



The Studio (ADHD) Centre

Registered Charity No. 1089906

www.studioadhdcentre.org.uk

Preventative Action Is Cost Effective

PACE

Funding Early Intervention and Preventative Services for Children and Young People

with

ADHD, High Functioning Autism and Related Learning Disabilities in Surrey

2015 - 2020

This report demonstrates the specialist service The Studio ADHD Centre provides to young people aged 8 – 19 and their families in Surrey, who need support with health, education and care, using a multi-systemic approach to achieve positive outcomes.

Become the Best you Can

STATISTICS AND DATA

The following statistics are taken from the “Proposals for The Surrey Alliance Joint Actions 2010-14” report which estimates alarmingly high numbers of young people with special and complex needs:-

- **5,238** Children with statements of Special Educational Needs
- **3,928** Children and young people with Learning Disabilities/ASD
- **500** Children with Child Protection plans
- **2,079** with less common disorders of Mental Health
- **8,477** Children with Conduct Disorder
- **5,878** Children with Emotional Disorder
- **2,239** with Hyperactivity Disorder
- **3,440** Young people who use drugs frequently

There were 5,160 temporary exclusions in Surrey across State-funded and special schools as well as 40 permanent exclusions in 2011/12. In 2012, 1,170 young people (16-18) in Surrey were estimated to be NEET - not in education, training or employment. (Department for Education 2013). However, our data shows an increasing number of exclusions of pupils from junior schools whose needs cannot be met.

COMMISSIONING AND FUNDING Voluntary Services and Charities

Supporting a child to remain at home and in mainstream school saves money - not only in terms of finance, but in the long term wellbeing of the child and family.

As many voluntary organisations in Surrey are experiencing withdrawal of grant funding, thus losing valuable staff posts, the consequential costs to society of the lack of preventative support services will have a seriously detrimental effect on outcomes for young people within the County.

- Our ASP Programme costs between £5,250 and £11,600 pa per child (based on assessment of needs).
- A place at a PRU costs between £12,000 and £18,000 pa per child (Ofsed 2012).
- Specialist residential schools cost between £29K and £64K for SEN students if needed.
- 50% of adults with mental health problems had complex learning difficulties before they were 15.
- A child of 10 with such problems could cost the Government roughly £100,000 over a lifetime.

In Conclusion

The Studio ADHD Centre has the expertise to fill this gap in special needs provision but will need to secure three years' consistent funding for three staff posts – Charity Administrator, Senior Therapist and Educational Advisor.

THE RATIONALE FOR SURREY USING THE SERVICES OF THE STUDIO ADHD CENTRE

The Studio ADHD Centre is a pioneer voluntary organisation with its own purpose built therapeutic centre for children, adolescents and families who have a clinical diagnosis of ADHD/High Functioning Autism and related learning and behavioural difficulties. The Charity has been established in Surrey for 13 years and provides counselling, parental support and advocacy within education, health and youth services, together with an interactive Activity Programme. There is no similar organisation in Sussex, Kent or Hampshire.

ADHD/ASD and Complex Learning Disabilities

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurological developmental disorder, typically presenting itself during childhood, affecting between 5% and 9% of school age children in the UK. In recent years the co-existing condition of High Functioning Autism with other related learning disabilities have presented themselves. These disabilities can have continuing adverse effects on life and social skills well into adulthood. Early intervention and guidance is imperative to future outcomes, both for the child's physical and mental wellbeing, through all transition stages into adulthood and within the community as a whole.

The objectives of the Charity are to work collaboratively with other statutory, voluntary and faith organisations to address disadvantage and social exclusion, by improving the life chances of our beneficiaries through a seamless and consistent process of early intervention, support and transition into adulthood.

How We Deliver Public Benefit

Local authorities have a Duty of Best Value to commission services that maximise the economical, environmental and social value when reviewing service provision. We have a very strong record of success, in transforming the lives of children with ADHD/ASD and complex needs, through our innovative and proactive approach to supporting families in Surrey.

A key benefit of The Studio is the long term and consistent service we offer to parents/carers who need guidance, through what is the minefield of bureaucracy within the Health, Education and Youth Services. Families accessing our Charity have normally tried all possible routes to help their child, and most contact us in desperation when school exclusion or family breakdown is imminent.

Pre-emptive interventions incorporating assessment, child and family support and advocacy, mentoring, vocational training, multi-agency liaison and continuum of service, have proved to be cost effective, and meet the needs of the proposed new legislation co-ordinating the Education, Health and Care plans in SEN reforms and the Children's Act.

The need for our Service

There are many adverse life outcomes associated with ADHD and High Functioning Autism, and children with these disabilities are challenged by conventional learning environments risking underachievement at school. Children and young people with ADHD/High Functioning Autism are susceptible to mental health problems and those with complex needs continue to be vulnerable into adulthood.

Young people with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) for ADHD are around eight times more likely to be permanently excluded than those pupils without. Furthermore the delay and timescales involved in securing new statements for pupils with complex needs has increased significantly, putting children who are often very bright, but have associated Aspergers, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia, at high risk of long term educational failure.

The average age for both boys and girls with SEN to be excluded is between 13 and 14 i.e. National Curriculum, years 9 and 10 (DfE, 2012). However, our most recent referrals in 2013/14 show an increase in excluded juniors with complex needs from years 5, 6 and 7 across Surrey boroughs.

Early intervention and support can resolve outcomes at critical 'tipping points' before behaviour deteriorates to the degree that there is no option other than exclusion. Consequences of non-attendance at school can have a significant effect on a young person's confidence and future outcomes. It can also cause potential family breakdown, with the associated emotional and mental health problems, and the costs of multi-agency involvement.

Prompt response is crucial, as appropriate support helps prevent risk of exclusion. The present exclusions system is open to interpretation with schools using internal exclusions, part time timetables and advising parents to withdraw their children for fixed periods. There are currently limited resources to support schools in offering provision to maintain inclusion, for young people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour.

The NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence – March 2013) guidelines set out a whole range of provision that should be in place for children and young people who are diagnosed with ADHD/ASD.

Our organisation is now experiencing a significant increase in the need for advice and guidance from parents across Surrey, as statutory agencies in health and education are reducing their services.

Demand in Surrey alone, far exceeds our capacity to deliver the wide range of preventative services we have pioneered and developed over the past 12 years. Local Authority funding concentrates on those who are NEET, whereas we believe early intervention is crucial and our success is built on **PACE - Preventative Action is Cost Effective**.

INNOVATION and GOOD PRACTICE - Alternative Support Programme (ASP)

Surrey is a National Champion 'Pathfinder' for the Government's new reforms starting September 2014. These changes increase autonomy for schools to innovate and transform SEN provision.

In 2009, with a grant for an Education Advisor, we piloted our Alternative Support Programme (ASP) with 11 pupils with ADHD, at risk of exclusion or already out of education. These bespoke packages have resulted in inspirational change and outcomes in young people, who had previously been marginalised by their social and learning difficulties. Impact of this is demonstrated in our latest Annual Report.

The Alternative Support Programme (ASP) includes:

- Assessment of needs and collating previous and current education history.
- Consistent parental support and guidance from The Studio's lead professional.
- Liaison with LEA, school, health professionals and other agencies.
- Supporting managed moves and transitions.
- Mentoring and alternative education through the Reflections Angling Project.
- Introduction to work experience and vocational options.
- Data systems monitoring personal development, action plans and outcomes.

Projected outcomes for the young person are:

- Improved attendance at school or alternative provision.
- Improved academic and vocational achievement.
- Development of personal resilience, communication skills and confidence.
- Non involvement with youth justice system, drugs, alcohol misuse, anti social behaviour.
- Ability to transfer learned skills to new situations.
- Increased aspirations leading to qualifications and work.
- A personal portfolio reflecting achievements and community involvement.

The family:

- Family supported by consistent specialist advice and guidance.
- Parents empowered and confident in liaising with Education, Health and Care professionals.
- Family unit is safer, stabilised and harmonious both emotionally and economically.

The school:

- Staff having increased skills in dealing with children with ADHD, improving inclusive practice.
- Truancy and exclusion rates drop with less use of expensive alternatives.
- Early intervention and appropriate support saves costs to the tax payer, local authorities and the community in general.

Preventative Action Is Cost Effective

The Studio ADHD Centre and its Staff achieve
PACE by delivering a service that is:

PERSONAL

PIONEERING

PRO-ACTIVE

POSITIVE

PROGRESSIVE

PRODUCTIVE

PASSIONATE

PHILANTHROPIC

PERSISTENT

PREVENTATIVE