

Referral Criteria – The Full Circle



What can the Full Circle service offer?

The Full Circle provide a post-trauma service for children and young people who are receiving a service from Durham Children's Services* up to 18 years of age and/or their families and carers. In some instances where Full Circle are the most appropriate service, the age range is extended to 25 for Care Leavers and those meeting the criteria for the Adoption Support Fund.

*Full Circle are also able to provide a costed therapeutic service provision for those children placed in County Durham by other councils (Traded Services).

The Service is for children & young people who have experienced trauma because of abuse or neglect, where the impact of their attachment experiences coupled with their complex trauma, continues to affect day-to-day functioning and emotional wellbeing.

The Team consists of a small number of Therapeutically trained and qualified Social Workers, a Clinical Nurse Specialist, and a Consultant Clinical Psychologist.

The need for therapeutic support should be identified by professionals as part of a current plan for a child. In addition to direct support to a child or young person where appropriate and their carers, Full Circle can also offer support via a child's allocated worker, care team or through training and consultation. Whilst we do not work with birth parents directly, we can offer consultation and advice to support social workers, family support workers, early help workers and other social care professionals in their work, through consultation and the provision of resources.

Those eligible for direct work*:

- Children and young people in the care of Durham County Council (including kinship care if they are classed as foster carers under regulation 24). If there is a request for direct work, the child or young person must have physical and psychological safety and stability (including having a committed carer). This can be in long or short-term placements and will be assessed on an individual basis.
- Children and young people in the care of Durham County Council who have experienced sexual abuse (either historical or there has been multi-agency agreement for the work to progress alongside an ongoing investigation in line with NICE guidelines). Where a child has experienced historic sexual abuse but not eligible, we can support by signposting.
- Children and young people open to Children's Social Care or Early Help who are being placed for adoption or are adopted. Where a child is eligible for Adoption Support Funding, this funding will be accessed.
- Children and young people open to Children's Social Care or Early Help who are who are cared for by a kinship carer under an Order. The offer will predominantly be for consultation and therapeutic carer training. This training will support kinship carers to make a significant contribution to the child's healing. Where a child is eligible for Adoption Support Funding (if they were previously a child looked after), this funding will be accessed with their consent.

- Care leavers, where the request is for life process work around their experiences that led them to become looked after (this work must be completed before their 25th birthday)

*Referrals must come from the allocated worker and the referrer will be expected to attend a screening assessment/consultation meeting along with other relevant others to enable best assessment. Full Circle only work with open cases open to Children's Social Care unless this is post adoption support. If there is a case to be stepped down for support from Children's Social Care – the referrer will still be asked to attend the screening assessment meeting to share their knowledge and involvement. Please ensure the child/family will still be eligible for Full Circle support if they are no longer open to your team.

Services provided by Full Circle:

Via Liquid Logic referral

- In addition to ongoing direct work with children and families, a consultation service is available to all Social Work teams within Children's Services and also Early Help. Consultation can help with understanding the therapeutic aspects of a case and provide further information in relation to the impact of trauma.
- In addition, support around care planning where there are complexities that need to be considered beyond the allocated worker and their manager and from a therapeutic aspect. Please note – Full Circle should not be asked to provide consultation in order to provide approval of a social worker/local authority plan for court.
- Pre-match consultation where there is a plan of adoption for a child.
- Nurturing Attachments training for foster carers and adoptive parents.
- SGO, CAO & RO (ASF eligible) Kinship Carers Enhanced Therapeutic Parenting training.
- Bespoke training and formulation around a child for residential homes and their staff teams.
- Consultation and support as appropriate, where it is felt a child/young person in the Care of Durham may benefit from CAMHS input/assessment.
- Support to a Social Worker/Family Support Worker/Early Help worker (or other social care professional) around an intervention or difficult explanations that need to be shared with a child. Whilst Full Circle do not provide birth parent therapeutic training, we can offer some consultation and resources in relation to this to those working with the child or family. We can also, where appropriate invite birth parents along to a consultation.

How to refer:

Referrals can be made via the forms section of Liquid Logic.

For traded services where a referral is unable to be made via Liquid Logic, a paper copy can be sent (copies and costings can be requested via fullcircleadmin@durham.gov.uk)

Other services provided by Full Circle:

- **Training for professionals** – via Development and Learning system, DSCP website or direct arrangement with Full Circle management.
- **Virtual School/school support** – Full Circle has an arrangement with the Virtual School to benefit Children in the Care of Durham County Council. This includes

consultation/telephone support with one of our duty workers. In addition, Full Circle provide whole school/bespoke school training around trauma informed approaches in the classroom. These requests can be made to the Full Circle allocated worker or via the contact details below by the school or Virtual School, or via the child's Social Worker or Early Help worker if the school are consenting.

- **Foster carer support** - through training and attendance at support groups/launch pad as arranged direct between fostering and Full Circle.
- **Residential Support** - Consultation and training to in-house residential staff groups via Consultant Clinical Psychologist/Clinical Nurse Specialist as per agreement.
- **Regional Adoption Agency and adopters** – Training available for staff and adopters (and their families) in addition the offer of Nurturing Attachments training through direct arrangement with Full Circle/Adoption Management.
- **Care Leaver drop-in clinics** - we offer a drop-in clinic to the Care Leaver teams to provide advice/discuss most appropriate form of emotional or mental health support for the young person/adult. The relevant Care Leaver Team Manager can advise their Team of the dates and point of contact to arrange.
- **Care Leavers Hub** - Support to Care Leavers via the Care Leavers Hub – ad hoc support and sessions on a number of relevant topics for Care Leavers.
- **Supporting Solutions/Erase** – Staff are able to access tailored training, therapeutic consultation and clinical supervision as per agreement.
- **Resources** – The Team can provide these following consultation or see Resources available on the Full Circle resources page on the Durham Children's Services Procedure Manual.

Where other services may be more appropriate:

- Some children and young people with developmental difficulties will have their needs best met within the Child Development Centres/Paediatric teams or Learning Disability CAMHS.
- A number of young people will present with mental health difficulties where CAMHS/another mental health service may be more appropriate.
- For Care Leavers, unless the request is for life process work related to their experience of becoming looked after, they may be better suited to another avenue to support or adult mental health services.

Contact details

The Full Circle, Morrison Busty Depot, Building 1, Morrison Road, Annfield Plain, County Durham, DH9 7XW.

Main line: 03000 264730. Email: fullcircleadmin@durham.gov.uk

Webpage: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/fullcircle>

A Duty worker is available 9.00 – 15.00. You are welcome to phone for initial discussion about the referral criteria, suitability of the service or seek further information around services available.

In addition to the eligibility criteria, it may help to consider the following questions when considering a referral to the Full Circle to ensure it is appropriate:

If the request is for direct work, is the child/young person in an emotionally/psychologically safe and supportive stable environment – do they have a committed carer/carers and feel in the right place for therapy?

Has the child suffered significant trauma that continues to impact on their well-being despite the environment around the child being safe and stable?

Is recovery taking longer than expected? Has the child been allowed to go through a natural process (e.g. bereavement or transition to a new placement/living situation)?

Is the level of family time/contact appropriate for the child or young person and their plan? Is family time/contact contributing towards distress and instability?

Are any other actions required first - e.g. an explanation to the child around their plan, basic parenting interventions, family time/contact issues to be addressed etc?

Is another service more appropriate and accessible for the child/young person?

Have other services (e.g. Place2B, CAMHS, Supporting Solutions, School counselling/resilience nurses, St. Cuthbert's bereavement support, NSPCC, Humankind, Youth Justice, Harbour etc.) completed their work or would co-working be beneficial?

Is there a plan to deescalate a case? If so, please check whether the family/child will still be eligible for the Full Circle Service before making a referral. The referrer should be the one attending the screening assessment or consultation or co-attending with a newly allocated worker.