Independent Specialist Colleges
Prospectus 2013 | 2014

Specialist residential colleges offering flexible education and care for up to 52 weeks per year for young adults aged 19 to 25. All people using the college have complex needs including behaviour that may challenge and a learning disability, often in association with autism.
Hesley Group’s mission is to enable people with complex needs to achieve their full potential

Established in 1975, the Hesley Group provides flexible, specialist residential services, schools and colleges. We aim to offer the best possible care, education and vocational opportunities for young people and adults, often with autism, who have a learning disability and complex needs including behaviour that may challenge.

Our Colleges offer a 52 week per year service including full residential, term time only and day placements, all tailored to meet specific individual needs.

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The information in this brochure is correct at the time of print. The brochure incorporates information given to CQC in the complementary Statement of Purpose as set out in Regulation 12 and Schedule 3 of Health and Social Care (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010. A copy of this statement can be provided on request.
Overview

We pride ourselves on offering a highly professional, 52-week-a-year residential and educational provision for young adults. Our two Independent Specialist Colleges (ISC’s) are situated near Doncaster in South Yorkshire. Their central location provides easy access by road, rail or air.

The ISC’s mission is to support young adults with their transition into adult life by focusing on their specific needs, capabilities and aspirations:

- Prompting greater independence
- Developing life skills
- Highly personalised programmes
- Preparation for community living
Our philosophy

Every person should be given the best chance to succeed in life.

Becoming an adult, experiencing life changes, planning for the future and acquiring skills and knowledge for independence is a vital time in any young adults life. When that person also has complex needs requiring social, educational and health support, it becomes a time of complex planning, exploration and agreeing future directions and pathways.

Recognising that people with learning disabilities may take longer to learn and make their transition into adult life, the Hesley Group have extended their services to meet the new regulatory entitlements of young adults up to 25 years of age and can now offer places within its Independent Specialist College provision.

Ultimately the over arching goal for all the people using the college provision is to develop increasing independence in preparation for the next step they take.

Hesley Group Independent Specialist Colleges actively promote joint working with partners/stakeholders in order to provide coherent pathways for the individual as they progress towards:

- community and supported living
- living back in the home area
- being near to family and friends

How do we make it work?

- We have the staffing expertise and specialist knowledge
- We have a sound curriculum that is tailored to meet each individual’s needs
- We have strong learning pathways that are recognised by partners/stakeholders
- We have strong partnerships and joint working relationships to enhance the breadth of individual learning programmes/work related learning opportunities
- We’re committed to person-centred planning and always ensure the person’s needs are at the heart of everything we do

Learning:

Our courses and programmes put the person at the centre of their learning and cover a wide range of experiences, from vocational courses to independent living.

The driving force behind every programme is the person’s pathway and associated individual needs, aspirations, abilities and talents.

We provide the best learning experiences for the young adult because we deliver:

- Challenging and varied environments.
- Activities where people are encouraged to develop the skills they need
- Specialist expertise in supporting learning through our strong multi-disciplinary team
- Highly personalised programmes, equipping the person with the skills they need for adult life
- Quality adult living accommodation that supports development of life-skills
- Continuous assessment and recognition of progress
- Internal and external quality assurance and monitoring systems
- Courses/learning experiences linked to external accreditation including ASDAN/OCN
Referrals are accepted from the placing authority that will be funding the placement. The placing authority will be asked to send through relevant information which will be reviewed to consider whether one of our Independent Specialist Colleges may be in a position to positively address the person’s needs.

A Pre-admission Assessment is carried out by one of the assessment teams from the ISC and can include members of our clinical, care management and education teams. They will arrange to meet the person and as many people centrally involved in their lives and direct care and education as possible. This is the start of the person-centred planning process that ensures each person is treated as an individual.

If it is felt that one of our colleges is the best option for the person, the placing authority will be informed and a contract written.

The transition process will be managed by a senior manager from the relevant college who will work with the person, their family and the placing authority. This is to ensure the move to their new college provision is well planned and that the best interests of the individual are properly addressed.

Coming to live here

We want everyone to be as happy as possible from their very first day at College. That’s why we plan carefully for the future, preparing them for a rewarding adult life.
Life at our colleges

Across both of our Independent Specialist Colleges the accommodation is adapted and personalised to reflect individual needs and wishes of people.

It also maximises opportunities for promoting independent living.

The accommodation includes:

- Individualised bedrooms
- Quality living spaces that promote independence and progressive skill development
- We are developing specially designed kitchen/utility/laundry facilities that enable the teaching of key life-skills using our multi-disciplinary, person-centred approach
- Appropriate use of adaptive technology

At Wilsic Hall College, people live within a beautiful rural setting with ready community access, in high quality accommodation.

People at Fullerton House College live in the heart of the community, in an urban setting with many local facilities including a sports centre, restaurants and shops.

The facilities local to both colleges offer valuable, progressive learning opportunities for young adults with a range of needs and wishes.

Health

Our aim is that each person lives as healthy a life as possible. As well as our specialist multi-disciplinary team, our Independent Specialist Colleges have access to the following professional services:

- General Practitioner
- Dentist
- Chiropodist
- Optician

Everyone is registered with the local GP, giving them access to all usual health services. Specific health needs e.g. epilepsy, are well provided for and additional support for any person will be arranged as required. Specific dietary requirements are catered for.

Healthy eating and lifestyles

People are encouraged to engage in the full process of healthy meal preparation from planning a meal and shopping for groceries, through to the food preparation itself. This provides numerous learning opportunities and supports the person’s understanding of what is healthy and nutritious as part of their wider healthy lifestyle. Programmes are designed to support an active and healthy lifestyle as well as providing learning and enjoyment.

Reviewing Progress

Each person has a series of support plans that are based on their personal needs and aspirations. These are monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis to identify any changes that may need to be made to education or support packages.

Hesley Group involves people, their families and appropriate others in devising a pathway plan that will help inform their transition into adult life. Considerable attention is given to the planning to ensure the transition is right for the individual.

Keeping in touch

It is important that people build positive and mutually respectful relationships. To support this each person has their own ‘Contact with Family and Friends Support Plan’ and we welcome visits to the colleges from families and friends.

Key workers are central in keeping families and carers updated on the person’s progress by phone, mail, Skype and email.
Staff and support

Due to the very complex needs of the people placed with us, the progress of each individual depends on the effectiveness of the multi-disciplinary team. The team is vital in providing the kind of support for learning needed by everyone in the ISC (Independent Specialist College).
Our multi-disciplinary approach promotes wellbeing and best outcomes for people. We achieve this through working effectively together to deliver prompt and co-ordinated responses at all levels and all stages.

The multi-disciplinary approach seeks to address learning by clear identification of the person’s developmental needs. This includes all the necessary skills for independent living, emotional and behavioural development, personal identity, social relationships, health and self-care, personal safety, emotional maturity, academic work and general home/life skills.

**Our multi-disciplinary team includes:**
- College Tutors
- College Support Workers
- Consultant Clinical Psychologist
- Consultant Psychiatrist
- Applied Behaviour Analysts
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Registered Manager, care and support staff

The range of multi-disciplinary services works effectively together to ensure that the learning objectives for each person are continually given focus and support. This will ensure that they are person-centred, appropriately challenging and progressive in nature. The specialist support offered by the multi-disciplinary team enables people to develop their independence and reach their full potential.

Monitoring of progress takes place to inform further assessment, reporting and future planning.

Everyone has differing individual needs and therefore their ‘programme’ will be unique, having its own resource requirements and optimum level of staff support. Staff work in a person-centred way to support each person with life’s challenges and experiences.

All ISC staff are trained and competent in the Hesley Enhancing Lives Programme (HELP), a behaviour support approach based on Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI), which is accredited by the British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD). TCI is an internationally recognised crisis prevention and management system that reduces reliance on high-risk interventions. TCI recognises that it is the actions and reactions of those around people that strongly shape and influence their behaviour, as well as their social and emotional development. Its emphasis is on empathy and proactive support, while physical interventions are very much considered a last resort.

**Consultation, Involvement and Advocacy**

We consult everyone and involve everyone in designing their pathways and programmes. Each person has access to our complaints procedure in a format most appropriate for them.

Everyone has access to advocacy. Our colleges work closely with the National Youth Advocacy Service. NYAS is commissioned by each service to support and promote the voice of the person and advocate for his or her rights.

**Therapeutic support**

Staff who work within our Independent Specialist College provision are provided with tailor-made training in all areas, including activity support and adult learning. This focuses on equipping staff with the knowledge and skills to offer the right level of support to the person as part of their day to day life. Part of this developed understanding includes work on how to organise daily living tasks, such as home chores and personal care.
Getting out and about

Independent travel is a crucial lifeskill that helps to give people the freedom to fulfil their potential and live a full life. ‘Travel training’ is therefore a very important skill for life.
Being able to travel with incrementally less support allows a person to access more social and educational activities and helps them to develop and maintain positive relationships. Independent travel also helps to open up employment opportunities. This all contributes to the potential for a more fulfilled life.

Within our Colleges we appreciate that everyone has their own specific needs and as a result should have an in-depth learning programme that provides tailor-made, needs-led opportunities to learn skills for independent travel. ISC students will be directly involved in planning and undertaking journeys using different forms of public transport. They will learn about safe practice as well as the associated social skills and citizenship awareness needed.

The focus and aims of the travel skills programmes are to increase the person’s independent functioning, support their knowledge and awareness of local/community facilities they can access, and promote emotional and physical wellbeing.

The colleges run activities across a number of different sites (learning locations) where students will be supported to access public transport facilities as part of their learning programme. For those not yet ready for this step we provide a dedicated transport and driver service. This enables the person to access their learning with smaller steps of reduced support.

These resources will benefit people because:

- The locations of some of the activities on offer are more rural with limited public transport access. The ISC’s transport/driver resource therefore provides a valuable service as part of the person’s programme. The activities may be delivered at other Hesley Group establishments or elsewhere in the community.
- The complexity and bespoke nature of every individual’s programme requires careful and considered logistical considerations. Allocation of these resources supports the person’s pathway and allows for specifically tailored activities to take place.
- The whole process of following a daily schedule is a focus for the young person as they get ready on time and prepare themselves for the journey. Whatever the form of transport, this is planned and delivered as a learning opportunity.

Equality, diversity and disability access

There is a commitment at Hesley Group to provide equal opportunities for everyone.

Our colleges operate a ‘Total Approach to Communication’ where people have access to information in a range of formats including speech, signing and symbols.

Everyone using our services and staff will receive fair and equal treatment based on their abilities or needs, in all aspects of our employment and service provision.

The ISC’s philosophy and practices are aimed at ensuring that everyone has the support they need to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy life and achieve, make a positive contribution and attain economic well-being regardless of their age, disability, sex, religious or cultural background.

Quality assurance and policy

Hesley Group has a Quality Team that develops policy and best practice initiatives and assesses how well we are doing in meeting our objectives and complying with national standards. This includes the management of health and safety and keeping people safe. The team consults with people using the service and their families/representatives.

The Quality Team reports regularly to the Board and Executive on Standards of Service and supports improvement. There is a large range of supportive documents available relating to all aspects of Independent Specialist College provision. Summaries of key policies are available on our website. Should you require a hard copy of any of the following policies, please feel free to contact the appropriate college:

- Managing risk
- Behaviour support
- Care planning
- Single equality scheme
- Health and safety arrangements
- Capacity and consent
- Safeguarding Children and Adults
- Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Hesley Group has a formal procedure for complaints in accordance with the Education Act (2002) and the Health and Social Care Act (2008). Copies of this and our complaints form are available from the colleges.
Welcome to our college

These pages will tell you about our college in an easy read format.
What kind of houses are there?

Flats

Houses

You may live on your own.

or with other people
There are lots of things to do and learn at our college.

- beauty
- music
- walks
- candle making
- cooking
- gardening
- ICT
- woodwork
- Games
- crafts
- work experience
- willow coppicing
- Enterprise
- pottery
- bike and motor vehicle maintenance
Who can help me?

- Support worker
- Tutors
- Care manager
- Speech and language therapy
- Activity co-ordinators
- Behaviour Analysts
- Psychiatrist
You can go out and do other activities:

- Shopping
- Cinema
- Parks
- Seaside
- Restaurants
- Swimming
- Bowling
- Gym
- Cafe
- Horse riding
- Social groups
- Farms
- And many more
Keeping safe

Everyone at our college will try and keep you safe.

If you feel unsafe we can help you.

Tell us why.

Hesley Group
Questions

Telephone us 01302866906

Email us enquiries@hesleygroup.co.uk

Write to us Hesley Group

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Contact details

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Website: www.hesleygroup.co.uk

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Fax: 01302 853608

Referral enquiries: 0800 0556789 (freephone)
or complete our online enquiry form

Location and directions

Our Independent Specialist Colleges are both located near Doncaster in South Yorkshire. Their central location provides easy access by road, rail or air. Here is a guide to how easy it can be to visit us and the young people we support.

By rail
Doncaster is on the main East Coast rail line with a frequent service to London that takes only 1 hour 50 minutes. Visit www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

Approximate train travelling times are:

- Birmingham: 1hr 30mins
- Carlisle: 3hrs 30mins
- Derby: 55mins
- Leeds: 35mins
- Liverpool: 2hrs 20mins
- London (Kings Cross): 1hr 50mins
- Manchester: 1hr 20mins
- Newcastle upon Tyne: 1hr 25mins
- Sheffield: 20mins
- Worcester: 2hrs 30mins
- York: 25mins

By air
Robin Hood Airport (Doncaster)

Google Maps is a great online resource that can assist you with directions for getting to us and approximate travelling times.

Hesley Group has Investor In People (IIP) accreditation which recognises the significant emphasis the Group places on the quality of its staffing and the associated management processes.

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