

## **SEND Information Report**

### **Who are we?**

Ancora House School provides education for young people aged 13 – 18 who have been admitted to Ancora House, an in-patient adolescent mental health unit. Ancora House consists of two wards; Coral and Indigo. Ancora House School also meets the educational needs of young people referred by local authority to our community base; Ancora Hub.

Ancora House treats young people who present with a wide range of adjustment difficulties; psychological disorders and mental illnesses and disabilities such as:

- Self-harming including eating disorders
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Social isolation, often following long term non-attendance at school
- Depression
- Psychotic episodes
- Poor peer relationships
- BESD (behavioural, emotional and social difficulty)
- Bipolar Disorder
- OCD (Obsessive compulsive disorder)
- ADHD (attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder) ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) / Aspergers Syndrome.

Ancora Hub is a short term provision; it meets the needs of young people with a range of presentations including both mental health and physical health needs and who are engaged with health professionals.

### **Who are the school's Special Education Coordinators (SENDCOs)**

The school's SENDCOs are:

Ms Liza Ashworth ( Hub)

Ms Sheila Kennedy ( House).

Ancora Hub: 01244650441

Ancora House: 01244 397598

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## **Our Curriculum**

Wherever and whenever appropriate, the students will follow programmes of study within the National Curriculum. When the students come to Ancora House they are dual registered with their current schools. We work cohesively with their home school so that the young people can follow their current scheme of work as closely as possible.

It is of particular importance that the students are able to access not only a broad and balanced curriculum but that it addresses their individual needs. The addition of personal and social education, life skills and careers guidance is an invaluable part of the curriculum. We enrich the experience by providing Dance, Drama and Art sessions, Forest School and Poultry Care.

The Hub students access enrichment through connection with community projects, for example The Blacon Bike Project and Trafford Mill Conservation.

Each student is expected to contribute to the design of their Personalised Curriculum Plan; identifying goals and targets meaningful to them. All planning incorporates targets for social emotional wellbeing and functional skills. In this way we hope to optimise the levels of engagement for each student, tailoring their curriculum to meet their needs.

## **How are referrals made to the school?**

**Students attending Ancora House School are inpatients who have been admitted to Ancora House Tier 4 CAMHS Unit.**

**Students at Ancora Hub are referred by Cheshire West and Chester Council because of their Medical Needs or their Children Looked After status.**

## **What SEN provision do we offer?**

**Only a small number of students arrive at the school with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). As part of the assessment process in school we consider whether or not students require a statutory assessment to meet their Special Educational Needs. If we consider that an EHCP is necessary then we will support the Parent/carer or SENDCO in the home school to make the request to the Local Authority.**

**Students are encouraged to express their needs, priorities and aspirations through Personal Curriculum Plans (care plans) and weekly tutorial meetings.**

**Assessment of cognitive functioning and concentration will be conducted on a daily basis and discussed weekly as part of a strategy and intervention meeting. Each individual is discussed and a care plan developed that suits their needs. These plans will specify the support and interventions which will be put in place for the students along with the students' aspirations as expressed through their Personal Curriculum Plan. These plans for support may include 1-1, small group or in class support as well as specifying the focus and type of specific intervention (e.g. Social Skills intervention programmes).**

**Progress is then discussed weekly with parents/carers and students and targets reviewed.**

**The effectiveness of the provision is monitored by the whole school tracking and monitoring system, individual intervention monitoring and reporting.**

**There is an open door policy with regard to communication, support and progress.**

#### **What additional and wider support is offered by the school?**

**Ancora House works closely with young people and their families in identifying the wider support necessary to aid families in understanding and meeting the needs of young people who often have very complex difficulties; this involves close communication and consultation with parents and carers and appropriate outside agencies.**

**Our Senior Leadership Team and SENDCO works closely with the clinical team and other external agencies in supporting plans and interventions to promote emotional wellbeing and wider engagement; this wider engagement includes access to activities alongside young people who do not have Special Educational Needs.**

**Our Education Transition Team work closely with students and families during times of transition back to the home school or new placement and ensure educational, emotional, social, communication and practical needs are considered carefully to ensure sustained success.**

**Students are encouraged to express their views about wider aspects of the school; its pastoral care and provision, which also includes consultation over the measures taken to prevent bullying. We have a school council who meet on a regular basis all students are encouraged to take part in anti-bullying week where students take part in awareness raising activities organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. The outcomes of these activities are reinforced throughout the year.**

The school is supported by ongoing involvement from the strong Governing Body. Through an evaluation cycle, Governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school and ensuring pupils make progress and monitor the areas of Leadership and Management, Behaviour and Safety, Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and SMSC.

**What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?**

Tier 4 CAHMS multi- disciplinary team work with each young person to; assist them towards recovery, promote their well-being and optimise their life chances. The team offer a wide range of evidence based interventions.

The education team also contact the local Authority that the young person comes from to access support from their Educational Psychologists, CAMHS, ASC team, EIT, young peoples' service if appropriate so that they are supported post discharge.

Hub staff attend Tier 3 CAMHS reviews alongside the Access Team ( Council) to secure the best outcomes for students who attend the Hub.

**What training and experience have the staff supporting young people with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities had or are having?**

All staff involved in ongoing CPD in meeting the needs of students with Autistic Spectrum Conditions with particular emphasis given to the impact of mental health on students' well- being and readiness to learn. Staff are highly experienced in engaging and motivating students who are anxious and/or avoidant.

Specific training in Development Trauma and Attachment is undertaken by all staff.

Ongoing CPD is given to meet individual needs of pupils (e.g., ADHD, Safeguarding, Young People and Mental Health).

CAMHS provide regular input and support for whole school and individual needs around various aspects of supporting mental health needs.

Our Teaching team are supported on a regular basis by the Educational Psychologist in Solution Focussed approaches and group supervision in supporting the very individual needs of our students.

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## **Accessibility**

- **Our school buildings are fully accessible.**
- **Accessible toilets**

## **Who can I contact if I have any queries about my child?**

The Headteacher, Sian Thomas and SENDCOs Liza Ashworth/Sheila Kennedy or their Tutor, who will be identified on admission.

## **General School Contact Details:**

**Address:** Ancora House School

Countess of Chester Health Park

CH2 1BQ

**Phone:** 01244 397598 (House) 01244 650441 ( Hub)

**Email:** [admin@ancora.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ancora.cheshire.sch.uk)

**For all queries relating to Special Educational Needs you can contact:**

**Sheila Kennedy SENDCO on the main school number 01244 397598**

**Liza Ashworth SENDCO on the Hub number 01244 650441**

**If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your concern then we would encourage you to follow the complaints procedure outlined in our Complaints Policy.**