

## Referral Process

Children are admitted by referral from social services, following a pre-admission risk assessment and a discussion by an internal panel about the suitability of each placement.

If there is a place available in the home, a Keyworker is appointed who, along with the Manager, spends time with the child or young person to explore their understanding and expectations of the placement. An induction process then begins, which can include an overnight stay. If there are no vacancies at the time of referral, the child's name can be placed on a waiting list.

## Criteria for Admission

Auton Sunderland will accept referrals where:

- The child is aged between seven and 17 years old on admittance of placement; *and*
- The child is in need of an alternative placement, either where they are new to children's services or because their previous accommodation arrangements have broken down; *or*
- The child is adolescent and it is felt he / she would benefit from a period of stability and individually tailored support before being supported with a view to independent living; *or*
- There is an indication that the child would benefit from being accommodated to enable an assessment to be carried out, the outcomes of the assessment can be transferred with the young person; *or*
- The placing authority has completed its own assessment and it has been highlighted that the individual may benefit from a therapeutic environment with an open-ended period of stability to work on individual targets and outcomes to secure a positive future.

## Regulating Standards

Auton Sunderland is regularly inspected by Ofsted and continually works to achieve the highest form of recognition. For more information, please contact: **Sheila Errington, Director of Care Services at St Cuthberts Care.**

## How to Find Us

### By Car

From the A19, take the exit for the A183 towards Sunderland/ Chester-le-Street. Follow Chester Road and turn right at The Royalty Pub. Follow the road and bear left onto New Durham Road/A690

At the roundabout, turn right onto Tunstall Road

Continue over the next roundabout and take the first left onto Thornhill Park. Auton Sunderland is on the right at number 23 Thornhill Park

### Public transport

For directions by public transport, please contact Auton Sunderland for details. The staff will be happy to provide you with any information you require.



# Auton Sunderland Children's Home

Part of St Cuthberts Care



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[www.autonresidentialchildcare.org.uk](http://www.autonresidentialchildcare.org.uk)

For further information on the full range of children's services provided by St Cuthberts Care please contact:

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## Welcome

Welcome to Auton Sunderland, a children's residential care home where staff support children and young people who have had multiple placement breakdowns in the past and are in need of care, support and stability. My staff and I work with our children to guide them and give them the confidence to make their own decisions about their lives, and to teach them how to replace negative, often self-destructive behaviour patterns with alternative methods of coping. We encourage young people to recognise their own strengths, individuality and potential for development and independence.

If you would like more information on Auton Sunderland or to discuss any issues not addressed in this brochure, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss the service further.

Best wishes,



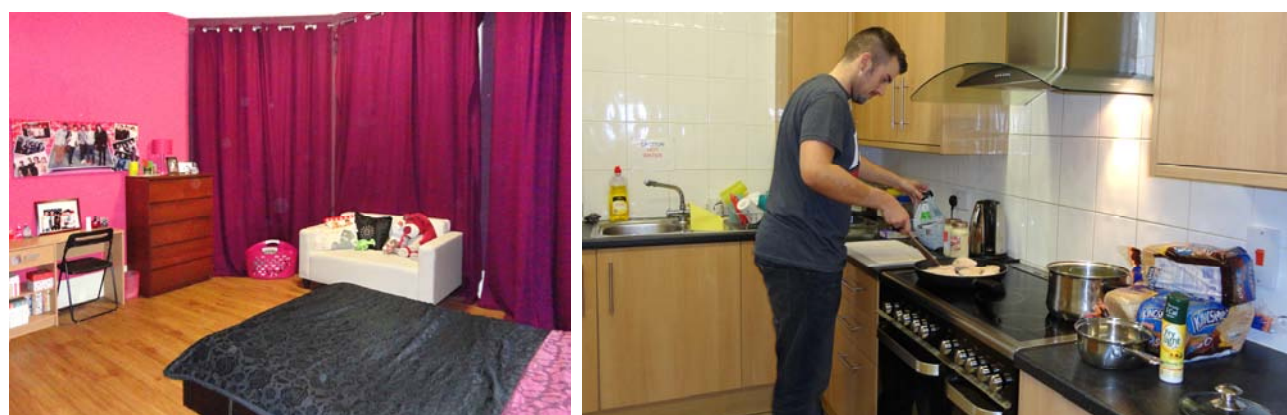
Jody Scott, Registered Manager.



## Our Aim

We provide a non-institutional, therapeutic living environment where young people can learn to value and develop personal relationships by providing situations and experiences that encourage trust, self-esteem and mutual respect. We provide a child-centred environment to enable young people to receive positive role modelling and guidance through continuity of reliable relationships and consistent nurturing care. We create a safe, non-judgemental environment to encourage age appropriate development and positive future outcomes. We work in close partnership with other agencies to ensure the stability and well being of the placement along with optimal opportunities for the young person.

## Accommodation



At Auton Sunderland there is accommodation for six children of both genders from age 7 - 17 years old on admission. All children have their own lockable bedrooms, which can be personalised to reflect their own identity and encourage a sense of belonging. There is a lounge and separate dining room, a homework room with computers and internet access, a games room, and an arts and crafts room.

## Staff

Auton Sunderland is run by Registered Manager, Jody Scott and a team of highly qualified staff. Each one of our staff members acts as an excellent role model for our children and young people, setting clear boundaries whilst also encouraging personal development, confidence and self-esteem.

There is a high child / staff ratio at all times, always with a senior member of staff on duty. Our experienced team works closely with health professionals to help and support our children with any medical or emotional problems they may be facing.

## Facilities and Activities

Auton Sunderland has a large garden where we encourage the children to have fun, as well as participate in its upkeep and maintenance. Our children join us in planting flowers, as well as fruit and vegetables which are later used in their cooking.

Inside the home, our children have access to a number of leisure activities including television, radio, arts and crafts, internet access and Xbox.

Activities outside of school and the home are a recognised part of the children's development. All of our residents are encouraged to have outside interests.



## Individual Care and Support

All of our children and young people at Auton Sunderland receive care and support based upon an assessment of both their needs and their strengths. Our emphasis is to support each individual to achieve their potential, using an outcome based approach. Every young person is involved in the development of their **Individual Care Plan** in consultation with social workers and other professionals. Each young person is always involved in discussions and decisions that affect changes to their plan as they develop and progress.

For example, each child has a detailed **Education File** recording their educational history and their specific needs and aspirations. Working in close partnership with Local Education Authorities, we support them in their school placements and are responsive to change, to promote the best outcome. Our children at Auton Sunderland regularly achieve high levels of school attendance. In addition, we encourage them to become involved with the local community, which helps to develop their social skills, independence and self-esteem.

Our children and young people are encouraged to have an outcome based approach to living at the home; achieving increased **periods of stability**, positive experiences and time to consider a range of possibilities open to them after their stay. This can be a transition into foster care, a return to their own family, a move towards independent supported living, or provision of a long-term placement at Auton Sunderland.

We take a proactive approach to **health issues**; ensuring that young people have a healthy and balanced diet, encouraging them to take part in regular leisure activities and providing advice on risks such as drug and solvent abuse, smoking and sexual health matters.

The young person's **cultural background** is always taken into account as an important factor when identifying their needs. We actively support visits to local places of worship, developing cultural links within the community and embracing cultural diversity.

We recognise that, whenever possible, children and young people need regular, constructive contact with family, friends and other people who play major roles in their lives. The care plan includes the arrangements for each child's contacts and these, too, are regularly monitored and revised as necessary.

While the best interests of our young people are always paramount in their care and support, we endeavour at all times to respect their privacy, confidentiality, diversity and equality.

“ The staff team are great advocates for the young people; they show genuine commitment and form excellent relationships with the children in their care. ”

David Ryland, Deputy Head, Ascent, The New Bridge Academy, Sunderland