

Specialist Foster Care Service

Working with Scotland's most vulnerable young people: challenging offending behaviour, supporting change.

Includem's Specialist Foster Care Service is a development of the continuum of the care and support services provided by Includem. It has been developed in order to meet the longer-term care and support needs of a particularly vulnerable group of children and young people aged, primarily, between 11 and 18 years. It offers tailored packages of individualised support and intervention, making use of workbooks and risk assessment tools to explore such issues as offending, anti-social behaviour, drug use and family issues.

The Specialist Foster Care Model

Includem's model of foster care is based on a team approach. All Includem's carers are employed by the organisation and are therefore explicitly members of the care team who are required to work to the same high standards as other staff.

Each young person placed also has a designated worker who maintains regular contact with him/her for an average of 8 hours per week. They undertake direct work on identified issues as well as engaging the young person in positive leisure and recreational activities.

We aim to work in partnership with placing authorities to care for young people and fulfil care plans. Includem carers undertake many of the professional tasks required for successful placements – for example, regular liaison with social workers, liaison with schools and colleges, providing written reports on an agreed basis, arranging and facilitating contact and contributing to LAAC reviews and Children's Hearings.

Carers are also expected to work closely with other relevant statutory and voluntary agencies in order to ensure that as wide a range of resources as possible is made available to each young person.

Includem's non-rejection and stickability principles, combined with thorough risk assessment and risk management procedures, underpin each specialist foster placement. Difficult stages of a placement, which might otherwise lead to a disruption, can be managed by utilising the support structures provided from both the immediate team and the wider Includem infrastructure.

Support to carers

Includem staff are committed to providing a caring and professional service to young people and foster carers. Our carers are an essential resource for meeting the needs of young people placed with them. We endeavour to work with our foster carers within an empowering and developmental relationship.

Whilst the supervising practitioner's first responsibility is to the young person in placement, foster carers will experience being valued, supported and encouraged within Includem.

We are a small service based within the Dundee and Glasgow areas but we are actively recruiting new carers.

We are happy to take referrals for young people, however due to our size we have limited availability at present.

If you would like more information about this service or about becoming a foster carer please contact :

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