

What is Residential Care?

Residential care is an alternative care option to family based care (fostering) for Looked after Children. Children's homes provide care and support for some of our most vulnerable children and young people. There are a number of different types of residential care including children's homes, secure children's homes, residential special schools or boarding schools (who accommodate children for more than 295 days per year) and children's homes that provide short break care. All of the above settings are subject to regulation (Children's Homes regulation 2015) and must meet a range of legal requirements, including registration with Ofsted.

There are also some residential care provisions that are not required to be regulated. These include:

- Crisis placements where children are accommodated for less than 28 days per year,
- Places where young people of 16/17 years are accommodated whilst undergoing training/apprenticeships/sporting/educational activities e.g. hostels and The Foyer
- Places such as caravans, boats or temporary accommodation. These provisions will not be required to register with Ofsted.

Why is it important?

Some children have highly complex and challenging needs and may not be able to safely live in a family setting. This could be for a variety of reasons, linked to trauma, disability, attachment or mental health issues. Where children pose a risk to other young people or themselves, they may require 24 hour care which is not practical or reasonable within a family environment. They may require specialist equipment or staff with specialist knowledge or skills. Residential care should be a positive and beneficial placement choice for the right person at the right time.

How do we do it?

The key principles of residential care are no different to those underpinning foster care. Children should be loved, happy, safe from harm and able to develop and fulfil their potential. Children will be valued and nurtured as an individual with talents, strengths and capabilities that can develop over time. Residential care should foster positive relationships encouraging strong relationships between children and staff in the home through shared activities, shared daily life and establishing boundaries of acceptable behaviours.

Residential care should be ambitious, supporting learning and achievement for young people.

Carers should be attentive to children's needs supporting emotional, moral and physical health needs, including repairing earlier damage to self-esteem.

Residential carers will work with the wider system of professionals, families and communities to repair and sustain links. Residential care should provide a safe and stimulating environment in high quality buildings, with spaces that allow privacy as well as common spaces to be active.

We have two residential care homes in Portsmouth - Tangier Road - a five-bedded unit for 14-17 years old and The White House - a three-bedded unit for young people between the ages of 8-14 years (The White House).

Both units will accept planned and unplanned placements, based on whether there is a good match with existing residents.

We also have a short break residential unit (Beechside) which has six beds. This provision mainly supports children in need (CIN) who have severe disabilities.

Residential placements will aim to support a range of pathways for young people, including reunification, step down into fostering provision and move into independence.

The placement plan is key to determining what the objectives of the placement are and how young people can be supported to fulfil their potential.

For more information:

Statement of Purpose - [The White House](#)

Statement of Purpose - [Tangier Road](#)

[The Children's Homes \(England\) Regulations 2015](#)

The Guide to the Children's Homes (England Regulations) can be accessed [here](#)

[Ofsted inspections – clarification for children's homes](#)

Social Care common inspection framework (SCCIF) can be accessed [here](#)