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**ASPIRE
SUPPORT
SERVICES**

PROSPECTUS

All Can Achieve.



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“ALL CAN ACHIEVE”

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aspire Support Services is a specialist agency providing high-quality, semi-independent accommodation, which includes life coaching and training in independent living skills for young care leavers.

During our one-on-one key working sessions, we will equip each person with the relevant skills and knowledge required to live a safe, independent and healthy lifestyle. Our aim is to help each young person identify and set goals that he or she can work towards achieving.

We are aware that young people leaving care often have significantly poorer outcomes than their peers in regard of education, training and employment. This minority of young people is severely underrepresented, and we therefore specialise in providing each young person with the opportunity to further increase his or her chances of reaching economic prosperity.

In order to achieve this, Aspire Support staff will develop a personal program for each young person, which can involve finding them apprenticeships, employment, and further education or training services. We will also focus on areas such as cooking, housekeeping, shopping, budgeting and health and safety.

OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

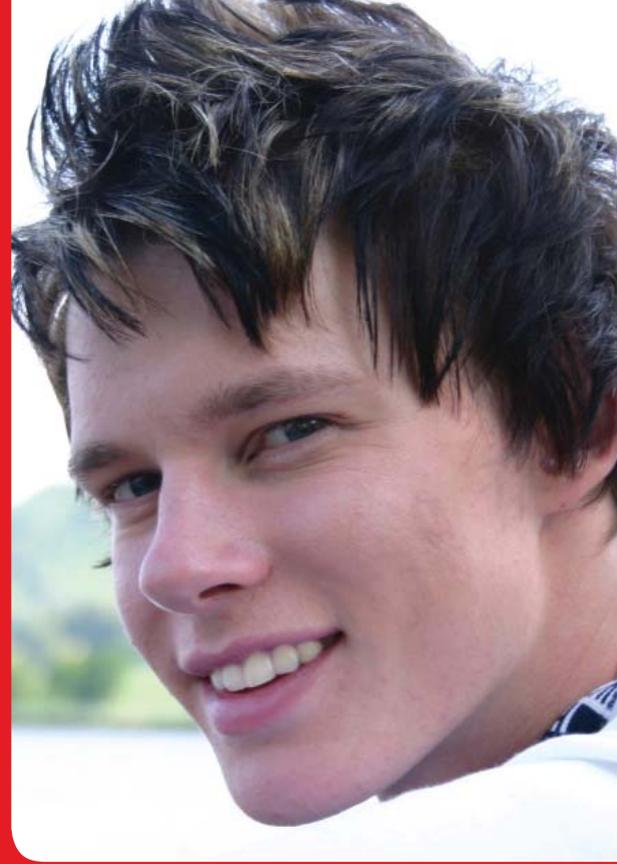
Our goal is to achieve good quality outcomes for all of our young people in line with the five objectives specified in Every Child Matters.

Aspire Support Services strongly believes that "All Can Achieve" and are capable and deserving of living a happy, safe, economically stable life, whilst making a positive contribution to society. This ethos is practiced daily in our interaction with each young person and is promoted through positive mentoring, encouragement and acknowledgement of achievements.

OUR METHOD

In our approach to working with and assessing the independent living skills of each young person, Aspire Support Services will:

- Work closely and in partnership with the leaving care team, the young person's social worker, parents, and any other adults who play an important role in the young person's life.
- Work closely and in partnership with other professional agencies.
- Work in a transparent and open way so that all parties involved are continuously updated with progress reports and developmental expectations.
- Utilise the resources available in the local community and make sure each young person knows the services his or her community has to offer and what is available to him or her.
- Provide a caring, warm, safe and welcoming environment in each one of our units.
- Recognise that each young person is an individual with their own aspirations, interests and views.
- Work in a non-discriminatory manner, promoting equality at all times.
- Listen and respond appropriately when young people show signs of anxiety, anger and frustration.
- Reinforce positive behaviour.
- Encourage young people to develop a better knowledge of themselves, a sense of self-respect, self-worth and well-being.



LEVELS OF SUPPORT AVAILABLE

We offer 4 different levels of support which are:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Low level support of 5 hours a week | Low-Medium level support of 10 hours a week | Medium-High level support of 15 hours a week | High level support of 20 hours per week |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|

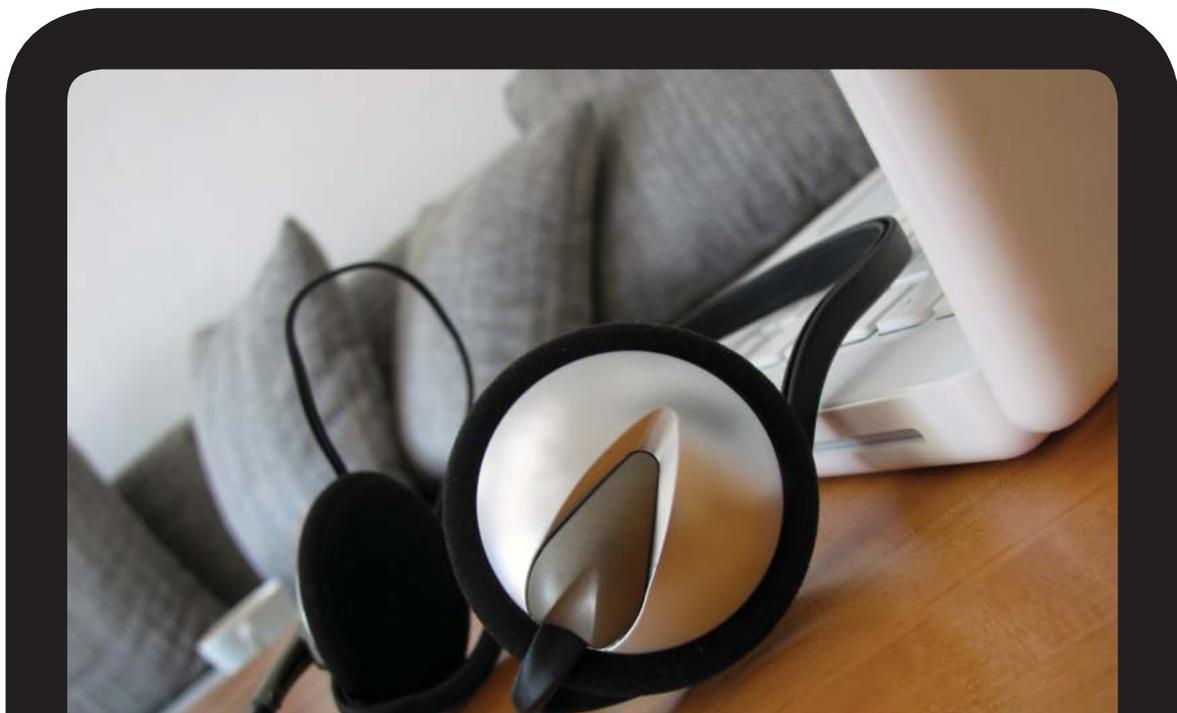
Accommodation

Aspire Support Services provide shared supported accommodation or self-contained flats, both of which are maintained to the highest standards of health, safety and decor.

Our shared supported housing units provide each young person with his or her own lockable bedroom, which is furnished with a bed, wardrobe, desk, bedside cabinet and chest of drawers. The kitchen, bathroom and living rooms are all communal and will be shared with the other young people residing in the unit.

All service users who access further education will be provided with the use of a computer and printer to ensure that they can continue to achieve their academic goals. Should a young person require specific equipment as part of their development with us which has not been previously highlighted, we will endeavor to provide such items where possible.

Our support staff complete daily contact logs after each session clearly highlighting the aims, outcomes and any concerns established during the session. Based on these sheets and the outcomes, formal reports for leaving care services are prepared on a monthly basis.





Some of the topics covered in our preparation for independence sessions include:

Managing and looking after your home:

- What is a Tenancy agreement?
- Keeping a tidy house
- Knowing where your meters, fuse boxes and water switches are
- Food and Health
- Recycling and knowing your bin collection day
- Preparing a load of washing and using your washing machine

Learning to budget and manage money effectively:

- Understanding cash flow, income and expenditure
- How to complete a detailed budgeting plan and understanding money
- Paying bills and the consequences of defaulting on payments
- Handling money
- How to open and manage bank accounts and the various options available
- Savings and Investments
- How to write a cheque
- Online banking
- Ways to save money around the home
- Benefits
- Credit ratings – ways of improving your credit score
- Mortgages
- Planning for the future – short-term, medium-term and long-term

Employment and Education:

- Discussions on interests and aspirations
- Confidence building
- Furthering your education– Different courses, colleges and universities
- Creating a CV
- Mock job/college interviews
- Filling out application forms
- Help finding employment and routes into employment
- Wages – how much you can expect to get paid depending on the job you choose
- Starting your own business
- Help with business plans and information on grants and funding available
- Referrals to external agencies that can assist with the above or are specialists in certain fields

Miscellaneous:

- Applying for passport/provisional driving licence
- Help with theory test and booking driving lessons
- Learning the costs associated with motor vehicles, e.g. petrol, tax, insurance, MOT and servicing.

REWARD SCHEME

We like to reward young people who have shown dedication, hard work and commitment towards reaching independent living. We do this in order to continue building self-confidence and to keep them motivated and striving towards reaching their goals. Therefore we believe it is important to let them know that their achievements do not go unrecognised. There is a two-tier reward policy which is structured as follows:



If after 6 months support the young person is:

- Keeping to their tenancy agreement
- Managing finances effectively
- Attending all key work sessions
- Have gained entry into education, training or employment and are maintaining attendance and showing commitment

They will be rewarded with 1 nights stay in the Alton Towers resort hotel and entry to the theme park for them and one other person.



If after 12 months support the young person is:

- Able to keep to all of the above
- Save a sufficient amount of spending money

They will be rewarded with an all inclusive holiday abroad, for them and one other person. N.B. – The above is subject to a full risk assessment and if it is not deemed suitable a more appropriate alternative will be offered.

OUR PLEDGE



Prior to admission into one of our units, Aspire Support Services will arrange for the young person and his or her social worker to visit the accommodation in order for the young person to familiarise himself or herself with the services we have to offer and the outcomes we aim to help them achieve. If the meeting is successful and our services are contracted, we will ask the young person to read and sign "Our Pledge". This is a "young person friendly" document which highlights the terms of the tenancy, the services we pledge to offer, and the level of commitment/respect our staff expect in return.

This document will also be signed by the support worker and witnessed by the young person's social worker. Before making a final decision, the young person will also be provided with a copy of the document that highlights the services we have to offer and the rules we ask them to observe.

PATHWAYS PLAN

Aspire Support Services is fully committed to helping young people achieve the outcomes set out in their pathway plan. The young person, their social worker, relatives and other interested parties will review the pathway plan at the earliest opportunity. This will form the basis for developing the daily living plan for the young person. Plans will be reviewed bi-annually, or more frequently if necessary, and updated to reflect any changing needs to ensure that the objectives for health, personal and social care are being met.

Family and relatives will be encouraged to participate in reviews as much as is practicable or safe, and will be invited to formal reviews if that is the wish of the social worker/young person. The young person and their relatives are always welcome to speak with our support workers in regard to any queries or problems they may have should access to such information be permitted by social services.



LIFE COACHING

Providing the best possible support and head start for care leavers is very important to us and therefore all support packages with Aspire Support Services include life coaching sessions. During these sessions we focus on different areas of the young person's life such as personal development, career and social life and get them to set SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, responsible, and timed) goals that can be broken down into smaller targets, that work towards achieving their overall goal.

The coaching we offer provides unique, specific and targeted support to ensure the young person is able to develop in all areas of his or her life.



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OUR STAFF



Company Director Ricky Senior has 10 years experience providing outreach support and mentoring to “looked after” children between the ages of 10-18 years. He has previously worked as a coach to new civil staff for the metropolitan police and has five years experience working in a financial services environment providing advice on money management skills, banking and mortgages.



General Manager Frank Amegah has worked with the Metropolitan Police since 2002 and has come across many vulnerable and impressionable young people who were in need of positive role models, and a more constructive outlook on life. In many cases, simply having some support and help with day-to-day issues and problems was all these vulnerable young people needed. This inspired Frank, along with Ricky Senior, to form Aspire Support Services in order to ensure these young persons have access to this essential support and therefore avoid many of the pitfalls that so often come their way.

We will be utilizing business contacts in various industries and sectors to provide work experience, training, mentoring and apprenticeships to young people using our services.



Quality Assurance Officer

Barbara Walters-Ennis has over twenty years of varied experience as a qualified child care social worker, manager and freelance consultant, trainer and assessor. Barbara’s experience ranges from being the Teenage Pregnancy co-coordinator for a local health authority to setting up and running her own successful independent fostering agency for several years. Barbara has also provided training and consultancy to a number of local authorities, most recently the CWDC inductions standards for foster care. Barbara has extensive experience working with children and young people in a variety of settings including the statutory, the voluntary and the independent sector. She also has extensive experience of undertaking comprehensive assessments (including parenting assessments) of children, families, young people and adults in the above settings.

Aspire Support Services aims to have all support staff trained to a minimum of NVQ level 2 in youth work/care. All of our staff are recruited based on their professionalism, reliability, integrity and skills. They are carefully screened and subjected to CRB checks, and references are always checked. During the induction all staff are trained in-house by the manager in the following areas:

- GSCC Care Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding Children
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
- Confidentiality
- The Rights of Young People



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