



Torfaen Young People's Support Service

Information for professionals

TORFAEN
COUNTY
BOROUGH



PRYDEISTREF
ARBOR
TORFAEN



Torfaen
Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol
Local Health Board
Torfaen

Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales



Torfaen Voluntary Alliance
Cynghrair Gwefodolwr Torfaen



Torfaen Young People's Support Service (TYPSS)

The Vision

'Vulnerable young people, given effective support, encouragement and opportunities, can develop the necessary skills and abilities to enable them to overcome their difficulties, achieve their aspirations, successfully negotiate the transition to adulthood and participate socially and economically as citizens.'

Our Mission Statement

Torfaen Young People's Support Service (TYPSS) will provide an effective and efficient multi-agency approach to supporting young people between the ages of 16 and 21.

The TYPSS team is committed to offering holistic assessments in full partnership with the young person, to prioritise their individual needs and to identify and access services most appropriate to empower them to reach their full potential in their transition to adulthood.



Torfaen Young People's Support Service (TYPSS)

Generally vulnerable young people aged 16 to 21 have multiple needs which are often inter-related and require the services of more than one agency.

For example, the impact of young people's mental health upon their ability to achieve a satisfactory level of independence is well documented. Homelessness, similarly, has a significant impact on a young person's mental health, as does the inability to function in education, training or employment. The experience of being in local authority care impacts on all of these issues, and all these issues impact on young people leaving care.

TYPSS takes a holistic approach to meeting the needs of these vulnerable young people, the majority of whom will be from one or more of the following groups:

- Looked After Children (LAC) who are 16+
- Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Homeless young people
- Young people experiencing mental health problems
- Care leavers aged between 16 and 21 (25 if in higher education)
- Disabled young people who do not have complex needs
- All other young people who need advice and support to move into independent living

Agencies working together include members of the 16+ team, Community CAMHS psychiatric nurse (CPN), 16+ mentoring scheme co-ordinator, careers officer, Torfaen Youth Service, Emphasis Project, housing and homelessness teams, ACE Scheme and education and training.



16+ Team

The 16+ team was created in July 1999 to offer a specialist service to young people aged 16-21 who are known to social services.

The team has a range of statutory responsibilities towards young people who are Looked After under the Children Act 1989 and those who have left care and receive support under the auspices of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

The support offered includes advice and assistance with:

- Education and employment
- Health and well-being
- Pregnancy and parenting
- Tenancy issues
- Benefits
- Offending
- Family and friends
- Relationships
- Social isolation
- Self-esteem and confidence
- Mental health issues, including self-harming

The team strives to achieve positive change for young people, to improve the future for care leavers and to support young people to achieve their dreams and realise their full potential.

Individual packages of support which reflect individual, often complex, needs for care leavers are agreed with the young people themselves and their families via Pathway Planning.

Support is also offered to Homeless 16 and 17 year olds under section 17 of The Children Act 1989.

For more information contact 01633 647538



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Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN)



The community psychiatric nurse for TYPSS has a background in child and adolescent mental health and substance abuse.

The CPN works holistically to address the issues facing young people and will:

- Give advice to young people and professionals regarding mental health needs
- Work directly with young people who have mental health issues. This can range from feeling low in mood, anxiety, self harming, emotional issues such as anger and aggression, personal problems with relationships or families, bereavement issues and a variety of other difficulties
- Work closely with other professionals in the multi-disciplinary service, however all support and advice received is confidential
- Support young people who are in transition of mental health services or need to access adult services for the first time
- Provide training for professionals
- Co-run group work with young people

The CPN is available
Monday to Friday
from 9.00am to 5.00pm



16+ Mentoring Scheme

Over the past six years, the 16+ mentoring scheme has recruited and trained around 50 volunteers to provide one to one, independent support to young people aged 16-21.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and give a few hours a week to offer support in the following areas:

- Job hunting
- Budgeting
- Cooking
- Self care skills
- Social skills
- Trying new things
- Decorating
- Finding a training course
- Going to the gym
- Form filling

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Young people using the scheme have enjoyed receiving support from someone independent who gives their time voluntarily, rather than as a paid worker.

Volunteers attend an induction training course before commencing their role as mentor. Ongoing supervision and top up training is offered to all volunteer mentors including topics such as drugs misuse, Child Protection and dealing with self harm. Volunteers and young people are encouraged to attend social events and team building activities.

Further information on mentoring can be obtained from elizabeth.leek@torfaen.gov.uk



Careers Wales

The careers adviser provides young people with information and advice about careers, courses, work or training opportunities.

The adviser offers help and support with:

- Individual interviews to help young people to decide/plan what to do next
- Information/advice on employment, training, education or voluntary opportunities
- Writing a CV
- Filling in application forms
- Making claims for benefits
- Job searches

Careers Wales also runs a service called Youth Gateway. The support offered might include a one week programme of workshops and one-to-one help with developing interview skills. Advisors help young people to choose the best option for them, learn how to work in a team and understand the skills they have to offer an employer.



Torfaen Youth Service

The Youth Worker based at TYPSS will provide ongoing support to 18-21 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). In conjunction with other professionals, she will address issues like safe relationships, teenage pregnancies, body image and self-awareness in group work settings.

The youth worker ensures that young people's ten entitlements are prioritised at TYPSS. In addition, she provides seamless access to a range of services including:

- Residential events, Summer Camp, sporting activities, youth clubs, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Links to the Youth Council and Youth Forum, etc
- Training opportunities, e.g. residential OCN courses in food hygiene, first aid, sexual health, safe babysitting (other courses available upon request)
- Inter-active awareness training on young people's ten entitlements
- Workshops on issues such as contraception, STIs, bullying, sex and the law, body image and self awareness
- Building links with youth centres, Community First workers in Trevethin and Thornhill, the Play Service, Youth Offending Team and other agencies
- Promoting the use of the Welsh language
- Promoting safer and healthier relationships and highlighting concerns about any domestic relationships

The youth worker is based at the TYPSS project every Monday and Tuesday and at the Youth Service Office, The Settlement, Pontypool every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
(telephone: **01495 758868** or **07980 682070**).





Emphasis Project

Engaging, **M**otivating, **P**articipating with **H**omeless young people **A**nd **S**upporting them **I**n **S**elf development

Llamau is a homeless charity which has been delivering services to vulnerable, socially excluded young people in South East Wales for over 20 years and currently works in nine Local Authority areas in Wales. Llamau provides a wide range of supported housing services, women only services, housing advice, bond schemes, an alternative learning programme and family mediation services.

Emphasis Project

The Emphasis project works with 14-19 year olds and covers Caerphilly, Newport and Torfaen. It provides support services to non-engaging young people who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless. These young people will be not engaged in education, employment, training (NEET).



Referrals are accepted from other agencies, families or the young person. The young person will be allocated a Young Persons Advisor (YPA) who will work them on an individual basis for 6-12 months although there is no cut off point. The intensity of the support will be higher at first but will tail off over the 6-12 months as issues are addressed and other agencies are brought in to offer specialist help around an individual's support needs.

The Emphasis project finds and reaches these young people, works with them to build up a relationship of trust and empathy and then provides ongoing emotional and practical support to help them make the most of the services that exist.

Housing and Homelessness

The provision of this service within TYPSS ensures that young people receive appropriate advice about their housing circumstances.

Homelessness can cause a great deal of distress to young people. A homelessness officer, based at TYPSS, will link with other council services and voluntary sector organisations to help young people affected by homelessness.

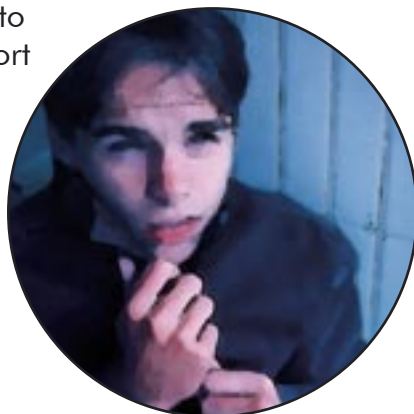
The officer will ensure that all advice/assistance provided complies with the requirements of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002.

The homelessness prevention officer will:

- Offer advice and assistance to anyone who thinks they may be homeless or is threatened with homelessness
- Ensure that homelessness is prevented if at all possible
- Ensure that young people are treated in a courteous and non-judgemental manner and are aware of their right to have a person of their choice present at any interview for support
- Investigate each situation in an appropriate and sensitive manner
- Will work with other council services to offer an integrated package of support and care services where necessary

The homelessness prevention officer is based at TYPSS each morning from 9am to 12.30pm (except on Monday). At all other times, contact Pontypool's Homelessness Office on

01495 766484.



Ace Scheme

The After Care Employment (ACE) Scheme Co-ordinator, in conjunction with the Careers Service, targets all Year 11 Looked After Children and meets with them for two hours once a week after school to help them gain the necessary skills and experience they will need to gain and sustain employment.

During the half-term breaks the young people will be offered a week's work experience placement of their choice for which they will receive £45.00 (equivalent of the training allowance).

Opportunities for one year's employment, for which the minimum wage is paid, will be sought in line with the young people's career choices as laid out in their career plans.

The co-ordinator offers comprehensive and intensive support to each young person on the scheme and also offers immediate ongoing support to employers to address any issues which would put the placement at risk.

Throughout the process the co-ordinator acts as a mentor/life skills coach to each young person, liaising with social workers, careers, training providers, employers and education professionals.



Education and Training

The educational and training support available at TYPSS uses an alternative curriculum to engage young people.

The target group is young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The objective is to prevent young people aged 16+ falling into this group in the first place, but to re-engage them with education and training if they do.

The professionals aim to engage and encourage young people to:

- Address any core emotional and behavioural issues that may hinder their learning development
- Gain qualifications in literacy and numeracy, skills for work, personal development and careers presentation
- Develop the young people's personal, social and life skills so that they may successfully move into employment, education or some form of training
- Provide additional support throughout to enhance their ability to gain and sustain a position in the adult work environment

For further information, please telephone 01633 647547.

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