taken seriously. If young people are unhappy in any way at all, they are encouraged to let staff know straight away. Irrespective of the roots of the child’s feeling we do not want unhappiness to fester. Should any complaint reveal any issue for which other procedures exist, (e.g. Child Protection) then it will be dealt with under those procedures rather than as a complaint.

For young people, as part of our child admissions arrangements we issue a personal copy of our Children’s Guide which, in a child-friendly way explains the complaints procedure. Staff will ascertain whether a young person requires assistance to complain and support young people in the necessary and appropriate manner.

All complaints are referred to the Acting Manager.  Irrespective of any Crystal Care Solutions internal procedure the child can involve their Social Worker and external agencies, Childline, Ofsted, Children’s Commissioner, and the Independent Person.

Our policy outlines the procedures to be followed in all complaints. First it specifies how people can complain then it involves informal and formal stages depending on the nature of complaint. Short timescales are attached to each stage to ensure that things do not drag on and that complainants have the confidence they have been listened to and that action has been taken. We will always inform the complainant how things have been resolved.

The Manager daily monitors any complaints or concerns and formally reviews everything on a monthly basis. The Independent Person monitors on a monthly basis any complaints received and how they have been dealt with.

 If necessary the most senior members of Crystal Care Solutions, including Directors will involve themselves in a complaint to ensure that it is dealt with properly and that complainants know what has been done.

The Manager will supply to Ofsted, at its request, a statement containing a summary of any complaints made during the preceding twelve months and the action that was taken.

Homes Managers must take all reasonable steps to ensure that children feel comfortable with the making of comments or complaints, they are enabled to make a complaint or representation and are free from reprisals if they choose to do so. Young People are advised that they may ask someone else to make the complaint on their behalf.  They will also be given information and contacts details of Advocates they may contact, who may make complaints or advocate of their behalf or assist them in doing so. Complaints Forms are readily available to the young people within their Key Worker Files and are offered after all incidents, especially those involving physical intervention.

A copy of the Complaints Policy and Procedure is available to view online at <http://www.proceduresonline.com/crystalcare/chapters/p_representations.html>

Telephone numbers of Childline, Ofsted, Children’s Rights Commissioner and the NSPCC are displayed in a prominent position in the Home. Each young person has a right to make a complaint directly to **Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD 0300 123 1231**

**Child Protection and Bullying**

The Portland Home is committed at every level to safeguarding generally, and child protection in particular, in order to promote young people’s welfare. We take seriously our duty to protect every young person from abuse and maltreatment and to prevent impairment of health or development.

All concerns of a Child Protection nature will be referred by the Manager/Designated Child Protection Officer to the Local Authority. In any circumstances where Safeguarding procedures are undertaken, the young person’s social services and parents will be kept closely involved and informed as required by Working Together to Safeguard Young People

All staff receive regular training together with support and guidance in safeguarding and promoting young people’s welfare. On placement a comprehensive risk assessment is undertaken which covers all areas of safeguarding. This risk assessment is reviewed at regular intervals or immediately if the need arises.

All children and young people have a right to feel confident that this is a safe and healthy environment.

We want to ensure that all children, young people and staff remain safe from bullying behaviour and have the opportunity to thrive and prosper, emotionally and socially within and outside the Home.

When bullying is encountered we will ensure that the procedures are in place to allow:

* Reporting of the incident;
* Having incidents of bullying properly recorded;
* Having concerns or incidents of bullying properly monitored;
* Ensuring appropriate action is taken in response to incidents of bullying and that is followed up.

This will ensure that people feel listened to and understand that their concerns have been and will be taken seriously.

Within the home a culture of respect and dignity is agreed and promoted amongst the staff, children, and any visitors into the home and a set of shared standards of what behaviour and language is acceptable across the home will be advocated.

Staff and children will receive guidance and training that encourages an understanding and appreciation of what bullying is and how it impacts on self and others.

Our Child Protection Policy and Countering Bullying Policy is available on request and underlines our commitment to inter agency working. This can also be viewed by accessing our online Policies and Procedures Manual at;

[www.proceduresonline.com/crystalcare](http://www.proceduresonline.com/crystalcare)

**User Engagement**

The home actively involves young people in the day to day running of the home and its development as a service.

The home adopts several forums for young people to voice their concerns or raise issues generally about the care that is provided for them. As we provide a public function, we recognise our duty to consult with and involve young people in the planning and delivery of our services.

To meet this duty the home actively involves young people in the day to day running of the home, and the development of Crystal Care Solutions in a more general context. Young people are involved in the recruitment process and attend ‘young people’s meetings’. We operate our service in a transparent way and invite those who use our service to comment and contribute through these meetings and through less formal discussion with the manager and proprietor. Feedback received from young people and their families is used when designing or developing policy and service.

At an individual level the provision of a consistent staff team and key worker supports the young person to form relationships in which they can make honest comments and express their views freely. Staff will always treat these views with importance, and support the young person to raise any concerns, or raise concerns on their behalf. The young person is proactively involved in direct consultation regarding their feelings towards the placement.

Young people are provided with opportunities to be involved in the drafting and reviewing of Placement Plans, they are encouraged to attend Placement and Looked After Children Reviews and be involved in or consulted about key decisions made in the home.

The Proprietor or designated independent visitor, who undertakes our Regulation 44 visits, meets the young people every month where possible to obtain their views, thoughts, opinions or concerns.

Crystal Care Solutions have contracted a bi-lingual (English/Welsh) independent advocacy service to be available for young people should they wish to discuss issues with someone external to the home and the company. The advocacy service provide young people with an initial visit and introduction. The service ensures that issues raised by Young People are referred on to relevant Placing Authorities and services and will monitor the outcomes obtained by the young person.

Young people are provided with information about the service and contact details so that they may engage them independently. The young person will direct the advocacy service as to how and if they would like issues addressed.

The Portland Home adopts a Child-Centred Approach and they are heavily involved in not only their own care plans but in the development of the Portland Home. Young People have input on the decor, the furnishings, the rules and the running of the home in order to improve their service provided.

**Anti-Discriminatory Practice**

The Manager and staff team of the home believe strongly that an anti-discriminatory approach to their practice and equality of opportunity for young people accommodated are fundamental to good practice. Our staff are guided by the principles set out in the Equality Act 2010. To this end the home will work within all policies, procedures and guidelines laid down by Crystal Care Solutions with regard to equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

Through training and development we will raise awareness of all forms of discrimination and the duties incumbent on employees to adhere to equality legislation. No one should face discrimination Harassment or victimisation at the home as a result of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. Our staff, through their day to day work, seek to eliminate harassment and discrimination, actively encourage the advancement of equality of opportunity, and foster good relations with those who have a protected characteristic. No one should face discrimination at the home as a result of their colour, race, culture, gender, language, and sexual orientation, disability or other characteristics.

**Children’s rights**

* **You** have the **right** to be treated with **respect**.
* **You** have the **right** to be responsible for **yourself** and **your** own actions, and to **respect** the **rights** of **others**.
* **You** have the **right** to make mistakes.
* **You** have the **right** to **privacy** and **personal space**.
* **You** have the **right** to education.
* **You** have the **right** to a **safe** and **secure** environment.
* **You** have the **right** to ask for information and advice.
* **You** have the **right** to be **listened** to and be taken seriously.

There is an organisation called **Ofsted** who make sure that homes like ours operate correctly. Postal address is, Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store street, Manchester, M1 2WD. You can contact them on: **03001231231 anytime**

Other agencies you can contact are listed below:

·  ChildLine: **0800 1111**

·  Assist advocacy: **01782 845 584**

·  Language line: **020750 1430**

·  Who Cares Helpline: **0500 564570**

· Cruse bereavement care (Young people’s support line): **0808 808 1677**

· Connexions: **080 800 13 2 19 or**

· Text Connexions Direct: **07766 4 13 2 19**

· NHS Direct: **0845 4647**

· Younger mind:www.youngminds.org.uk/contact

· Samaritans: **08457909090**

· Youth matters: **0800 107 7057**

You have the ‘**right’** to know your **‘rights’.** The Children’s Commissioner is **Ann Longfield OBE**, website address is <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk> . The postal address is: The Office of the Children's Commissioner Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street London SW1P 3BT

Tel: 020 7783 8330
Email: info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk

**Education Promotion**

Education is essential for intellectual, social, emotional and physical development and can be a stable factor in a young person’s life. Education nurtures self-esteem; confidence and resilience and enables integration, future choices and independence.

The staff and management team believe that young people should be provided with a level of educational opportunity that allows them to develop to the best of their abilities and enable them to attain the highest level of academic achievement they can.

The home will provide suitable facilities for home study, materials to support young people’s education and offer support up to the level of their own academic ability.

We will provide links with schools and other education providers and encourage the involvement of vocational and work experience.

We will work collaboratively with the Placing Authority and Local Educational Authority in developing and maintaining the Personal Education Plans and EHCPs, this includes young people with a statement of educational needs (SEN) with a view to one of the following options being available for the provision of education:

* Local Mainstream Provision
* Local or Regional Special Educational Provision
* Individual Tutoring
* Specialist small group education provision
* Modern Apprenticeship / work based learning

For young people who have completed their statutory education, individual full or part time tuition, access to further educational establishments and vocational training can be provided.

At Portland Home we:

* Believe that all young people are of equal value and should be given equality of opportunity and access to resources, regardless of their sex, race, religion, ability or background.
* Endeavour to ensure that our residents gain maximum life chance benefits from educational opportunities by helping them to achieve more at school.
* Ensure that this home provides an environment and culture that value education and learning and that adult support and model this.
* Endeavour to develop the emotional, physical, spiritual, social and intellectual growth of its pupils and to encourage and assist them in overcoming their difficulties for their individual benefit and for the benefit of society.
* Aim to provide a parenting environment that helps promote learning and achievement that spreads throughout the day involving young people.
* Where applicable endeavour to reintegrate all young people into mainstream education wherever possible, or failing that to facilitate their reintegration into society by the provision of appropriate experiences and support.
* Provide the opportunity for all young people to reach their full potential through the National Curriculum in line with all up to date recommendations and the provision of relevant work experiences and post under 18 courses.
* Strive to improve the quality of both school and home life, staff and resources by a policy of on-going self-appraisal and by providing opportunities for staff to expand and develop their own skills and knowledge.
* Ensure that all key workers are actively involved in supporting the young person’ attendance and educational achievement.
* Ensure attendance at all relevant school meetings, such as parent’s evenings, PEP meeting, exclusion meetings.
* Ensure that we have quality educational resources within the Home.
* Liaise with appropriate professionals within the Education Department where there are particular issues with a pupil’s attendance and educational progress.
* Encourage Key Workers to liaise closely with the Designated Teacher/Class Teacher and actively support the child’s/young person’s progress.
* Ask Key Workers to contribute to and to become fully involved in educational meetings to inform the PEP and EHC plan and Care Plan and reviews.
* Ensure the young person’s learning at school is followed up and supported at home.
* We support the young person’s participation and achievement in SATs, GCSEs, Vocational courses and other qualifications.
* Ensure the child/young person is up and ready for school on time, with all necessary resources.
* Ensure (where applicable) the child/young person has a clean, full school uniform.
* Ensure regular attendance where possible and actively contribute to the culture
* Respond appropriately to fixed-term exclusions, by ensuring that adequate and suitable work is provided for young people.

In Stoke-on-Trent, schools provide a wide range of extra support for children with special educational needs. This is matched to their level of difficulty. Most children's needs will be met by their school, through a range of interventions known as School Action and School Action Plus. This is called the graduated approach.

This 'graduated approach' is described in more detail in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. This is a guide for schools and local educational authorities and provides information about how they help children with special educational needs. By law, the guidance in the code of practice should not be ignored

**Facilities at Portland Children’s Home**

Each young person has access to facilities that will enable them to do their school homework. Each young person has space within their bedrooms dedicated to school work, each have a desk and provided with stationary and required workbooks/notebooks. Young people can also access information from the staff team when possible. Staff would endeavour to obtain relevant up to date information to enable the young person to do their schoolwork.

**Recreational, Sporting and Cultural Activities**

The home is fully committed to the perspective of social inclusion.

To this end we will actively support young people in their particular interests both at the home and in the wider community. Where young people are admitted with little or no previous involvement in activities, a varied program will be constructed that exposes them to a range of diverse activities that are both challenging and educational. The programme will provide opportunities for the acquisition of skills, knowledge and excitement. From these “taster activities” young people will be encouraged and supported to make choices as to which if any areas they wish to pursue on an on-going basis.

We will support young people to foster good relations with their communities and in particular, for individuals with protected characteristics we will promote equality of opportunity.

We encourage young people to participate in physical exercise and choose activities that they will enjoy doing. We appreciate that all young people have different individual needs with different skills, experience and abilities thus will have varying likes and dislikes. We will attempt to help young people meet these needs in an age appropriate way.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CinemaIce skatingAlton Towers | SwimmingTen pin bowlingLaser Quest | Alton TowersVideos/MoviesShopping |
| Dry Slope skiingTheatreYouth ClubsRacquet SportsPaintballing | Computer gamesGuides, ScoutsFootball ClubsHorse RidingSnooker/Pool Clubs | Cycling, WalkingBoxing Club Sea/Army/Air CadetsCricket ClubsOutdoor Pursuits |

The home values the self-esteem of young people and will actively celebrate religious, cultural and special occasions. Young people are encouraged to celebrate and participate in religious observance, e.g. Ramadan, Eid, Divali, Christmas, Birthdays and other religious festivals. The weekly menus also reflect the specific religious celebrations.

The Portland Home has formed strong links with local sports teams, in particular Football and Cricket and have been able to support and integrate young people successfully into these teams. Positive relationships have been formed through this, and it has aided the young people with their social development and self-esteem.

Each month the Portland home arranges a group activity for both young people and staff to engage. As well as encouraging recreational activity, this strengthens relationships and ‘bonds’ within the home and it helps give the young people are sense of belonging.

**Health Promotion and Protection**

The health of young people accommodated is of the utmost importance. Young People are encouraged and taught to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to care for their own Health and Wellbeing. We will actively encourage young people to monitor their own health by way of a regular programme of healthcare checks with their GP, Dentist and Optician.

On admission there will be an undertaking to ensure registration or confirmation of previous registration of GP, dentist and opticians. If possible, we will make arrangements for young people to maintain registration with their own medical practitioners.

Any appointments made in respect of a child’s health will be discussed with the parent(s) or those with parental responsibility. Where the Placement Plan deems it appropriate, parent(s) or those with parental responsibility are to be invited to accompany young people to appointments.

If a young person were to become chronically sick or disabled whilst placed at the Portland Home, we would aim to make provisions for their continued accommodation through the consideration of additional registration, adjustments to the physical environment and additional staff training. Where it is not possible continue the placement we would make every effort to ensure smooth transition of the young person to another, more appropriate service.

All Portland Staff are trained in First Aid and also in the Safe Handling and Administration of Medication. First aid boxes are available within the home to treat minor injuries. Staff are instructed to make immediate use of the GP surgery and the emergency services at the local hospital in the case or suspicion of more serious injuries. Travel First Aid Bags are also available for taking on activities or day trips.

Medication will only be made available to young people if prescribed or approved by a medical practitioner with the exception of home remedies which may be purchased over the counter for minor ailments. All drugs and medicines are to be kept in a locked cabinet and a precise record of their use is made. Young people will only be allowed to administer prescribed drugs and medicines themselves with the permission of the Registered Manager who will, in turn, agree this course of action with the GP and the placing authority.

Arrangements are put in place to monitor, and if appropriate restrict, the use of household substances that may be harmful e.g. Bleach, Disinfectant, Aerosols etc in keeping with COSHH and other relevant standards.

A programme of Health Education will be provided for young people as part of their on-going care and educational plan. This will involve both internal and external inputs. Particular features of this programme will be HIV awareness, sex education, smoking, alcohol, drugs, and healthy eating and exercise. The Portland Home follows the Food Safety Standards, ‘Eat-Well Plate’ and also encourage young people to prepare meals using the Department of Health’s ‘Be Food Smart’ Meal Planner. Healthy eating is promoted within the home.

**Therapeutic Services**

The home can employ various therapeutic techniques if commissioned by the Placing Authority and where appropriate to meet the needs of the young person.

Therapeutic services, including therapeutic assessment, therapeutic modelling, treatment and staff training is provided by our partner organisations who include Younger Mind (CAMHS tiers 1, 2 & 3). Their counselling staff are all qualified to at least Diploma level in Counselling and many staff have MA or MSc level qualifications, as well as a range of previous professional backgrounds. This applies to paid and unpaid staff. They do have some trainees who are currently on Diploma or MA/MSc level courses. Many of our counsellors are also individually accredited by the BACP.

In certain specific cases we work along-side specialist therapeutic resources such as G-Map (Manchester) who also provide therapeutic services in collaboration with our staffing team. In other cases we would seek to engage whatever therapeutic services were deemed appropriate by the Placing Authority.

The home measures the effectiveness of its approach to health care and therapy by regular meetings with health providers/bodies. In addition to this internal monitoring measures are completed, this includes regular key work sessions, young people’s meetings, manager’s monthly audits (regulation 45) and the ‘outcome monitoring table’. This information is stored within the home and can be accessed by the relevant bodies.

 **Electronic Surveillance**

‘The home is equipped with door alarms to young persons’ bedrooms. The bedroom door alarms will be disabled when not required.

Prior to young people being placed, consent for the use of bedroom door alarms will be sought from the young persons’ placing authority (and where the young person is accommodated – Section 20 (Section 76 Wales), consent will be sought from parents). The procedure for use of bedroom door alarms for each young person will be included in their placement plan and a risk assessment will also be implemented, detailing the use of such alarms.

The front and rear doors of the home also have a chime so that staff are aware of when other staff, young people and visitors are entering and exiting the premises.’

 Young people in the home may be subject to electronic surveillance only if imposed by the courts. This is monitored externally by EMS.

**Behaviour Management**

Our goal is to support young people to reduce inappropriate, damaging and destructive behaviour, and to develop healthy and socially acceptable behaviour.

We use a range of proven methods and techniques to achieve this.

* Setting reasonable and achievable expectations with the young person’s involvement and understanding
* Acknowledging and rewarding positive behaviour
* Procedures and individual programmes designed to encourage, promote and celebrate achievement.
* Provide encouragement and support to recognise difficult and unacceptable behavior, and to respond proportionately
* To allow for mistakes and give opportunities for moving forward

**Use of sanctions:**

Any sanctions are agreed upon admission following a period of assessment (typically 28 days) and incorporated into the Placement Plan. Appropriate sanctions may be revised by the management of the home in response to specific behavioural issues as circumstances change or as necessary. In every event the Placing Authority will be kept updated.

They are implemented only when it is proportionate, appropriate and where the use of the sanction is likely to achieve an identified outcome.

The sanction implemented will be the least restrictive possible to achieve the identified outcome.

Sanctions are recorded and signed off by the Manager in accordance with Children’s Homes Regulations 2015

**Crisis management and the use of Physical Intervention:**

All staff undertake certificated behaviour management training prior to commencement of work within the home and complete refresher training at least every 12 months.

Physical intervention is used in extreme circumstances, where it has been identified as the only means and least restrictive option available to ensure the safety and minimise the risk of injury to the young person and/or others, or where there is a risk of significant damage to property.

Incidents of physical intervention are always followed by de-briefing opportunity whereby the young person is encouraged to talk about the incident, the triggers and the staff responses. This is intended to reduce any possible trauma experienced by a young person during a restraint or intervention and allows for a learning process around self -control and personal safety. This helps to assess staff competency of using and recording approved physical intervention, in addition to supervision, Regulation 44 and 45 (England) Regulation 33/81 (Wales) inspections/monitoring and internal QA Audits.

All incidents of use of restraint or physical intervention are recorded in accordance with Children’s Homes Regulations 2015 and Quality Care Standards (England), and in our Welsh homes; The Children’s Home Regulations (Wales) (2002), Care Standards Act (2000) and The Regulated Services (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals) (Wales) Regulations (2017) as applicable.

Social workers are informed and young people, staff and others have the opportunity to talk through and learn from their experiences.

The young person is provided with an opportunity to see a medical practitioner and make comments or complaints following the use of physical intervention or restraint.

**Behaviour Support Plans**

As part of the assessment and planning process for all children, Behaviour Support Plans based on The PPR (Preventing, Protecting, Restoring) training are devised for each young person residing at the Home.

The Behaviour Support Plan will be different for each child, depending on the child’s background and needs. However, it is expected that any behaviours which give rise to concern about the following will result in a Behaviour Management Plan; for example:

1. Absenting behaviour;
2. Anxiety or withdrawal;
3. Bullying or other similar behaviours;
4. Challenging behaviour;
5. Drug or substance misuse;
6. Lack of awareness of person safety;
7. Offending or offensive behaviour;
8. Sexual Exploitation;
9. Self harming behaviour;
10. Sexually exploitative or inappropriate sexual behaviour;
11. Violence or aggressive behaviour.

**Unauthorised Absence and Missing From Care**

Our goal is to support and advise each young person to them understand the risks and dangers involved with becoming absent from the home, and to advise each young person of how to seek help should they run away from the home.

Portland home has in place Missing from Care protocols which will be tailored to each young person who resides at the home, which is compiled with guidance and reference from relevant protocols and legislation such as *‘Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care’, ‘Local Authorities, Joint protocol on children who run away or go missing from home or care’* etc, which will ensure that the home’s procedure take into account the views of appropriate local services and have regard to police and local authority protocols for responding to missing person’s incidents in the area where the home is located.

Where there is a possibility of a young person who resides at Portland home will run away or go missing from the placement, the home will consult with the placing authority to introduce and include strategies to minimise the risk within the young person’s care plan.

Incidents of absence or missing from the home are always followed by de-briefing opportunity whereby the young person is encouraged to talk about the incident, the triggers and the staff responses. This will allow for a learning process around self -control and personal safety.

All incidents of absence or missing from the home are recorded in accordance with Children’s Homes Regulations 2015 and Quality Care Standards.

Social workers are informed and young people, staff and others have the opportunity to talk through and learn from their experiences.

Upon the young person returning to the home following absence of missing from the home, Portland staffing team will ensure that the young person is provided with food, drink and warmth, and will ensure that the young person is offered medical attention, should this be required and opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns.

If a young person who resides at the Portland home persistently runs away or engages in other risky behaviours, such as frequently being absent from the home to meet with inappropriate adults, the home will consult with the child’s placing authority to convene a risk management meeting to develop strategies for managing risks to the young person. The strategy should be agreed between the home, the placing authority, the local authority where the home is located and the local police.

**Portland Homes Structure**

**Staffing Numbers, Experience and Qualifications**

We anticipate that all young people will be placed at Portland on a planned basis, which will enable us to undertake sufficient amount of Risk Assessments to determine behaviour management, there compatibility to be placed with another young person and other plans and ascertain the most beneficial staffing and other arrangements.

Changes in staffing arrangements (ratios, waking night provision etc) will be a result of agreements made within Placement and Review meetings and with Local Authority Commissioning teams and must be in the best interests of Young People and staff working within the home.

Overnight staffing arrangements at the home allow for risk managed flexibility and the ability to depart from the 1:1 minimum daytime ratio for specified periods of time. Where this occurs and in the event of an emergency, the staffing ratio will revert to 1:1 as soon as possible. These arrangements are risk managed on an individual basis and are under continuous review by the Homes Manager.

Staff will have 24/7 access to a manager for support. Arrangements will be made for the home to be visited at least monthly in accordance with Regulation 44 Children’s Homes Regulations 2015 on an unannounced or announced basis by a Proprietor or designated independent inspector.

Our staff team consists of a (Registered) Care Manager, a Deputy Care Manager and five full time permanent Residential Care Workers, as well as a pool of residential care workers who can be called upon. Portland is paired with a sister home Churchill and staff from each home can be utilised to support the sister home where necessary.

**James O’leary** (Responsible Individual and Director) joined the company in 2008 after working for our sister organisation since 2005.  James holds an NVQ4 CCYP, NVQ4 LMA, NVQ4 Business and has a NEWI4 Youth Work qualification. James has many years experience of a range of roles, settings and service user groups in the care sector. James is one of the organisations Designated Child Protection Managers and has completed training in Safeguarding to Level 4.  James is also a member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) after achieving the qualification in 2014.

# Paul Callear - Paul is the Residential Service Manager within our organisation and oversees the Children’s Homes registered as an EBD provision, he is the line manager to the Homes managers within this service and is accountable to the Responsible Individual, James O’Leary. Paul possesses the Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Care Management and has also attained the NVQ 3 and NVQ4 in Care for Children and Young People. Paul has progressed through the organisation having achieved an excellent inspection track record. Paul is one of the organisations Designated Child Protection Managers and has completed training in Safeguarding to Level 4, he has also attained the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) qualification which was completed in 2014.

**Staff Supervision and Training**

**Supervision**

We believe that supervision is central to effective practice and service delivery.

All staff employed in the home, including temporary staff and ancillary staff, will receive one to one supervision in line with regulatory requirements and in response to the staff and managements needs.

All staff employed by the company and signed out of their probation must receive at least one and a half hours of one to one supervision on a regular basis (not exceeding a period of six weeks).

New staff (who are still within their probationary period, usually 6 months), must receive one to one supervision at least fortnightly;

Agency staff and those employed infrequently to cover staff absences must receive one to one supervision no less frequently than after each 8 shifts worked in the home.

Details of supervision sessions will be kept in writing, with copies held securely by the Manager, with a copy provided to the supervisee

**Training & Development.**

All staff will receive training and development opportunities that equip them with the skills required to meet the physical, emotional and developmental needs of the young people accommodated in the home. The training of staff will be in conjunction with the statutory requirements as defined within The Quality Standards and in response to the needs of our service users.

All newly appointed staff will not start working with young people until they have undertaken basic training, including a Crisis Management and Physical Intervention programme and basic training around the organisation’s Whistle-blowing, Complaints and Child Protection procedures. This initial induction programme is designed to familiarise new staff with key policies, procedures and practices prior to the commencement of work. Thereafter all new employees are enrolled on the SCIF induction programme and all mandatory training courses in accordance with regulatory requirements. Employees must have completed all the above within six months from the date of employment. During the initial six month probationary period they will receive supervision fortnightly, culminating in a probationary review at the end of six months. Probationary periods may be extended for an additional three months should this be required.

Thereafter staff will be expected to undertake a range of training opportunities and, if they have not already done so, enrol on a QCF Diploma Level 3 CCYP within the first six months after appointment.

Those staff who have previously achieved an NVQ Level 3/ QCF Dip Level 3 will go on to undertake further training specific to their interests and the needs of the business including QCF Dip Level 4/5.

**Portland Home Specific Training**

All Staff employed by Crystal Care Solutions complete an extensive range of Mandatory Training. These are completed upon their employment and are monitored through the homes Training Matrix and renewed when required. Mandatory Training is as followed;

* PPR (Physical Intervention)
* Food Hygiene
* Health and Safety
* Fire Training
* Medication Training
* Child Protection Awareness
* Equality & Diversity
* First Aid

As well as the Mandatory Training, Staff at the Portland Home, are also trained in specific areas that are often a result upon the acceptance of new placements, or are identified through the behaviours displayed or the recognised needs of the young people during their placement. The Portland Team have undertaken the following additional training:

* Self-Harm Awareness
* Drug and Alcohol Awareness Training
* Risk Assessments
* Effective Teamwork
* Child Neglect
* Child Sexual Abuse
* Record Keeping
* Data Protection
* Personal Safety

**Admissions Policy and Criteria**

Our paramount duty to a young person entering our care is to support them to feel safe. This is achieved through the provision of a stable living environment and laying the foundations of a trusting relationship with the staff team.

We believe that in order for a young person to engage with us effectively they should have an understanding of their situation, their options and the expectations upon them.

We believe that it is only fair to support individuals in a way which reflects their own aspirations and is realistic and achievable. We support the idea that young people may change their perspectives and priorities and would support them to engage with services to express their views.

Our practices acknowledge and accept that young people can make mistakes and may need to be supported to move forward.

Through a consistent and fair approach we ensure that our young people are given the praise and encouragement needed to build confidence and self-esteem. It is our view that without improved self-confidence is key to improved behavior and motivation and that any step in the right direction should be acknowledged.

It is our hope that a nurturing and accepting environment will support young people to stabilise, to deal with past traumas and to develop the skills to live healthy happy lives.

Initially we expect to receive and assess the suitability of a young person’s referral in collaboration with a local authority social worker. This would normally include obtaining up to date copies of the Care Plan and Personal Education Plan including, if appropriate, a copy of any existing statement of Special Educational Needs/EHCP. The home will always look to take planned placements however does also take emergency placements.

We would also obtain relevant background, any specialist assessments or reports that are available and we would hope to visit the young person in their current placement before making a decision about placement. We would attempt to talk with current and past carers

Assuming it is agreed in principle that we could cater for the needs of the young person, we would normally arrange at least one visit for him/her to the home to establish the level of co-operation, to establish if the young people have similar interests and needs sufficient to suggest a safe and appropriate environment. This would include consultation with the current residing young person.

We would then agree whether or not a placement would be suitable. We would hope that parent(s) would be involved in this process but this would not be an expectation. If a placement were agreed, the arrangements for admission would be specific to the young person but would not normally occur until a Placement Plan had been drawn up and signed off by the social worker and young person concerned.