

Report of:	<i>Rob Hamer Future for Families Service Manager Submitting the report for Rachel Farnham Assistant Director</i>
-------------------	--

Submitted to:	Corporate Parenting Board- 27 07 22
----------------------	--

Subject:	Relational Practice Service
-----------------	-----------------------------

Contribution to the guiding principles of the Corporate Parenting Strategy

Your Home

The Relational Practice Service (RPS) assists in meeting the needs of a stable and secure home for children by engaging with those who are not currently engaging with services. We offer a different work style by allowing previous care-connected young adult to reach out and support current children and young people in the care system, using peer support, advice and advocacy in a restorative and relational manner. This is done by using language that the child or young people are comfortable with and allowing time for reflection upon their own journey so far. To support in preventing family and school placement breakdowns.

Your Family and Friends

The RPS workers meet the child or young people where they feel most comfortable, be that at home, school or in the community and offer mediation for conflict between family and friendships, allowing for reparation and for the relationships to be rebuilt.

Your Education

The RPS offer in-house training opportunities for all children or young people connected with the service allowing them to work at their pace and level utilising a variety of awards and qualifications.

Your Adult Life

The RPS support in the transition from childhood to adulthood and act as a steppingstone between training to employment for care-connected young adults.

Your Health and wellbeing

The RPS are a specialist service that can work with a child or young person on a specific piece of work that cannot be met by current Children's Services. All work is offered as a bespoke package and is built around the needs of the child and those around them, supporting the wellbeing of current children in care.

Your Voice and Influence

The RPS workers will act as the voice of the child when they feel they are not being listened to by other departments, and will advocate, support, and mentor the child or young person until they feel confident and ready to speak for themselves, all the time addressing the challenge currently being faced.

Is the report confidential or does it contain exempt information?

No

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To introduce the Relational Practice Service (RPS) as a branch of the Futures for Families service. The RPS offers job opportunities for care experienced and service-connected young people aged 18 years plus, to allow them to use their past experiences to help other young people currently experiencing the care system where there is a relationship breakdown.
2. The Relational Practice workers offer support and guidance to young people who are otherwise struggling to engage with other services. The workers form a trusted relationship with the young person, as a peer mentor, who they can express their thoughts, wishes and feelings to as well as helping them to resolve the conflict with family members or peers, this service has been very successful within NYCC who continue to support and advice Middlesbrough on this new approach.

Report Background

3. At Middlesbrough Council we want to stop families from failing, we want to keep homes safe and most of all enable children to have a future that is not limited by circumstance.
4. Children who for a multitude of reasons are at risk of being cared for outside of their family home if they don't receive support.
5. Futures for Families (FFF) is adapted from NWD (No Wrong Door) which is being held as an example of excellence by DfE strengthening families protecting children programme and from North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). This is a nationally recognised innovative programme working with complex young people and their families who are on the edge of care and supporting young people to return to their community. It integrates outreach support, residential care, foster care, speech & language support, mental health support and the police in a single service.
6. Middlesbrough launched Futures for Families in the summer of 2020 and already it has made a massive difference to the young people and families in Middlesbrough. Now in Summer 2022 Middlesbrough are launching the Restorative Relational Practice Service.

7. The Restorative Relational Practice Service will train and develop skilled staff from young people who have been service connected with Children's Service's to work in a restorative relational manner with current service-connected children.

8. These employees are to sit within the Futures for Families service and will be supporting work with vulnerable children and families from across Children's care. These posts are brand new and are an opportunity to develop and build a service to embrace and enhance Futures for Families values and ethos.

9. The Restorative Practice Service will successfully deliver the Asdan Group Award to all its workers.

10. Futures for Families service will become Restorative Justice Accredited as a Service and have two Advanced Practitioner expert staff trained to deliver Restorative Relational Practice Training.

11. The Restorative Practice Service will contribute to reducing the cost to children's Service for care placements as evidenced in NYCC.

Appendices

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Restorative Justice Inquiry into Restorative Practices in 2021/2022

Report on the Inquiry into Restorative Practices in 2021/2022

The independent review of Children's Social Care Josh McAlister May 22

Relational Practice and Conflict Resolution Referral Form

Recommendations

12. This service is apart of the DfE strengthening families protecting children programme which has already been agreed by the board.

13. To provide an accredited training opportunity for young people and young adults to learn how to facilitate Relational Practice.

14. Relational Practice is about offering people an opportunity to make amends, and to put things right where there has been conflict or harm. We do this by working together with all those close to the child to address any harm done and rebuild relationships.

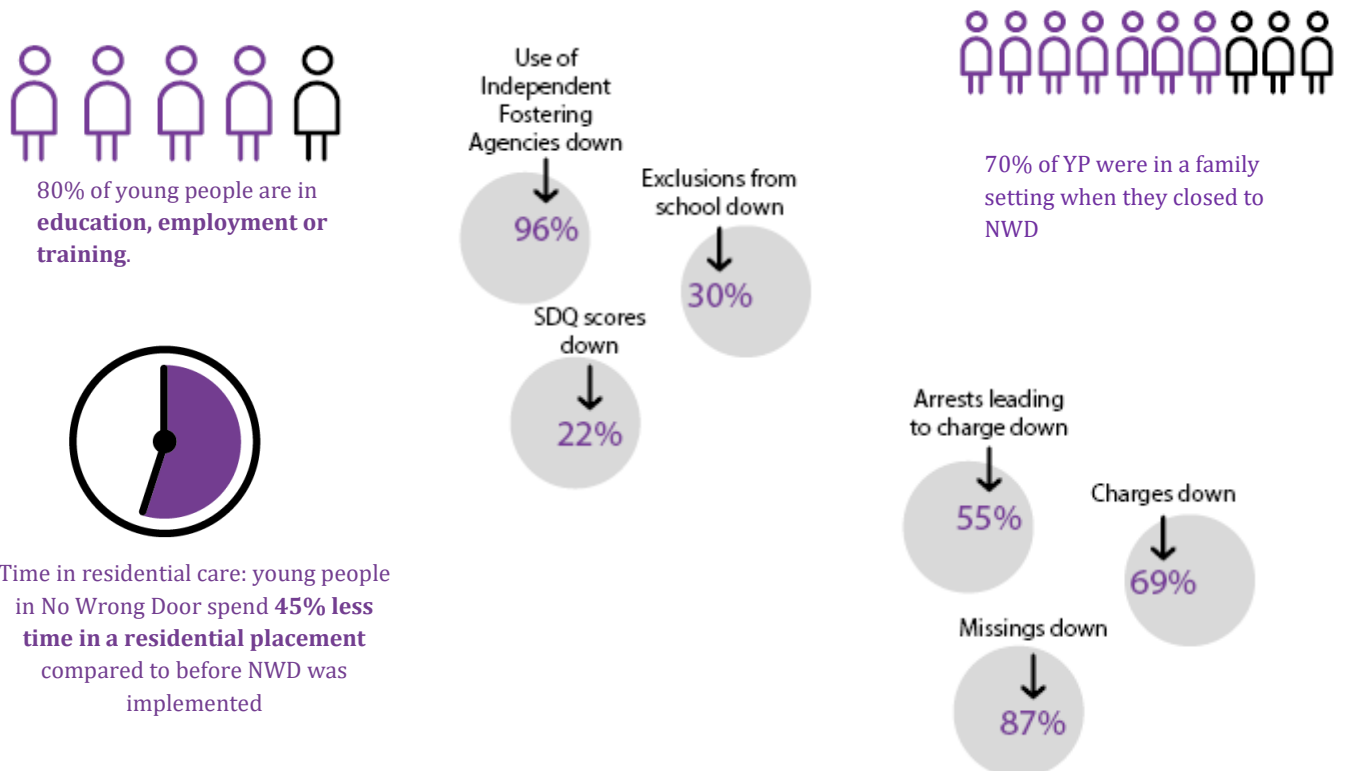
Why is this being recommended?

What has been achieved in NYCC, the approach that we are adopting and adapting:

- ▶ Since January 2020 they have taken 55 referrals

- ▶ Since September 2017 they have trained 22 people in Foundation level Restorative Practice
- ▶ Of those trained in Restorative Practice they offered sessional contracts to 16 of these
- ▶ 70% of the Restorative Academy Workers are care experienced themselves
- ▶ Since January 2020 a further 11 more relief workers have been recruited
- ▶ 3 of the workers have gone on to secure university placements, 1 of the workers went on to do an apprenticeship working in a school, and 1 worker successfully gained employment in a Children's Home.

In real terms means:



15. These figures are accredited to the new approach and have encouraged service-connected young people to raise aspirations, build confidence and take a route that they may otherwise never have thought possible for them.

Middlesbrough want to be able to offer this service to our young people, creating lasting positive impact on our service-connected young people, creating opportunities and

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

N/A

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

N/A

Legal

N/A

Financial

16. The Relational Practice Service is a part of the Futures for Families budget and is funded accordingly with oversight from the service manager and finance with regular monitoring meetings.

Policy Framework

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Risk

17. Each piece of work which the RP Service will complete will be considered and risk assessed on an individual basis. The service doesn't pose any risk to the wider organisation.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

August 2022 – The formal process for referrals is in place

August 2022 – All Children's Services teams have had a presentation introducing the Restorative Relational Practice Service

September 2022 – Two Relational Practice Participation Causal Worker are in post

October 2022 – Go live as a Service and start accepting referrals from Children's Social Care

January 2023 – 3-month review of service delivery

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Contact: [Rob Hamer.](#)

Email: rob_hamer@middlesbrough.gov.uk