



# THE POPLAR ADOLESCENT UNIT THERAPEUTIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Information for schools and colleges

# THE POPLAR EDUCATION TEAM



Essex County Council

- Our team is made up of 4 qualified teachers and experienced support staff, all with many years of experience in mainstream and special education settings.
- We are a local authority maintained school, are DfE registered and Ofsted rated 'Good'.
- As we are a small school, we all fulfil a number of roles:
  - Charlotte Baulch – Head of School, SENCO, TPP Trainer and English Lead
  - David Lumsden – Key Teacher, Maths and Music Lead
  - Kathy Johns – Key Teacher, Science and PSHE/RSE Lead
  - Clare Varley – Key Teacher, Art and AIG Lead
  - Cheryl Gardner – HLTA
  - Julie O'Grady – Business Manager
  - X 2 Psychology placement students providing classroom support



**Essex Partnership University**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# CONTEXT

- Poplar Ward is a CAMHS General Adolescent Unit (GAU) and provides Tier 4, inpatient care for young people aged 11 -18 years experiencing an acute mental health crisis.
- Poplar Ward is part of Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT) and is an NHS ward.
- We are one of 2 CAMHS inpatient units in Essex with the other (The St Aubyn Centre) based in Colchester. The St Aubyn Centre has a GAU ward (Longview) and a Psychiatric Intensive Care unit (PICU) (Larkwood).
- We have strong links with our sister unit in Colchester and our Executive Headteacher, Simon Turnnidge, has strategic oversight of both units ensuring that we share expertise and support between our two teams.
- Some young people are admitted from outside of the county and are some distance from home and family.
- Poplar Education Unit is situated in the main hospital building and consists of three classrooms. There is an additional classroom on the ward for ward based working.

# ETHOS



- We provide an individualised approach to support students' education in a safe and nurturing environment. We help young people to explore next steps and prepare for reintegration back into the community whilst building resilience and engagement through a varied curriculum.
- Young people come to us facing enormous difficulties and they, their families and carers and their school communities need our support and understanding during the course of the admission.
- We aim to establish and enable strong communication links with schools so that they are fully up to date with the progress of the young person, both academically and medically.
- As a point of contact and liaison for schools and colleges, we hope to maintain strong links with schools for our young people and support successful reintegration or planning of 'next steps'.
- Teamwork is a key component of our ethos and we work closely with other professionals within and beyond the unit.

# OUR APPROACH:



- As part of a structured programme, we provide 20 hours of educational provision per week following the National Curriculum or programmes of study from the home school/college. The education programme includes trips off the hospital site for educational learning and activities.
- We create individual timetables for young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and support achieving qualifications whilst with us.
- All young people are assessed to attend our unit soon after admission, and each young person is allocated a key teacher.
- Part of the role of the education team is to liaise with a young person's current school, college, or education provider and work and progress can be shared throughout the admission by the Key Teacher.
- The Education Team also support reintegration back into a young person's own school/college when they are well enough and in liaison with the young person, MDT, schools and families/carers.



# WHAT DO WE ASK FROM YOU?

- Safeguarding concerns/referrals shared promptly with Key Teacher during initial contact.
- Guidance provided to Key Teacher regarding school work/topics being studied and prompt provision of resources or advice on what you would like us to cover with the young person at the start of, and throughout their admission.
- Provide background information to the Key Teacher on the young person including:
  - attendance
  - working grades and predicted grades
  - SEND information
  - Support strategies/approaches
  - Presentation at school/college and any difficulties prior to admission

# WHAT DO WE ASK OF YOU?



- Attendance of a member of the home school/college team at the Care Plan Approach (CPA) meetings which happen on the ward every 4-6 weeks (remotely or in-person) and you will receive a Teams invite to these.
- You are welcome to attend the weekly ward round (CRM). This is a half an hour meeting to discuss each YP, led by the ward Consultant Psychiatrist with the MDT and other community professionals also attending. You can request a Teams invite to join remotely – just let us know.
- Support and collaboration with planning the reintegration back to your school/college which may include school visits, planning meetings, attending lessons and remote discussions and meetings.
- Visits to our school are welcomed – just speak to the Key Teacher to arrange a visit.

# GLOSSARY AND TERMS



- CPA – Care Plan Approach meeting (every 4 – 6 weeks)
- GAU – General Adolescent Unit
- PICU – Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit
- CRM – Clinical Review Meeting (every week on a Wednesday)
- MDT – Multi Disciplinary Team
- PBS – Personal Behaviour Support plan
- IHCP – Individual Health Care Plan – transition plan to support reintegration in liaison with school
- EHCP – Education Health & Care Plan
- HDU – High Dependency Unit
- LTS – Long Term Segregation

# CONTACT DETAILS



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