

**STAYING
CLOSE**

**Bolton
Council**



By Michelle Oxley, Staying Close Team Manager

Refresher – What is Staying Close?

Bolton are one of 25 Local Authorities funded in the third wave of the trial of the DfE trial.

Bolton's Staying Close Service offers a relational based, wrap around intensive service to a small cohort of young people eligible for staying close services.

There are 4 x personal advisers, 1 x Housing Officer, 1 x Education Employment Training Worker, 1 x Emotional Health Practitioner and 1 x Team Manager.

To be eligible a YP needs to have been living in residential care for a period of 13 weeks or more after their 14th birthday. Residential care can include children's homes, secure homes, YOI's

In Bolton we work alongside the Social Worker from the age of 15 to support the transition over to Leaving Care. The SC PA will then take on case responsibility after a young person turns 18 at an agreed time with the Leaving Care Social Worker and a transfer protocol.

All young people currently supported by SC are eligible for support from the Housing Officer, EET Worker and EHP. The workers will either offer direct work sessions or liaise with the PA depending on the needs and wishes and feelings of the young person.

MEET THE TEAM....



Michelle Oxley
Team Manager



Kelly Salthouse
Emotional Health
Practitioner



Holly Mundy
Housing Officer



Debbie Selby
EET Worker

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Keaton Grant
Personal adviser



Leah Pratt
Personal adviser



Cath Winstanley
Personal adviser



Aaron Dennis
Personal adviser

Staying Close Numbers

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**Currently
Supporting 32
YP**

**7 Open to
YJS**

**4 Young parents
2 expecting Mum's**

**15 Males
17 Females**

1 UASC

4 x BAME

**13 x Over 18s
19 x under 18s**



Personal Adviser Support

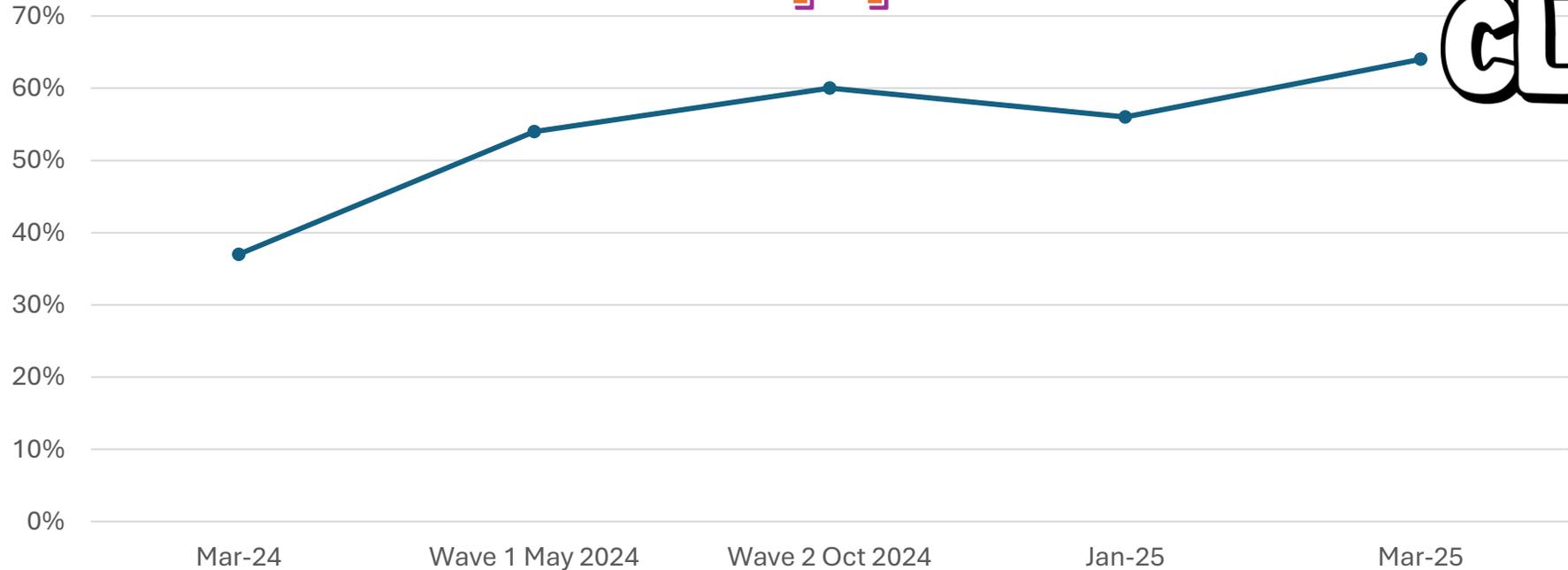
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- **Currently support a maximum of 8 YP with intensive support**
- **The frequency of Visits/Communication are based on what the YP Needs and Wants at the time. This can be daily, weekly, fortnightly and on occasion can drop to monthly.**
- **PA's support with relationship building – doing activities together**
- **Support with building life skills, cooking, cleaning, budgeting, DIY, etc**
- **Support with completing UC claims**
- **Help YP build confidence and reduce isolation.**
- **PA's over 18 are responsible for co-ordinating the PwP**
- **Chair SC Multi-agency Meetings**



EET Support

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**Increase
of 21%**

Debbie Selby, SC EET Worker:

Attends PEPs for all 32 YP

- Supports with signposting and developing positive partner relations
- Offers 1:1 Support – CV's, applications, interviews, visits to provisions
- Offers 1:1 monthly clinics to PA's.



Housing Support

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Holly Mundy, SC Housing Officer:

- Currently supporting 22 YP with Tenancy Readiness and Maintaining Safe and Stable Accommodation.
- Offers oversight on Housing needs , Attends Placement Panels,
- Offers 1:1 Support – DTR, Housing Applications, Bidding on Properties, visits to accommodation, OOB challenges,
- Offers 1:1 monthly Housing clinics to PA's.

**5 x Own Tenancies
1 x Back-up
3 Return to Family
16 x Semi
Independent
1 x MB FC
6 x Residential
2 x YOI/HMP**

Feedback from Anna Whitehead (Zonal Manager - Inspire):

“I think the Staying Close Team is a great asset to Bolton. The frequency in which they see young people clearly has a positive impact on the relationships which they develop with young people.

Holly's work has particularly enhanced our transitions process. By having her support with the housing process, we are more able to complete planned and phased transitions for young people to semi-independent, which ultimately makes a smoother process for the young person and reduces some of the anxiety around the change of transitioning from residential to semi-independent”.



Emotional Health Support

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Kelly Salthouse, Emotional Health Practitioner:

- **Currently supporting 14 YP with direct emotional support sessions**
- **Offers oversight on EHCP's, Care Assessments, Neurodiversity – ADHD/ Autism Pathways, Safety Planning**
- **Has completed Capacity Assessments for YP**
- **Supports PiP Applications**
- **Signposts and refers in for Therapeutic Support / Clinical MH**
- **Supports Peer Supervision for the Team and Training.**
- **Offers 1:1 Consultations with PA's**

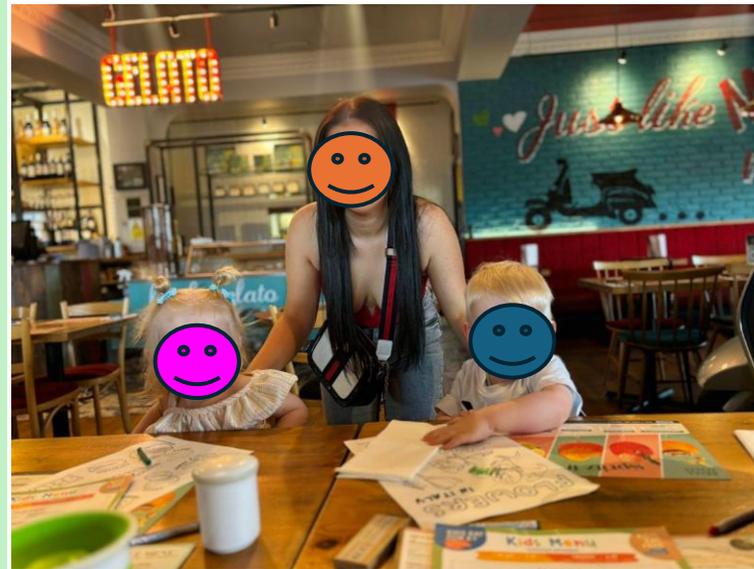
Feedback from D: I see Kelly every week. I am building a positive relationship with Kelly and she is helping me. It takes time for me to trust people, and I am building my trust in Kelly. I have for the first time been able to talk to Kelly about things I am struggling with. I have never really opened up to anyone before. I can and do contact Kelly when I need some extra support between our sessions.

Activities Policy

Currently YP have around £30 a month to do activities with their workers. We are looking at ways to offer more opportunities including group activities. Some activities completed include Arcades, Pool, Gym, Bowling, walks, out for lunch, puppy play.

Birthday Policy

We recognise our YP may not have anyone to celebrate their birthday with. We will offer all our YP a celebration, a birthday cake and card from all the team and use donations for gifts.



Staying Close Christmas Meal!

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Staying Close 1st birthday

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How has SC helped me?

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“Kelly has really helped me, keeps me keep calm, really understands me and I get on with her”

“ I do appreciate that Debbie has got me on the CSCS card course, despite us sometimes having disagreements.”

“they help me with whatever I need”

“they help me find a place to live”

“They have helped greatly. Most notably, they have been able to support me moving to Birmingham and starting independent living”

“they help me with getting a job”

What is the best thing about SC?

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“The friendly environment built by the relationships between co-workers and YP. Leah, Kelly, and Debbie have been tremendous. They have worked hard and are incredibly useful, kind, and are able to work with me despite the distance. Give them a raise

“Going out with Aaron”

“It’s like a big hug. I’ve got everyone around me, I love Cath, Debbie and Kelly”

“They are all really nice 😊”

Aaron - He is a good person. He is honest, straight to the point and does not ‘beat round the bush’ but I like this approach, and it has worked for me. This shows that Aaron is honest and trustworthy. I think that his salary should be upped.”

“Cath and Debbie I get along great with them”

Staying Close: Staying

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The DfE are currently reviewing how funding will extend as the Keeping Children Safe, Helping families Thrive, November 2024 paper proposes that this will be rolled out to all Local Authorities in the future. This has been further confirmed in the Children Well-being and Schools Bill, March 2025.

It is predicted that this will take around 3 to 5 years to implement as a statutory responsibility.

Bolton continues to report in to the DfE to support the development of this project as well as the other LA's who are funded.

Bolton SC Future Priorities



- **Group Work – We hope to offer some independent living skills work shops, EET workshops, Young Parents group, Emotional Health group,**
- **SC Plan – we have our Staying Close Plan to link in with the PWP as well as tools for our YP.**
- **We have 48 x 15-17 that would be eligible for Staying Close Support and we are looking at other ways we can support more of those YP within the trial. (20 will be supported via Trusted Person’s Scheme).**
- **Working on increasing Housing Opportunities for our Staying Close Cohort.**
- **Working on a GM staying Close Group**