

Action for Children residential childcare services



Helping the most vulnerable
children and young people



as long as it takes

Action for Children residential childcare

Action for Children has been an expert in children's residential childcare for 140 years. We offer a range of residential homes and services for children and young people who are unable to live with their families and need a supportive home. Action for Children believes that residential care for many children and young people with complex and challenging needs can be a positive choice. We help children, young people and their families to deal with any disruptions and difficulties they may have encountered and provide flexible, needs-led support and care.

Who we help

We support children and young people with complex and challenging needs by providing safe, structured nurturing and loving homes.

How we help

In partnership with commissioners, we recruit and develop professional staff who share our commitment to providing high-quality services that place the child at the centre. We help children and young people to realise their potential, overcome barriers and to enjoy the same life chances as other children and young people.

Offering value for money services

Specialising in the most hard to place and vulnerable children and young people, our placements are supported by an experienced and qualified team and a range of support services, including therapeutic interventions. We believe that investing in the wellbeing of children and young people now brings enhanced outcomes.

Our vision

We are ambitious for children who cannot live with their birth families. Passionate about helping them to enjoy the same life chances as other children and young people so they can achieve their full potential. Our vision for children in care builds upon our enduring aim to meet the needs of this most vulnerable and disadvantaged group.

Our values

Passion – we are driven by our desire to help children and young people overcome injustice and disadvantage

Equality – we believe all children and young people have equal worth and equal rights

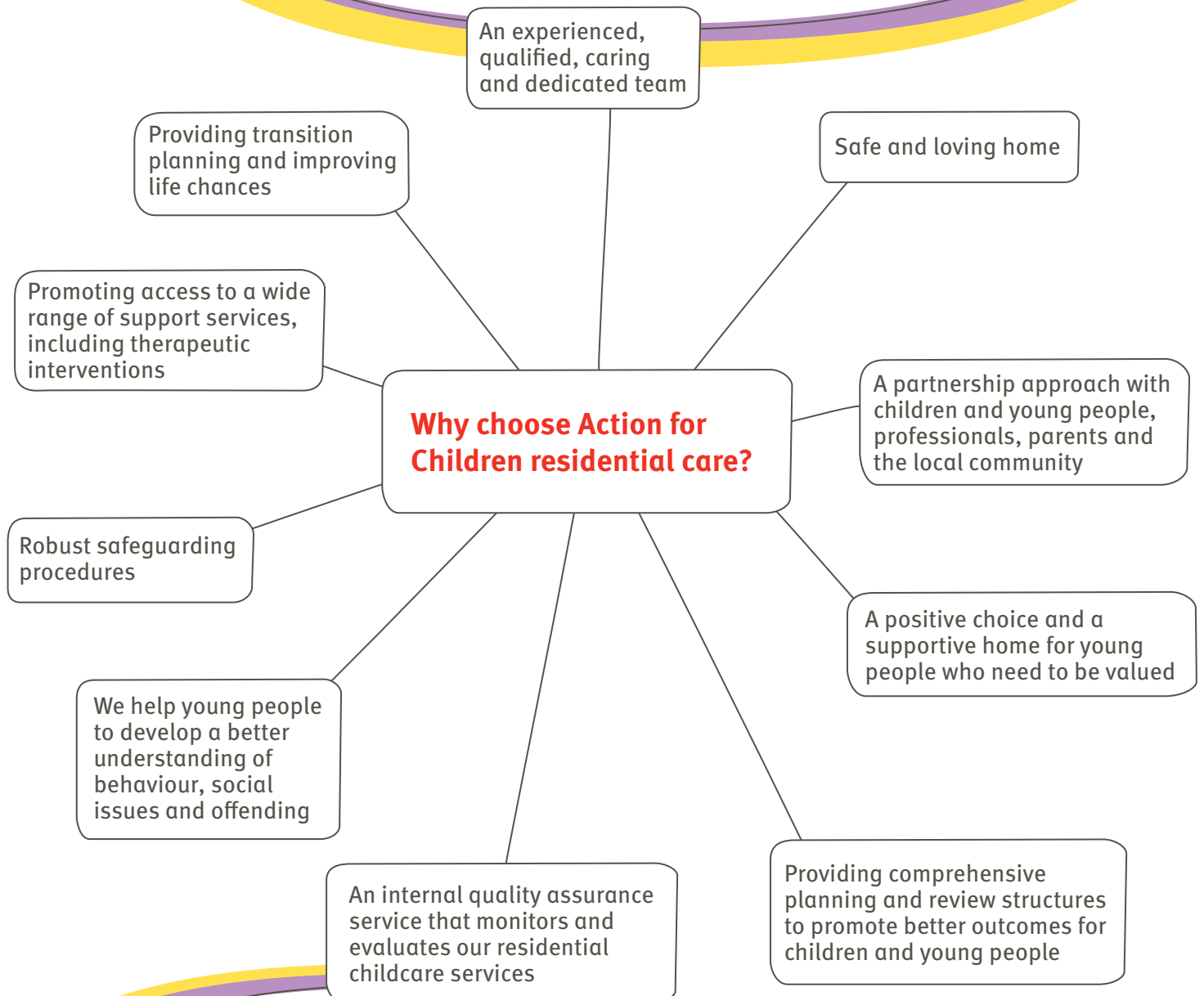
Hope – we believe in a child or young person's potential, no matter what they have experienced or what they have done

Passion
Equality
Hope



'We found consistent evidence of staff communicating effectively with colleagues and other agencies about the health and wellbeing of the young people. This included information on primary healthcare, specialised support designed to meet the needs of the individual young people and ongoing promotion of healthy lifestyles.'

Action for Children Intensive Supervised Structured Care (ISSC), 9 December 2009, Care Commission Inspection Report



'Before I came here I didn't like to help people, but since I came here staff are so nice to me and I am now nice to other people'

Quote from a young person in our residential care

Our residential childcare services

Medium- and long-term residential childcare

Action for Children provides a range of medium- to long-term residential care services to children and young people who face a variety of issues and who:

- ▶ are likely to have experienced neglect or physical/sexual abuse within their childhood
- ▶ lack self-confidence and self-worth as a consequence of their early life experience
- ▶ experience attachment difficulties
- ▶ have a history of offending behaviour
- ▶ have a history of risk-taking behaviour

Our services help young people access sport, leisure, culture and play, and encourage health and wellbeing. We also help young

people learn independent living skills, such as cooking, DIY and money management. We support young people to access education and employability opportunities

Short-term assessment services

We offer short-term respite and emergency residential packages as part of community-based interventions for young people involved in offending and anti-social behaviour, as well as those young people whose existing placement is at risk. We work in partnership with local authorities to help them reduce the number of young people requiring 'out-of-area' placements and to return young people to their home communities after periods away.



Project focus: Action for Children Community Care

On behalf of Leeds City Council, Action for Children Community Living provides a supportive semi-independent living experience for young people with mild to moderate learning difficulties. This gives them the skills they need to move to appropriately supported, long-term accommodation in the community. The service provides 52-week care for up to six young people aged 15 to 19 and who are eligible for leaving care services.





Specialist and intensive residential childcare services

We offer specialist and intensive services that aim to understand the behaviour, social and offending issues of vulnerable young people. Working in partnership, our tailored and robust programmes focus on assisting young people and their families to be fully integrated into their own communities through intensive individual support. We aim to improve educational achievements, health, social inclusion and assist in making positive changes in the young person's life.



Project focus: Action for Children Scotland Intensive Supervised Structured Care (ISSC)

Action for Children Scotland Intensive Supervised Structured Care (ISSC) is based in Ayrshire and is an innovative resource that is an alternative to secure care or specialist residential childcare. We offer five residential beds in a close support unit and alternative family placements provided by specialist foster carers as part of an integrated service.

ISSC offers a robust community-based alternative that puts in place structured and individual care plans that will support offence-focused intervention, individual and group work programmes of social care, life skills and education/training, and intensive and supervised staff support for every young person.

Within the project we provide a high standard of care and support for individuals who have been socially and educationally excluded for a variety of reasons. ISSC also strives to ensure that a young person's through care and after-care plan are supported by the residential staff/young people's case team.

Other residential services

In addition to our residential childcare services, we also provide:

- ▶ supportive homes for disabled children when they are unable to live with their families
- ▶ residential short breaks services that give parents and siblings a break from caring and disabled children and young people the opportunity to enjoy new experiences
- ▶ residential schools that help a wide range of pupils, from those with disruptive social backgrounds to children and young people with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)

Finding new ways to support children and young people in residential care

Action for Children understands that young people in residential care may have difficulties in forming relationships because of past experiences. They may feel like outsiders at school and have no sense of identity. Action for Children's Holding the Space programme gives young people a sense of belonging and identity.

What is Holding the Space?

Holding the Space is a training programme to support social care workers in residential homes, helping the staff and young people to work as a community. The course uses therapeutic methods to help change the culture in residential homes and create teams who can respond to children and young people who have high levels of need.

Residential homes using Holding the Space have found:

- ▶ the relationships between the staff and children improve, as well as relationships between staff and between the children
- ▶ there are fewer incidents of bullying
- ▶ there is less need for physical intervention
- ▶ a sense of community develops, enabling children and staff to solve problems and celebrate successes together
- ▶ a safe space is created for children and staff to share important feelings and listen to each other
- ▶ staff are able to better understand the children in their care, enabling them to manage conflict differently

Our goals and outcomes

Working effectively in partnership with the most challenging children and young people has enabled them to achieve consistently excellent outcomes, we provide children with the support they need to achieve stated outcomes:

- ▶ in England: Every Child Matters
- ▶ in Northern Ireland: Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge
- ▶ in Scotland: Getting it Right for Every Child
- ▶ in Wales: Children and Young People: Rights to Action

‘When I first came in they made me feel really welcome and they helped me and my mum a lot’

Quote from a young person in our residential care

Action for Children inspection reports

Our services in Scotland have received positive feedback from the Scottish Care Commission, with all of our services gaining grades of ‘good’, ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’. This is in addition to our services in England receiving a grade of ‘Good’ overall with three ‘outstanding’ grades, and our Welsh inspection report stating ‘This is a very positive inspection for this service’.



'6 Rowan Lea provides a very good standard of care and support for children and young people and their families. The service provides an attractive and well resourced environment for children and young people. Staff are friendly and caring. Overall, children and young people using the service are very happy with the service that is provided.

Action for Children Moray Elgin Residential Unit, 26 February 2010, Care Commission Inspection Report



Action for Children residential childcare locations

- ▶ Medium- and long-term residential childcare
- ▶ Short-term assessment services
- ▶ Specialist and intensive residential childcare services

England

- ▶ Action for Children Community Living

Talk to us: 0113 274 9531

Email: neclp@actionforchildren.org.uk

Leeds

On behalf of Leeds City Council, we provide 52-week residential care for six young people aged 15 to 19 with mild to moderate learning difficulties to prepare them for leaving care and greater independence.

Wales

- ▶ Action for Children Denbighshire Bryn y Wal Residential Services

Talk to us: 01745 592185

Email: anne.roberts@actionforchildren.org.uk
Denbighshire

12–16 years, residential care for five young people

- ▶ Action for Children Drws y Nant

Talk to us: 01286 684790

Email: simon.glyn@actionforchildren.org.uk
Gwynedd

13 to 17 years, residential care for young people who are referred to us by Gwynedd Council's resource panel. This is usually as a result of a placement breakdown either at home or with foster parents.

Scotland

- ▶ Action for Children Eilean Siar Hillcrest Residential Unit

Talk to us: 01851 700099

Email: westernislesresidential@actionforchildren.org.uk

Western Isles

Under 18 years, a flexible unit that provides assessments, unplanned, short-term and long-term placements for up to five young people

- ▶ Action for Children Gael Og Intensive Support

Talk to us: 01463 717227

Email: gaelog@actionforchildren.org.uk
Inverness

An intensive support service for young people identified through the GIRFEC process as placing themselves and/or other people at risk of serious harm.

- ▶ Action for Children Intensive Supervised Structured Care (ISSC)

Talk to us: 01292 288940

Email: issc.ayrshire@actionforchildren.org.uk
Ayr

12–17 years, offers intensive structured care for five young people who are at risk of going into or are ready to leave secure or specialist residential care.

- ▶ Action for Children Moray Buckie Residential Unit

Talk to us: 01542 839068

Email: Morayru.Buckie@actionforchildren.org.uk
Moray

11–18 years, residential care for up to four young people resident in Moray who cannot live at home and who are not yet able to live independently

- ▶ Action for Children Moray Elgin Residential Unit

Talk to us: 01343 569006

Email: morayru.elgin@actionforchildren.org.uk
Moray

11–18 years, residential care for up to four young people resident in Moray who cannot live at home and who are not yet able to live independently

- ▶ / ▶ Action for Children Moray Forres Residential Unit

Talk to us: 01309 672665

Email: morayru.forres@actionforchildren.org.uk
Moray

11–18 years, short-term residential and intensive structured care for two young people. Also provides one 72-hour emergency bed

For more information on our services for disabled children and schools, please visit www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Contact us

You can find further information on our children in care services at www.actionforchildren.org.uk/childrenincare

Alternatively, talk to us at a regional office:

Scotland office

Talk to us: 0141 550 9010

Harrogate office

Talk to us: 01423 524 286

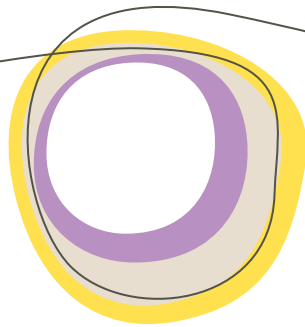
Wales office

Talk to us: 029 2022 2127



'Things can be difficult but
I have learned to cope better'

A quote from young people in
residential child care



Action for Children

Action for Children is committed to helping the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK break through injustice, deprivation and inequality. We help over 156,000 children, young people and their families through around 420 projects across the UK. This includes our innovative portfolio of:

- ▶ residential homes and short breaks services for disabled children
- ▶ fostering
- ▶ adoption
- ▶ family centres
- ▶ schools
- ▶ transition services
- ▶ care leavers services

As one of the UK's leading children's charities, our priority is to put children at the heart of everything we do. Our goal is to always be there for vulnerable children and young people, for as long as it takes to make a real difference in their lives.

as long as it takes

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Photographs: Action for Children/Kevin Greenfield

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