

Referral process

Children are admitted by referral from children's social care, following a pre-admission risk assessment and a discussion by an internal panel regarding 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 Villa 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 a placement, either because he/she is new to children's services or because his/her previous accommodation arrangements have broken down; *or*
- The child is an 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*
- 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; *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.

Regulating standards

Auton Villa 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 Newcastle city centre

Auton Villa is situated on the corner of Wingrove Road and Moorside South, near the junction with Nuns Moor Road. From the city centre it can be reached via:

Either: Gallowgate - Barrack Rd. - Ponteland Rd - Left into Fenham Hall Drive then second left into Wingrove Road.

Or: West out of the town along Westgate Road, turning right at the roundabout after the (former) General Hospital.

By bus from Newcastle city centre

Services 12 and 36 from Gallowgate to Wingrove Road. Services 10, 11 and 38 from Grainger Street and services 39 and 40 from Gallowgate to the (former) General Hospital.

For bus times visit www.nexus.org.uk or ring Traveline on **0871 200 22 33**

By train

Newcastle Central is the nearest station. There are taxi ranks outside the station or you can take bus number 10.



Auton Villa Children's Home

Newcastle upon Tyne



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Telephone: 0191 273 8861

Email: auton.villa@stcuthbertscare.org.uk
Website: www.autonresidentialchildcare.org.uk

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

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Welcome

Welcome to Auton Villa, our children's residential care home. Here we support children and young people who are in need of care, encouragement and stability, and may have had multiple placement breakdowns in the past. Placement admissions are planned and, where possible, include pre visits. My staff and I work with our children and young people to support them in making 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 have any questions about Auton Villa which are not addressed in this brochure, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

Kerry Wilson-Pearce, 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 wellbeing of the placement along with optimal opportunities and outcomes for the young person.

Accommodation



At Auton Villa there is accommodation for six children of both genders from age 7 to 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 dining area as well as a chill out area and homework room which offers a child-friendly environment with soft furnishings, games, craft facilities and books.

Staff

Auton Villa is run by Manager, Kerry Wilson-Pearce, and a team of highly qualified staff. Each one of our staff members acts as a 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-to-staff ratio at all times, and there is always a senior member of staff on duty. Our experienced team works closely with health professionals to help and support our children and young people with any medical or emotional problems they may be facing.

Facilities and activities

Auton Villa is a large, detached and spacious property, surrounded by a perimeter garden. Our young people have an allotment and 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 a games console.

Activities outside of school and the home are a recognised part of the children's development and we encourage participation in age appropriate activities, for example swimming, boxing, cycling and football training.



Individual care and support

All of our children and young people at Auton Villa 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. Since coming to Auton Villa, all our young people have improved their educational attainment and achieved a high level of self-confidence. 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 Villa.

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.

“ I am very happy with the way BW is settling and achieving his incentives ... I have found your staff to be very professional, welcoming and child focused. BW has been made to feel welcome which has aided his transition to Auton Villa. I feel that there has been a lot of thought in respect of his Care Plan ... which will assist his confidence and self-esteem. ”

Placing Social Worker,
Sunderland City Council