

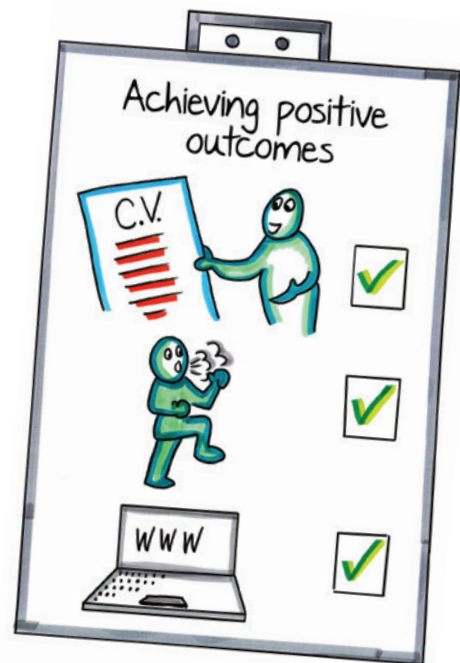


Supporting children and young people

Welcome to Affinity Trust

Affinity Trust is a national charity with more than 25 years' experience of providing person-centred, outcome-focused support to people with learning disabilities across England and Scotland.

We support individuals with a wide range of support needs including those with complex needs, autism and behaviours that challenge. We always focus on meeting each person's specific needs and enabling them to achieve their goals and aspirations.



Extending our support to children and young people

In response to demand from both family carers and commissioners, Affinity Trust is extending our support to children and young people with learning disabilities. Our offer includes:

- Positive Behaviour Support
- Transition support (age 14+)
- Supported living (age 16+)
- Outreach support

Fulfilling aspirations

Positive Behaviour Support, supported living and other types of community-based support allow children and young people to return to or remain in their own communities and close to family and friends. This support addresses the causes of behaviours that challenge and allows a growth in confidence and independence. This in turn leads to an improved quality of life, increased self-esteem and reduction in behaviours that challenge. It also assists the young person to meet a full range of outcomes, have a greater social life, far more choice over their lives, increase their daily living skills and access to local educational and employment opportunities.

We offer a positive and cost-effective alternative to specialist residential or other costly out-of-area placements, as well as support that prevents a crisis placement. We are also providing continuity of support to the young person through to our adult provision which includes supported living, outreach and day opportunities.



Service design and delivery



Children and young people – our offer

- Positive Behaviour Support
- Supported living (age 16+)
- Transition support (age 14+)
- Community-based support

Drawn by www.newpossibilities.co.uk



Putting people we support first

Involvement of the young person, as well as their family, is key to providing person-centred support that offers real choice and progression towards agreed outcomes. We will place the child or young person at the centre of decision making and seek to bridge the gaps that can exist between multi-agency stakeholders. Our guiding principles for supporting children and young people are to:

- Support children and young people to fulfil their potential
- Involve the young person at every stage in the design and delivery of their support
- Provide high quality support focused on positive outcomes
- Enable young people to remain in and connected to their local community
- Provide cost-effective support
- Reduce the chance of children and young people entering residential care

Staff who change lives



Meet Paul

Our Head of Children's Services Development, Paul Taylor, has extensive experience of developing and delivering a wide range of children's services. Before joining Affinity Trust, Paul spent 32 years in the children and young people's sector, including being a registered manager with

both Ofsted and CQC. Paul has provided training nationally on child protection and has been a long-standing member of the National Working Group for Child Protection and Disability.

Paul is in active discussions with parents' forums, local authority and CCG partners to develop effective models of support that meet local needs.

“Our strength in supporting people with complex needs ensures that we can achieve positive outcomes for young people and their families.”



Meet Matthew BSc, MSc, Adv Dip PBS

Matthew, our Service Lead in Bradford, has worked for a number of years with both children and adults.

Before joining Affinity Trust, Matthew worked in NHS specialist behaviour teams in community, residential and hospital settings, providing intensive, evidence-based Positive Behaviour Support to people with learning disabilities and severe challenging behaviour.

Matthew has also conducted academic research on the efficacy of Positive Behaviour Support and trained families and professionals.

Matthew manages and provides clinical oversight of the Bradford Positive Behaviour Support service, working to embed PBS and achieve outcomes for the children and their families.

Avoiding residential care – J's story

J first came to Affinity Trust in January 2018, when he was seven. Referred to us by Bradford Council, J was one of the first children in the city to be supported by our Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) service.

At the time he was referred to us, J was presenting with high levels of distress at home, including property damage and frequent attacks on his mother.

Our Service Lead carried out a functional assessment of J's behaviour and a quality of life assessment. We saw that J struggled with unpredictable environments, over-stimulation, inconsistent boundaries, changes of routine without warning and poor interaction with some of his support network.

We discussed this with J's mother and his multi-disciplinary team. All agreed with the information presented and

we started to develop J's Positive Behaviour Support plan.

Our team continued working intensively at J's home and school, and with J's grandparents and other stakeholders, supporting them in implementing the PBS plan.

Our strategies for J included:

- Providing more predictability in his daily routines
- Improving interactions between J, his parents, his extended family and school staff, to avoid triggers
- Avoiding over-stimulation by limiting the amount of toys put out at once
- Ensuring that J understood community visits, their purpose and where they were going
- Developing healthy sleep patterns using pictorial prompts

In the five months since we started implementing J's plan, there were significant changes in his presentation:

- He is now sleeping well, usually in his own bed
- His diet is more varied and his appetite at school has improved
- He is going to the shops with his mother with few incidents in the car or the community
- He is starting to manage his own emotional state and calm himself down when he begins to display early signs of distress

At our review meeting in September 2018, J's mother reported that J had caused no injuries and shown no aggressive behaviour over the past couple of months. She said, "J is like a different child now."

Our mission is to enable people with learning disabilities to pursue active and fulfilling lives, gain increased independence and achieve equal rights as citizens.

Our values



Committed to doing our very best for the people we support and never giving up on someone we support.



Inclusive in how we value diversity, support equality of access to opportunities and challenge discrimination.



Reliable and always do what we say we will do.



Respectful of others, their views and their rights.



Honest and open in all of our relationships and transactions.



Creative and flexible in our thinking, in our work and in how we use our resources.

If you would like to discuss how Affinity Trust can provide tailored support for disabled children and young people, please contact Paul Taylor

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