

Devon Services Local Offer

Name of site	Devon Services
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1. What does your service do?

Devon Services specialises in working with young people from the age of 7 who have complex difficulties often associated with autistic spectrum disorders, challenging behaviour including social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

We offer a positive and structured environment through which students are encouraged to assess their behaviour and affect change.

We provide:

- A positive ethos which celebrates and rewards success and progress
- A culture in which students feel safe, secure and valued
- Integrated care, education and therapy programmes
- Small teaching groups
- A framework where students learn to take responsibility for the control of their own behaviours
- High staff:student ratios
- Access to a wide range of therapies including speech and language and cognitive behaviour therapy



2. How are decisions made about who can use your service?

Placements at the school are usually funded by the local authority and social services. The local health authority also contribute to some placements.

The school will review all relevant and recent reports, this will usually include:

- Recent statement
- Last school's report
- Social history and any relevant reports
- Psychologist's reports
- Psychiatric report (if any) and diagnoses of special need
- Visits to the young person in their current placement/school
- Visits by the young person (and their family/professionals) to Devon Services
- Any other factors e.g. other disability (epilepsy, visual impairment)

The school admissions criteria includes:

- Complex difficulties consistent with combinations of autism, behavioural, emotional and social difficulties as well as other related conditions
- Poor perception of the cause and effect in their behaviour
- Acknowledges school as relevant but cannot cope in mainstream education
- Poor peer relationships
- Poor self-image (unrealistic)
 - Unable to deal with vulnerability with an appropriate response
 - Attention seeking
 - Difficulty in coping with change
 - Socially under-skilled i.e. those in need of independent living skills training
 - Agreement to follow a daily programme



3. How will college staff support the child/young person?

All staff will:

- Promote a culture in which students feel safe, secure and listened to
- Foster a positive ethos to enhance students' self-esteem by celebrating success and progress
- Provide high level of care where interest is taken in each student's well-being
- Provide appropriate behaviour management, specialist and therapeutic intervention
- Set boundaries and have expectations so students take responsibility for themselves
- Provide an enjoyable, relevant 24-hour curriculum that addresses individual student needs
- Ensure that the principles of Every Child Matters underpin our practice
- Offer opportunities that broaden horizons and lead to certificated awards
- Provide accommodation that is suitable for both privacy and shared activity
- Maintain positive working relationships with all partners and stakeholders
- Actively promote students' participation in the local community
- Value and support all members of the school community
- Empower all staff to accept shared responsibility for the students in our care

4. How will the curriculum be matched to the child's/young person's needs?

The school provides an appropriate and adapted curriculum. Students have access to the National Curriculum, which is modified according to the individual needs and abilities of each student.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are implemented to develop communication, personal and social education skills. Local community facilities are regularly used with links to local colleges, sports centres and businesses and there is a strong emphasis on outdoor education and media studies. Courses are based on a modular structure, which is the preferred learning style for most of our students. Students can be entered for Entry Level Certificates, GCSEs plus vocational BTECs, ASDAN or other accredited courses.



5. Do you offer any therapeutic services?

An important part of the integrated approach at Devon Services is the therapeutic programme, which is integrated with the educational and care programmes and tailored according to individual needs. Therapy services feed into the educational and care programmes and all staff are given training in these aspects to ensure that the therapeutic programme is integrated into the IEPs and ICPs. Therapy services at Devon Services include:

- Art therapist
- Cognitive behaviour therapist
- Independent consultant psychiatrist
- Occupational therapist
- Specialist speech and language therapist
- Therapeutic counsellor



6. How does the school celebrate the success of children with SEND?

Devon Services promotes a positive education and culture, through which students' efforts are always privately and publicly acknowledged to enhance self-esteem and celebrate individual achievements.

Additionally, the school holds an annual end of year celebration of achievement event in which parents, carers and professionals are invited to attend.

7. How will the parent/carer know how their child/young person is doing and how will you help the parent/carer to support their child's learning?

Key workers also provide regular updates to parents and/or social workers, to ensure ongoing communication and keep them updated on the progress and achievements of the student.

We consistently ensure parents/carers are invited to all reviews and to any other meetings, as well as encouraging communication wherever appropriate.

8. What support will there be for the child's overall well-being?

Care teams provide 24 hour support across each site and each student also has a dedicated key worker and co-key worker. Students have ongoing and regular meetings with their key worker to monitor their progression and ensure their needs are being met across the 24 hour curriculum.

The school has good links to local medical services, dentistry etc should young people need these.

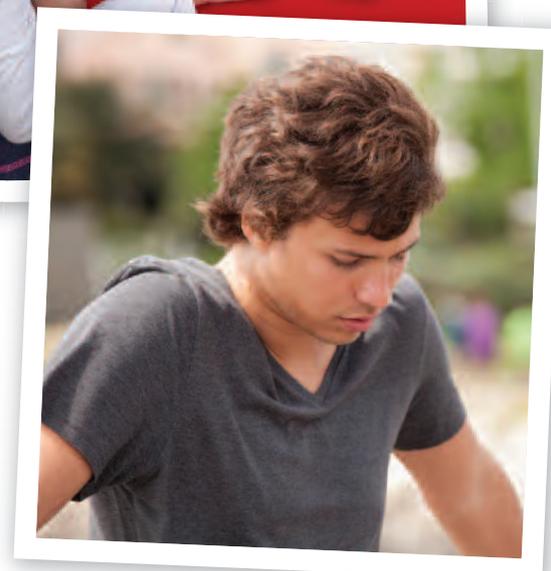
All annual reviews are person centred with students being asked and involved in what they want their review to look like.

9. What specialist services, training and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

All new staff undergo a staff induction process, covering input from all key areas of the school, including safeguarding, H&S, training, therapy, IT safety, and experience of both sites and all departments. There is an induction handbook, using the Children's Workforce Development Council materials; staff then have a departmental induction moving forward.

Regular supervision is an integral part of the ongoing performance management cycle which sets objectives, monitors practices and reviews progress. New staff receive a minimum of one supervision session every two weeks with a senior member of staff. This continues for the first three months, or beyond if the probation is extended. Every member of staff receives an Annual Review through the Ways We Work program.

We are also committed to providing all staff with appropriate and ongoing training, that will enable them to acquire the skills and knowledge which are needed to provide a high standard of care and service to the students. In addition to the standards identified in the induction and foundation care programmes, the school will provide specific training in different areas including child protection and abuse issues.



10. How will children/young people be included in activities outside the classroom and how does the school ensure that children with SEND are able to access leisure and residential activities?

The 24 hour curriculum links the care, therapy and education programme and provides a structure in which the development of each student is encouraged and facilitated.

We support individual interests being pursued in the wider community including local clubs, colleges and community opportunities.

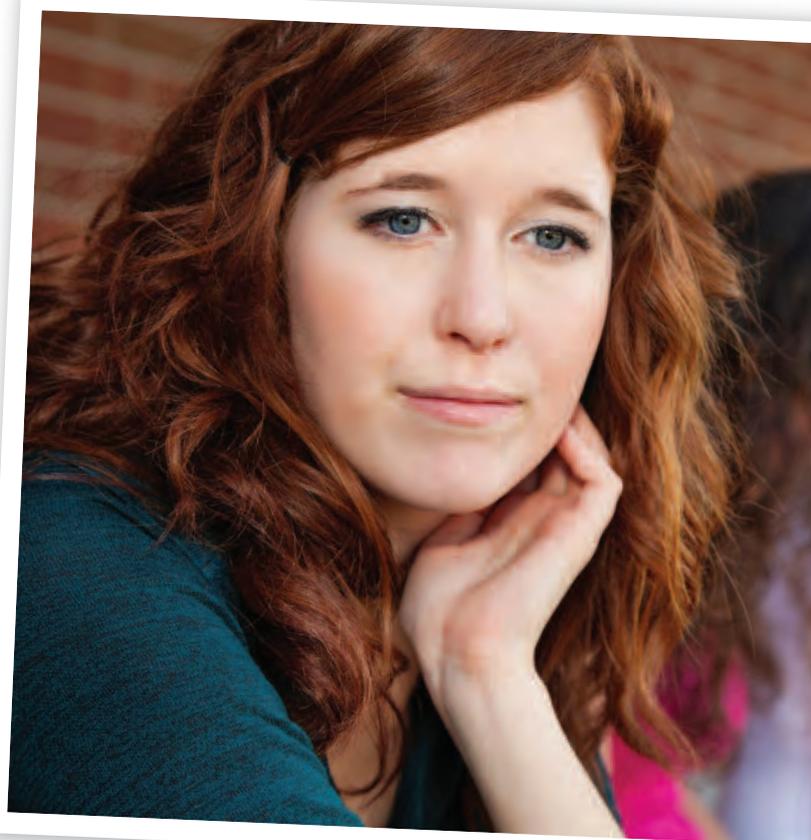
11. Does your school offer any outreach?

Devon Services is currently providing external training to colleagues in public sector settings, including the local police.

Outreach work, both in supporting carers as well as education opportunities, is currently ongoing with several young people.

12. How accessible is the school environment?

Devon Services is located on two sites: Bere Alston in Yelverton and Kilworthy House in Tavistock. Both sites are in the heart of the Devon countryside, close to Dartmoor National Park and the many wonderful beaches of Cornwall. The nearby towns of Tavistock and Plymouth offer shops and leisure facilities and a direct rail link to London. The two sites are set within substantial grounds and have facilities for various outdoor activities. Accommodation is within small domestic units with private rooms, family living units, TV lounges, dining and catering facilities. Students live either at the Bere Alston site or Kilworthy House. Students may move units during their time at Devon Services; this would be in response to a student's changing needs and an increase in confidence and maturity.



13. How will the school prepare and support the child for transition or the next stage of education and life?

Transition programmes are phased to ensure continuity and minimise any anxieties about 'moving on', with the help and support of key staff members. Taster courses at local colleges are encouraged to promote inclusion; these are varied according to individual need and include: Motor Vehicle Mechanics, IT Practitioner and Land Studies.

Independent living skills are supported through opportunities to develop skills in budgeting, cooking and laundry, with the focus on the individual taking ownership of their future.

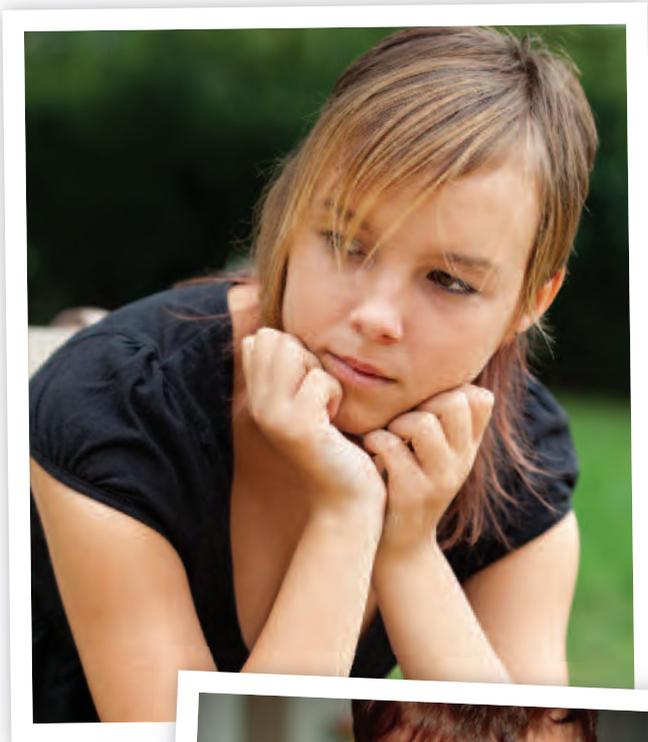
14. How is the decision made about what type and how much support the child will receive?

Devon Services has a reputation for sound work in cognitive behavioural therapy, enjoying a background of more than 35 years' experience in this approach to helping young people. The strengths of this approach are that, on an individual and group basis, it provides:

1. clear boundaries and structures
2. predictable responses (using behavioural techniques) from staff who work in a consistent manner
3. cognitive work through reflecting on presenting behaviour and performance

Adaptations to this approach are made to reflect the differing needs and disabilities of each individual student.

The whole atmosphere at Devon Services is one of assurance and confidence where a student's efforts are privately and/or publicly acknowledged, where frequent praise is given and if criticism is necessary it is used in a constructive manner which provides positive alternatives. All decisions are consulted upon with parents/carers and/or appropriate professionals.



15. Do you have a children's/young person's council?

The school regularly seeks the views of students in a variety of ways, these include weekly regular key working, unit and whole site meetings, as well as the school council, which meets regularly.

In addition, students can seek appointments with the school counsellors based on each site. Each site also has a 'suggestions' system where students are encouraged to make suggestions or comments on whatever topics they wish.



16. Does the school provide any specialist equipment (e.g Sensory)?

The school provides specialist equipment where necessary.

17. How do you support young people to move onto the next stage of their life?

By continually evaluating and monitoring progress, along with extensive consultation with young people and other stakeholders, we are able to develop clear plans that support a full range of possible transition scenarios. All necessary resources to support bespoke transition can be put in place.

18. Where do young people go when they leave your service?

Young people moving out of our service often return to their home area and attend local colleges or move into other residential or supported living establishments dependent on their individual needs

Get in touch

To make the process of referring a young person into Priory Education and Children's Services as seamless as possible or for further information about Devon Services, please contact our dedicated enquiries office today on **0845 277 4679**.