Behaviour Support Service

Information about our service
Introduction

This booklet sets out a summary of Gateshead Council’s Behaviour Support Service: what it does, how it can help you, and where to go for further advice and information. It also explains how pupils are referred and the forms you need to access the service.

Many of you may have dealt with our service before, for others it may be a new experience, but we hope this introduction to what we do is a helpful guide.

For more information or more copies of this booklet please contact:

Jim Nevitt, Service Manager
Behaviour Support Service
Millway Centre
Sheriff Hill
Gateshead NE9 5PQ

0191 420 0607
jimnevitt@gateshead.gov.uk

You can also read more about the service on the council’s website: www.gateshead.gov.uk following the links to education and learning.
What we do

Our service works with pupils across Gateshead who, for various reasons, experience problems affecting their education. This could be because of:

- Challenging behaviour
- Illness or accident
- Special needs (pupils with statements)

We work closely with pupils, their parents/carers and teachers to offer the appropriate support and environment to help them move forward with the aim of returning to mainstream schools. If this is not possible, we will look to provide an appropriate alternative setting.

In line with other services at the council, we are regularly inspected by independent external agencies who look at how our service is performing.

“The Behaviour Support Service meets the very different needs of its pupils well. Its major strength is in the outstanding care, support and guidance it gives its pupils. This ensures that pupils’ personal development and well-being is excellent. Good teaching and an interesting curriculum well matched to their needs and aspirations, attracts their attention, and they learn well.”

OFSTED, 2008
What we offer

There are four key parts to the support we offer depending on the needs of the pupil. These are:

- Hospital and home tuition
- In school support
- Alternative education (Key stage 4)
- Four specialist pupil referral centres (Key stage 2/3/4)

**Hospital and home tuition**
Pupils referred to this service normally fall into one of the following categories:

- Their education has been interrupted by illness or accident
- They are statemented and not in school because of disaffection/permanent exclusion
- They have been diagnosed as school refusers by educational or clinical psychologists
- They are young mothers awaiting re-integration

**In school support**
We work with pupils displaying challenging behaviour within their school setting, offering them and their teachers the support they need to promote more positive behaviour, including individual counselling, group work and class teaching.

"Staff involvement in school is invaluable for the emotional wellbeing of the children and staff. Your knowledge, experience, care and support mean a great deal to everyone in school."

SENCO
Alternative education
Our Key Stage 4 vocational/alternative team works with ‘hard to place’ pupils – such as those who are permanently excluded; awaiting a school place; or who are at risk of permanent exclusion.

Based at Millway, they work alongside a number of other agencies to offer pupils a mix of education, work experience, sport and leisure activities.

Pupil Referral Unit
We have four centres that provide a base for teaching the national curriculum to those pupils who have extremely challenging behaviour or who are permanently excluded from school. They are:

- The Millway Centre (for key stage 2/3)
- The Shipcote Centre (for key stage 3/4)
- The Bleach Green Centre (for key stage 2/3 statemented pupils)
- Heworth Hall (for key stage 3/4)
How to access our service

- Schools refer pupils to the Behaviour Support Manager using the appropriate forms (see box opposite).

- These are then forwarded to the relevant section of the service and a team member then contacts the school.

- If a place at one of our referral centres is requested, this goes to the EOTAS Panel (Education Other Than At School) or the SEN Panel (Special Educational Needs – for statemented pupils). A letter outlining the panel’s decision is sent to the school. If the centres are full, the pupil will be placed on a waiting list.

- Referral forms
  These can be downloaded from the council’s website: www.gateshead.gov.uk or by calling the Behaviour Support Service manager on: 0191 420 0607.

- Behaviour Support Service Referral Form
  To be completed by ALL schools referring pupils

  If applying for the Hospital and Home Tuition Service you must also complete one of the following forms as appropriate:

  - Medical Referral form
  - Exceptional Need Referral form
  - School Refuser Support Panel Referral form
  - Liaison Teacher for School Age Mothers form
Summary of contacts

Behaviour Support Service Manager
Jim Nevitt
0191 420 0607

Hospital and Home Tuition
Rosalind Barlow
0191 420 0608

In School Support
Cath Batey
0191 420 0604

KS4 Alternative/Vocational Team
Peter Mcintosh
0191 420 0608