



OUTDOOR CARE

Safe • Nurturing • Trusted

Statement of Purpose

Home	Simonside House - 335 Simonside Terrace, Heaton, Newcastle
Ofsted Registration No.	2587132
Registered Provider	Outdoor Care Ltd
Responsible Individual	Tom Grethe
Registered Manager	Steve Clark (Interim Manager)
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Approved By	Tom Grethe, Responsible Individual

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Legal Framework

This Statement of Purpose has been prepared in accordance with the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015
- Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the Quality Standards (DfE, 2015)
- Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004
- Care Standards Act 2000
- The Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) — Ofsted
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Children and Young People's Wellbeing Framework

Aims and Objectives

Outdoor Care Ltd accommodates children and young people aged 8–17 who are in need of a placement with high levels of support and supervision. Outdoor Care is registered with Ofsted to support children with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties and Learning Disabilities. We are committed to providing a pleasant, healthy and safe environment in our care home, Simonside House, where we offer a community home with a minimum of two staff for two children, providing a high level of support and supervision.

Our aim is to engage, enable and empower children and young people to help them develop a positive attitude towards their current circumstances and expectations for the future. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and to develop self-awareness. This is achieved by following a model of positive reinforcement — the Promoting Positive Behaviour (PPB) Framework — whereby children are actively rewarded for contributing to the running of the household and for taking responsibility for their personal health and hygiene.

We work to the principles of the Children and Young People's Wellbeing Framework and ensure that these are reflected in each Placement Plan and addressed on a day-to-day basis:

- Staying Safe
- Being Healthy
- Achieving Economic Well-Being
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution

Promoting Positive Behaviour (PPB) Framework

The PPB Framework is the tool we have devised for providing structure to the placement. Based on a behaviourist model of positive reinforcement, it promotes engagement through a clear and structured reward system linked to the children's weekly allowance. It enables children to

understand that they are capable of achieving tasks where they may have previously struggled and they are empowered as a result of their developing skill levels and confidence.

The PPB Framework includes a 3-tier reward system. When children are rewarded at the top tier, part of their income is saved, helping to develop financial skills and contribute towards economic well-being in adulthood. For children aged 16 and over, the PPB provides a measurable, quantifiable tool to inform the Pathway Plan.

Facilities and Services

Outdoor Care Ltd operates a community home providing accommodation for up to two children and young people, with a minimum of two staff at all times. Our staff team operate on 24 or 48-hour shifts to promote consistency, maximise continuity of care, and minimise change for the children within the home.

We do not operate a key worker system; instead, there is a shift co-ordinator on each shift with overall responsibility for the management and running of the home and for ensuring that the Placement Plan is implemented effectively. Children can elect which member(s) of staff they wish to speak with if they are experiencing difficulties encouraging the development of positive relationships and ensuring issues can be addressed promptly.

Each child has their own bedroom and is encouraged to personalise it, promoting a sense of ownership and belonging. Children have access to:

- Educational provision for academic and Personal, Health and Social Education (PHSE)
- Therapeutic services through Cognitive Behavioural, Solution-Focused or Equine Assisted models as appropriate
- A dedicated home vehicle to enable access to a wide variety of activities including camping, fishing, cinema, ice skating and bowling
- Facilitated attendance at appropriate meetings, including LAC reviews and family contact

The Property — 335 Simonside Terrace (Simonside House)

Simonside House is a three-storey, inviting family home located in a pleasant urban setting in Heaton, Newcastle.

First floor: A natural-light-filled bay window living room with comfortable sofas, television and games facilities. An open-plan modern fitted kitchen and dining room with patio doors leading to an outside seating area. A toilet with hand basin. A desk for study and homework is located in the dining room, with age-restricted Wi-Fi available.

Second floor: Two spacious, natural-light-filled bedrooms for children, each equipped with a built-in wardrobe, chest of drawers, desk and chair, television (as appropriate), and a modern ensuite with shower, hand basin and toilet.

Third floor: Two staff rooms, one with ensuite, one of which also serves as the staff office.

The home has smoke detectors throughout, fire extinguishers, and self-closing 30-minute fire doors on all internal doors. A vehicle is available at the home to facilitate transport to appointments and activities.

Registered Provider

The Registered Provider is Outdoor Care Ltd, Woodland Place, Belford, Northumberland, NE70 7QA.

Responsible Individual

Name	Tom Grethe
Address	Woodland Place, Belford, Northumberland, NE70 7QA
Role	Responsible Individual / Director
Appointment	1999 (managerial role since 2001)
Qualifications	NVQ Level 2 Care; NVQ Level 3 CCYP; NVQ Level 4 Managing a Residential Child Care Service; CALM Instructor. Community Fire-Fighter and Fire Officer for Outdoor Care Ltd.

Registered Manager

Name	Steve Clark
Address	Woodland Place, Belford, Northumberland, NE70 7QA
Role	Interim Registered Manager
Appointment	2016-2020 Senior Support Worker 2020-2026 Director/senior support worker 2026 – Interim Registered Manager
Qualifications	Joined Outdoor Care January 2016. Has worked in residential care since 1990 with children and vulnerable adults. Level 4 NVQ in Care (2004); Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare (2023).

Staff Qualifications and Experience

All staff are subject to enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, facilitated through the umbrella body of Northumberland County Council, prior to commencement of employment. On each shift, at least one member of staff will have completed all mandatory training.

The majority of the staff team have been with Outdoor Care for over five years. This stability has been achieved by promoting a supported and positive working environment that enables staff to flourish.

The current staff team comprises eight members: two female and six male. All staff hold, or are working towards, an NVQ Level 3 in Children and Young People's Work or equivalent, and a Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Individuals with Learning Disabilities (City & Guilds).

Staff Pen Pictures

Name	Experience and Qualifications
Adele Clayton	Joined Outdoor Care November 2023. Previously worked in youth settings as a youth worker. BSc Community and Youth Work (2011–2014). Currently completing Level 3 Workforce Diploma (May 2024). Deputy Manager May 2026 -
Alan (Kelvin) Gallagher	Joined Outdoor Care July 2019. Previously head chef in Northumberland restaurants. Level 3 Workforce Diploma (2022).
Craig Southern	Joined Outdoor Care November 2016. Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce (2018).
Jason Whitelaw	Rejoined Outdoor Care January 2022, having previously worked with us 2000–2007 and then with another residential children's home. Level 4 NVQ in Care (2006).
John McDonald	Joined Outdoor Care September 2016. Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce (2018).
Nicola Harle	Joined Outdoor Care 2017. Over 21 years' experience working with children with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Level 3 Workforce Diploma (2021).
Stephen Jamieson	Joined Outdoor Care July 2026 – Stephen has worked in various settings supporting Children, Adults and Families for nearly 20 years. Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care

Psychology Support

Outdoor Care employs the services of Alicia Knight BSc (Hons) Health Psychology; MSc (Dist.) Health Psychology; MSc Applied Psychology for Children and Young People (Healthcare). Alicia joined Outdoor Care in 2007 and has over 22 years' experience in child and adolescent mental health across voluntary and statutory sectors. Her role includes providing professional support for staff and delivering specialist training pertaining to the needs of individual children.

Mandatory Training

All staff are required to complete the following mandatory training:

- Fire Warden
- First Aid
- Food Hygiene
- Health and Safety
- Crisis and Aggression Limitation Management (CALM)
- Child Protection
- Safeguarding
- E-Safety
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Handling and Administration of Medicines

Additional Training

Additional training is provided throughout the year and includes:

- Attachment and Development
- Substance Misuse and the Harm Reduction Approach
- Sexual Health
- Attachment and Resilience
- Every Child Matters
- Personal Safety

Specialist training is also provided when a child is admitted with a specific need or difficulty.

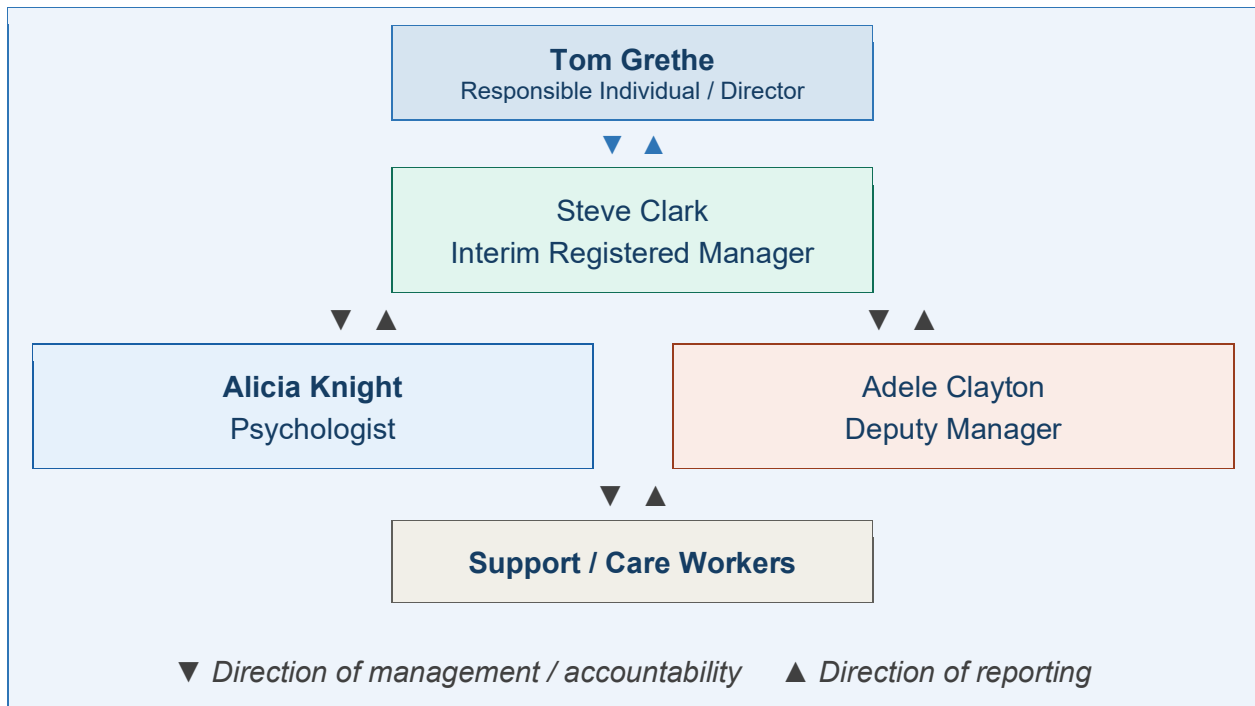
Staff Supervision, Training and Development

Staff are encouraged and supported to adopt a model of lifelong learning and reflective practice.

The following structures are in place:

- Regular sessions of professional supervision and personal support for all staff
- Access to external, confidential support for staff experiencing personal difficulties
- Access to an independent advocate for staff with concerns they feel unable to raise unassisted
- Ongoing liaison meetings with the management team to ensure staffing issues are addressed and lines of communication remain clear
- Regular staff meetings, run by the management team and Alicia Knight, to monitor progress and provide additional training

Organisational Structure



Children and Young People Group

Outdoor Care caters for children and young people aged 8–17 years of either gender. The home can accommodate up to two children at any one time.

Please note: the accommodation does not have disabled access and is not equipped for children requiring a high level of physical care.

Admission to the Home

Outdoor Care Ltd is able to provide admissions on both a planned and emergency basis.

On commencement, all statutory paperwork — including the Essential Information Record, Care Plan and Placement Plan — must be in place before the initial placement review, which is held within 72 hours of the young person's admission. Where relevant or statutory information has been withheld, Outdoor Care Ltd reserves the right to terminate the placement.

Planned Admissions

For a planned admission, the young person will have the opportunity to visit the home at least twice prior to commencement. Given sufficient notice, Outdoor Care staff will also visit the young person either at home or in their current placement.

Emergency Admissions

Emergency admissions occur when a child requires an immediate placement with limited time for pre-admission planning. These must be rare, time-limited and fully justified. We would always prefer the young person to have at least one visit to the home prior to moving in.

Ethos and Philosophy

We acknowledge and understand that the majority of the children and young people who come to us will have had sub-optimal developmental experiences and are likely to have disordered attachment patterns. Our approach is informed by Gilligan's (1997) model of resilience, which focuses on three core elements:

- **Secure Base** — We provide consistency, clear boundaries and a safe environment. Children are involved in the running of the home, as they would be in a family setting, and are rewarded through the PPB Framework.
- **Self-esteem** — Our model of positive reinforcement maximises the impact of positive behaviours. Sanctions focus on behaviour rather than the individual to protect the young person's sense of self-worth.
- **Self-efficacy** — We promote a sense of mastery and internal locus of control through small, achievable goals and progressive responsibility, including weekly menu planning and budgeting.

Protecting and Promoting Health

We follow a holistic model of health and aim to promote a positive lifestyle while encouraging young people to make informed, protective choices.

Medical

Staff are trained in the handling and administration of medications, with protocols in place for accurately recording all instances where medication is provided. On arrival, children are registered with the local medical practice. We also aim to ensure all appropriate immunisations are up to date. Children are taken to regular dental and optician appointments as required, attendance at specialist services such as CYPS is facilitated.

Therapeutic Input

The clinical lead role for children is not held by Outdoor Care Ltd but by the relevant Children and Young People's Service (CYPS). Any therapeutic work within the home is undertaken in liaison with the clinical lead. Approaches used include Solution-Focused, Cognitive Behavioural and Psychodynamic therapy. Our psychology support worker receives external supervision through a Consultant Psychiatrist and Approved Mental Health Practitioner.

Nutrition and Physical Health

Children are encouraged to participate in weekly menu planning, budgeting and shopping, and to develop cooking skills. Physical activity is encouraged on a daily basis. All homes are non-smoking. Harm reduction approaches are used for sexual health, substance misuse and alcohol education.

Promotion of Education

We encourage children and young people to participate in education, offered in a variety of formats. We acknowledge that most children may have had limited experience of mainstream schooling. Where a young person attends an educational placement, we will facilitate and support this, including providing staff to accompany them when additional supervision is required.

We liaise with appropriate agencies to ascertain levels of functioning and ensure that placement structures are presented in a manner congruent with each child's learning abilities. The home has study facilities, stationery and internet access to support homework.

Alternative education providers available locally include:

- Newcastle College, West 15, Whickham View, East Denton — Tel: 0191 200 4981
- Mary Astell Academy (Pupil Referral Unit), Linhope Centre, West Denton — Tel: 0191 267 4447
- Hopespring School, Chesters Avenue, Longbenton — Tel: 0191 218 9459

Recreational, Sporting and Cultural Activities

Activities are an important part of the ethos and structure of Outdoor Care placements. They are carefully presented at the appropriate level of challenge for each child's ability and disposition, and used to teach, challenge and inspire without inappropriate compulsion.

Children are encouraged to engage in a wide variety of physical activities and outings including visits to Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland's coast and beaches, castles, go-karting, museums, swimming, indoor climbing and dining out. These may also be linked with educational pursuits.

Consultation with Children and Young People

The PPB Framework is reviewed daily to note where children have reached their goals. This review also serves as an opportunity for children to express any issues. A further weekly review calculates total achievements and rewards and allows children to identify what has gone well, what

has not. We invite young people to identify a preferred member of staff to discuss difficulties with — this is respected and facilitated wherever possible.

Children are also involved in menu planning, budgeting and shopping, and are actively encouraged to have a voice in how the home operates.

Behaviour Management

The PPB Framework applies a model of positive reinforcement to foster appropriate behaviour, aiming to minimise the need for sanctions. However, where inappropriate behaviour occurs, appropriate, time-specific sanctions will be applied and discussed with the young person. Certain measures will never be used as sanctions, including ceasing contact visits or isolating a young person.

Physical Intervention

It is the policy of Outdoor Care Ltd to use physical intervention only as an absolute last resort. Staff are trained in CALM (Crisis Aggression Limitation Management) techniques, which emphasise non-contact de-escalation before any physical contact. All instances of physical intervention must be recorded and signed by the young person. Following any incident, staff will facilitate a debriefing with the child (after an appropriate cool-down period) and a complaint can be made if the young person wishes. Staff de-brief is also available through the management team or in-house psychology support worker.

Safeguarding

Outdoor Care has a Safeguarding Policy with Tom Grethe, Responsible Individual, as the named lead for safeguarding. We also operate an Equal Opportunities Policy with a zero tolerance approach to bullying and discriminatory practice.

On admission, all children are given a Welcome Pack containing contact details for key individuals they may contact if they feel unfairly treated or at risk, including:

- Their Independent Reviewing Officer (provided as soon as known)
- The Children's Rights Officer
- The Newcastle Safeguarding Officer

All visitors to the home must sign in and out and produce appropriate identification. Outdoor Care Ltd follows the guidance of the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and operates under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, with a whistleblowing policy enabling staff to safely raise concerns.

Missing from Care (MFC)

The appropriate response in the event of a Missing from Care or unauthorised absence is determined by the individual Placement Plan, reflecting the risk level of each young person.

Outdoor Care's general policy is that staff will use a 20-minute period to actively locate the young person or attempt to resolve the situation, and informing the Registered Manager. If unresolved after 20 minutes, the police will be informed and Missing from Care procedures activated using The Philomena Protocol. The placing authority will also be informed — via the social worker during business hours, or via the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) out of hours.

Upon the young person's return, the circumstances will be reviewed with the aim of preventing recurrence. The placing authority will be notified, and arrangements will be made for the young person to see their social worker within 72 hours for a Return Interview.

Electronic and Mechanical Surveillance

A motion detection security camera is installed in the rear yard of the property to protect against criminal activity and to record if any young person leaves the property via the back garden after the home is secured at night.

Fire Precautions and Emergency Procedures

All staff receive Fire Warden training as part of the mandatory training programme. At least one trained fire warden is on duty at every shift. Weekly fire drills are conducted, and fire procedures are reviewed at each monthly staff meeting. An Evacuation Plan is in place with designated meeting points.

Fire procedures are explained to all children on admission and reviewed weekly. At least one staff member per shift holds a current First Aid qualification.

Religious Instruction and Observance

Children and young people are welcome to observe any religion they wish. Staff ensure that young people can express their faith in an environment of tolerance and understanding. Attendance at relevant services will be facilitated and any special dietary requirements arising from religious practice will be observed.

Contact

Outdoor Care Ltd encourages contact with family and significant others as part of the placement. Prohibited contact must be advised prior to admission. Family members and significant others are welcome to visit the home (where requested by the young person). Children are provided with access to a telephone to contact family independently.

Where parental contact is included in the Placement Plan, staff will update parents regarding significant events and may contact family on a more regular basis as appropriate.

Complaints

The complaints procedure is explained to children on admission and included in the Welcome Pack. Day-to-day issues are addressed through the PPB Framework review process.

Formal complaints regarding the home should be directed in the first instance to the Registered Manager. If this is not appropriate, complaints should be directed to the Responsible Individual at Woodland Place, Belford, Northumberland, NE70 7QA. We aim to respond to all complaints within seven days. Where appropriate, complaints may be referred to external bodies including Ofsted and the Police.

Reviews of Placement Plans

Placement Plans are reviewed regularly and are designed to be active, responsive documents. Staff are encouraged to identify items requiring updating. Review dates and outcome measures are built into each Placement Plan.

Placement Plans are a standing agenda item at monthly staff meetings and are discussed in monthly supervision sessions with reference to specific outcomes. Plans may also be amended following LAC reviews or Care Team Meetings.

Therapeutic Techniques

Core staff do not deliver therapeutic work with young people directly. However, the behaviourist model of positive reinforcement underpins all practice through the PPB Framework, which is reviewed through ongoing supervision and support.

Where additional therapeutic input is required, the model applied will be determined by the presentation and circumstances of the individual young person. This may be delivered by the in-house psychology support worker, CYPS or an appropriate alternative provider.

Anti-Discriminatory Practice

Outdoor Care Ltd is opposed to discrimination in any form and operates an Equal Opportunities Policy. We follow the principles of Articles 2, 3 and 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and promote positive, constructive policies in relation to sex and sexuality, gender, race, religion and culture.

Oppressive behaviour or bullying by staff or young people will be challenged and appropriate action taken. Independent counselling and advocacy is available for any young person or staff member with concerns relating to discrimination. Outdoor Care Ltd has a zero tolerance policy on discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexuality or religion.

Equality and Diversity

Outdoor Care Ltd is fully committed to equality of opportunity and recognises its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. We celebrate diversity and actively promote an inclusive environment where every child and young person is valued as an individual, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Our approach to equality and diversity is embedded across all aspects of our work:

- All staff receive equality and diversity training as part of their induction and ongoing development
- Placement Plans reflect the cultural, linguistic and religious identity of each young person
- Resources, activities and food are selected to reflect and celebrate the diversity of children in our care
- Any discriminatory behaviour — by staff, young people or visitors — is addressed promptly and recorded
- All policies and procedures are reviewed with an equality impact lens

Outdoor Care Ltd will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that children and young people with disabilities or additional needs are not disadvantaged in accessing the care and support they need.

Placement Stability

Outdoor Care Ltd recognises that placement stability is fundamental to the wellbeing, development and outcomes of the children and young people in our care. Disruption to placements can have a significant negative impact on a young person's sense of security, trust and ability to engage with education and therapeutic support.

We promote and safeguard placement stability through the following measures:

- Thorough pre-admission assessment to ensure the home is the right match for each young person's needs
- A structured admission process that includes introductory visits to build familiarity and trust before the young person moves in
- Consistent staffing — our 24/48-hour shift pattern and low staff turnover ensure children are supported by familiar, trusted adults
- The PPB Framework provides a consistent, predictable structure that helps young people feel safe and settled
- Early identification of placement pressures through daily reviews, supervision and staff meetings, with prompt action to address concerns
- Regular communication with placing authorities and social workers to ensure placement plans remain current and responsive
- Access to in-house psychology support to address underlying difficulties that may place a placement at risk

In the event that a placement is at risk of breaking down, Outdoor Care Ltd will work proactively with the placing authority and all relevant professionals to implement a support plan aimed at stabilising the placement before any decision to end it is made.

Quality of Care Review (Regulation 45)

Outdoor Care Ltd fulfils its statutory obligations under Regulation 45 of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 to regularly review the quality of care provided at Simonside House.

Monthly Visit by Responsible Individual

The Responsible Individual, Tom Grethe, conducts a visit to the home at least once every month. During this visit, Tom will:

- Speak with children and young people to seek their views on the care they receive
- Speak with staff to identify any concerns or areas for development
- Review records, logs and any relevant documentation
- Assess whether the home is being run in accordance with its Statement of Purpose and relevant regulations

A written record of each monthly visit is produced and retained at the home.

Six-Monthly Quality of Care Report

Every six months, a formal Quality of Care Report is produced in accordance with Regulation 45. This report:

- Draws on the findings of the monthly RI visits
- Includes the views of children and young people, staff, placing authorities and other relevant stakeholders

- Assesses the home's performance against the nine Quality Standards
- Identifies any areas requiring improvement and sets out an action plan
- Is submitted to Ofsted as required

The Quality of Care Report is an important tool for continuous improvement and demonstrates Outdoor Care Ltd's ongoing commitment to delivering excellent, Ofsted-compliant care.

Children's Rights

Outdoor Care Ltd is committed to upholding the rights of the children and young people in our care. All children are informed of their rights on admission. If a young person feels that they are not being listened to or that their views are not being taken into account, they can contact:

The Office of the Children's Commissioner

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

Tel: 020 7783 8330

www.rights4me.org

Safeguarding Contacts for Newcastle

NSCP Senior Business Support	Andrea Semple — Tel: 0191 277 3658 — andrea.semple@newcastle.gov.uk
Initial Response Service	Tel: 0191 277 2500
Emergency Duty Team	Tel: 0191 278 7878
Long-Term Children's Social Care	Tel: 0191 211 5845
Northumbria Police	Tel: 101 (Emergency: 999)
NSPCC Helpline	Tel: 0808 800 5000
LADO (Allegations Against Staff)	Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8PU — Tel: 0191 277 4636
Child Protection Unit	Middle Engine Lane Police Station, Wallsend, NE28 9NT — Tel: 101
Emergency Duty Team (Out of Hours)	Civic Centre, Newcastle — Tel: 0191 232 8520