



**understanding the context  
of inappropriate sexualised  
behaviours**

## Oracle Care — who are we?

Oracle Care is a small, specialised service, set up by a group of individuals who are committed to maximising life chances for children and young people through the promotion and development of safer communities.

The Oracle Team is our greatest asset — we truly value, support and empower each staff member to deliver the exceptionally high standards of therapeutic care and education that we believe each young person is entitled to. Stability is achieved through the delivery of consistent care within a respectful and nurturing environment. The quality of our staff, and their recruitment, retention, training and supervision, are essential to achieving stability, ensuring that child welfare is paramount and that high aspirations become achievable. Oracle promotes a sense of belonging, ownership and responsibility (individual and collective) that we believe is unparalleled — this is who we are; read on for what we do...

## Our mission

Oracle strives for excellence in all aspects of its service delivery. We aim to be a beacon example of good practice, producing successful, measurable outcomes in all aspects of our work with young people.

We are committed to extending the boundaries of professional knowledge through progressive initiatives, research and academic dissemination.

## Our commitment

Young people who come to Oracle are with us for unique reasons. Their individuality is considered in all its dimensions. Many young people experience a cycle of multiple placement changes. We persevere with challenges and achieve stability.

## Methodology

Oracle is designed around the application of psychological, educational and social work theory and practice. We have developed an organisational structure, culture and sense of community that are grounded in a set of explicit but simple values, designed to enable pro-social norms and behaviours to be established and maintained.

Good practice must have sound foundations. To this end we create a homely, conducive care environment, and undertake personal care that emphasises the promotion of wellbeing, belonging and personal responsibility.

Oracle takes a solution-focused approach to the resolution of issues. We have the skills and experience to manage complex case and risk management scenarios. This approach is constantly applied with our young people to extend their internal locus of control and problem-solving skills so that they can feel confident about shaping their own futures.

## A specialist residential service

Based in Cheshire and North Staffordshire, Oracle offers care, education and therapy for young people aged between ten and 18. We provide 1:1 or 2:1 care in dual or small group homes (maximum of three young people). We additionally have the flexibility to facilitate solo care if required, although Oracle is committed to inclusive therapeutic care and education and will always work towards reintegrating children and young people into groups wherever and whenever possible.

We aim to provide a safe yet challenging environment in which young people are encouraged to learn to make positive, pro-social choices about their lives and futures.

Each young person in our care has a range of complex, individual needs and case management challenges, an aspect of which will relate to problematic psychosexual development and sexualised behaviour.

We undertake a comprehensive programme of assessment and therapeutic interventions, with a view to providing a collaborative, multi-agency response to the prevention and modification of risk and challenging behaviours.

## Offering a service while respecting individuality

We specialise in helping young people with particularly diverse or complex difficulties, who may also have mental health or learning challenges. Individuals may, in addition, be identified as having current high-risk potential.

We are experienced in working with young people who are currently living in Secure Accommodation. We offer therapeutic programmes and actively engage in discharge planning to ensure successful transition into a community provision.





Oracle promotes a sense of belonging and inter-dependence by creating and investing in mutually respectful relationships.

Risk management underpins all aspects of our operation. Risk is viewed as a dynamic process, requiring systematic assessment, monitoring and effective responses to change. The staff team has considerable expertise in this field, and works in conjunction with public protection agencies.

## Therapeutic input

Therapeutic input is provided by Steve Gray, or another Oracle\* Psychologist/Psychotherapist specialised in this field, who provides direct sessions with each young person in placement. In addition, Oracle will provide risk assessments and court reports, as required, in relation to each young person in placement.

Steve utilises a combination of formal and informal direct sessions ranging from a single session to a concentrated period of time. Steve works in a creative and flexible manner, which:

-  is tailored to the individual's needs and their level of engagement at a particular time, and
-  takes place in a variety of settings conducive to that young person (eg 'formal' in a private room; 'informal' has included fishing, mountain biking, cooking dinner)

These sessions focus on psychosexual and/or behavioural issues, and their impact on the young person and on others. Cognitive-behavioural principles (CBT) are applied in a creative, systemic approach, designed to enhance skills and modify behaviours and thought processes.

\* **Oracle does not employ external consultants — all clinical sessions are delivered by suitable and professionally qualified individuals employed directly by Oracle Care Ltd.**

## Oracle School

Oracle School is located on a site that is easily accessible from the Oracle homes and is registered with the **DfES (registration no. 875/6035)**. It is an expectation that all young people attend the school on a full-time basis and follow the National Curriculum as detailed in their own individual education plan (IEP). Oracle School observes mainstream school hours, terms and holidays. Young people receive 30 hours tuition a week from qualified teachers who have an additional understanding of their individual complex needs. Much of this is individual tuition as many young people we accommodate have gaps in their learning due to previous exclusion and/or traumatic experiences.



We encourage our young people to be proud of their part in the Oracle community and to contribute to its organic and dynamic growth. We set high behavioural expectations so that young people can recognise a baseline for the development of internal controls that will help them to function in wider social situations...

***we do not underestimate the potential for change.***

Through combined clinical, therapeutic, behavioural and educational approaches, Oracle aims to improve outcomes for young people and provide 'best value' for purchasers. Oracle can evidence significant time-focussed achievements in assessment, behaviour modification and enhancement of skills, resulting in risk-reduction and successful transitions towards independent living.

Oracle School provides a vital link for education to employment facilities and resources within any geographic region, to ensure smooth transitions occur for each individual young person through thorough planning and visits over a specific period of time. We still maintain contact with and are proud of each Oracle young person's progress, achievements and aspirations to date.

***"Oracle really helped me with my independence skills and their staff were really supportive and helped me succeed and reach my goals and overcome challenges" Gerard, aged 18, former Oracle student.***

Oracle has a 'can do' attitude and we are not afraid to address and manage risk to allow young people to experience a wealth of different cultures, activities, education and adventures that are consistent with the opportunities offered to children who are able to grow up in their own families with good parenting.

Oracle can provide witness testimonies and specific examples (made anonymous) if required.

## **Oracle school mission:**

***To provide and promote quality education and life skills in a caring environment***

## **Integrated learning and education**

Oracle School strives for excellence in all aspects of its curriculum and its delivery, as is consistent with Oracle's overall aim of becoming a beacon of good practice. We believe that education is intrinsically linked to every aspect of the young person's life. Our teachers work closely with the residential staff to reflect the same respectful and nurturing environment that the entire Oracle Team promotes.

Oracle School's ethos is based on supporting young people to celebrate achievement, maximise potential and raise self-esteem.

Oracle adopts an integrated approach to learning. All those involved in the care and education of our young people take an active role in the promotion of skills, knowledge and learning.

Our learning environment is designed to offer structure, routine and variety, and help overcome learning barriers. We follow a varied full-time learning programme catering for all abilities.

By operating a token system that rewards positive contribution, effort and achievement, we give our young people the opportunity to learn from the choices they make. All our young people are expected to actively participate in assessing their own learning and progress, developing ownership of individual education programmes.

In addition to placing emphasis on achieving competence in core national curriculum subjects, we also offer a variety of alternative subjects such as music, humanities, art, PE, agricultural science and outdoor pursuits, and alternative schemes, such as ASDAN awards.

We use ICT and multimedia resources to maximise learning potential for each young person. We promote inclusion, whether into mainstream schools or local colleges. We have developed extensive links with local employers to offer challenging vocational opportunities and experiences.

## **Educational outcomes**

Measurement of achievement is undertaken through recognised accredited awards. We offer GCSE examinations as well as AQA unit awards, ASDAN and Prince's Trust Award schemes.

Through Oracle School we have developed close links with Connexions and job centres, allowing us to offer the 16-18 demographic access to college, entry to employment (E2E) courses, work experience and other work-related opportunities, many of which are eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance.

Young people in our care have the opportunity to make smooth transitions from year 11 (Y11) into adult life due to the careers package we offer from Y9 onwards. Connexions have a pivotal role in our careers planning and are familiar with working with our young people.

Together, we can define and establish the foundations on which each young person can build in their quest towards achieving economic wellbeing and a positive future.

## **Oracle consultancy and training**

***Extending the boundaries of therapeutic care, education and knowledge***

Oracle is committed to sharing good practice and promoting stability and consistency through multi-agency working.

Oracle can provide training for partner organisations, particularly around strategic behavioural management of young people to ensure consistency of approach and promote smooth transitions in planned moves to step-down resources.

Oracle provides independent advice on individual complex case scenarios. Our Psychologist / Psychotherapist can undertake consultancy to provide Assessments and Court Reports for young people placed in non-Oracle settings.

Steve Gray, Operational and Clinical Director of Oracle, regularly contributes to Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel Advisory (MAPPA) work in addition to providing the direct clinical input for young people placed at Oracle.

Within Oracle's commitment to ongoing, life-long learning for practitioners, we deliver a certain amount of free training and workshops for partner organisations and at some national events, to ensure we are constantly extending the boundaries of therapeutic care, education and knowledge in the pursuit of improving life chances and maximising potential for all children and young people.

**Referrals and advice:** please contact Steve Gray, Clinical Director or Heather Hunter, Service Manager

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To discuss any aspect of this brochure or Oracle's service, please contact the Oracle Team via the above contact numbers. For discussion relating to strategic development, partnership work, problem-solving and creative ideas/solutions, please contact Alison Trainor, Director of Development, mobile 07809 195335.

