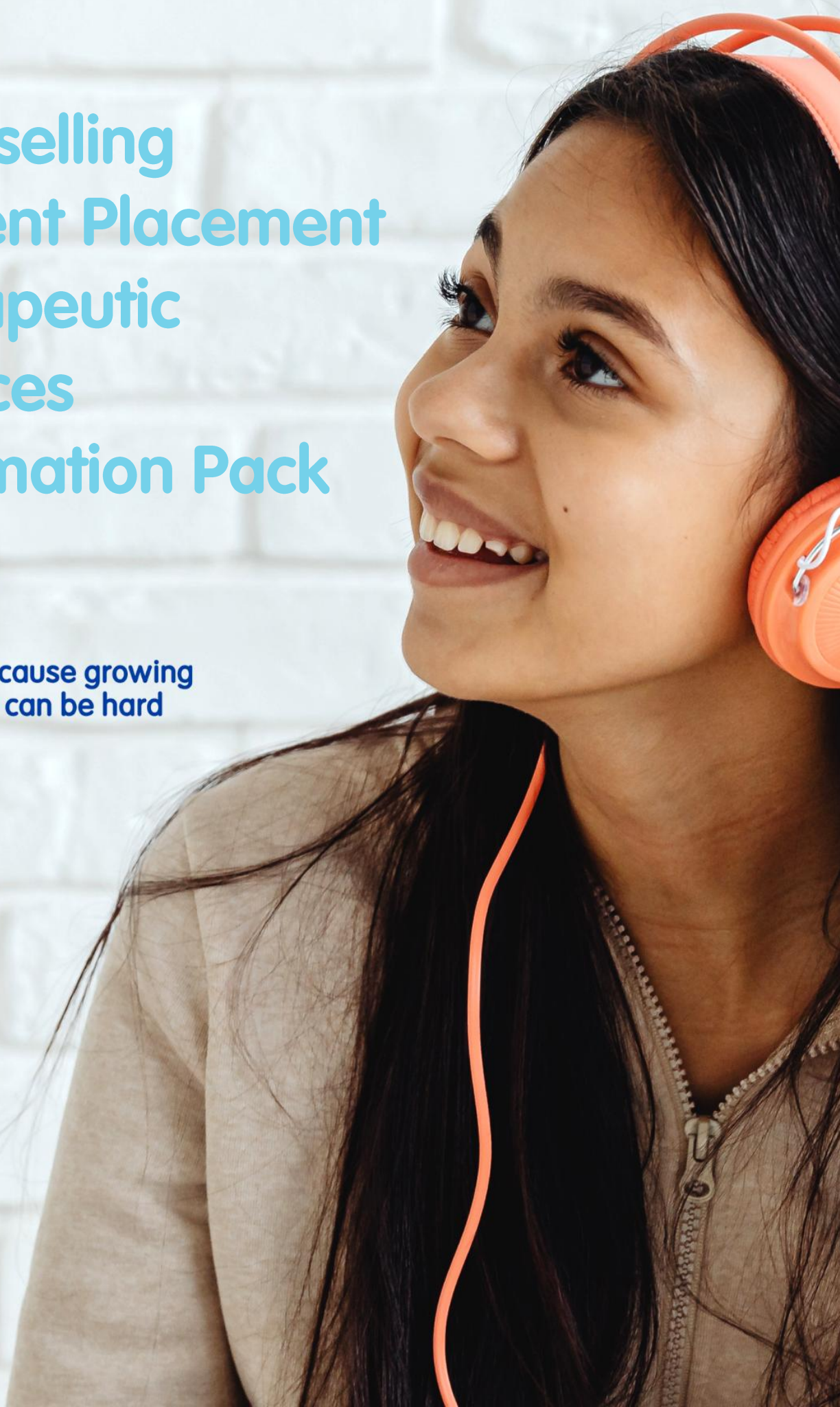


Counselling Student Placement Therapeutic Services Information Pack



Because growing
up can be hard





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Welcome to Children North East

Children North East is a large North East based children's charity that works across the region, with some work extending across England, Wales and Scotland. We exist because growing up can be hard. We want all babies, children and young people to be happy and healthy, and to grow up feeling safe and loved, resilient to the challenges they may face, and valued and confident.

We have a strong children's rights ethos and believe that real, lasting social change is achieved when those who are experiencing or have experienced issues lead that change. We work both directly with babies, children and young people, and in their families, schools and communities, delivering services, support and interventions that provide a platform to work through issues, take action and provide tools for individuals and communities to reach their full potential.

Our Organisation

Who We Are Today



Our services, support and interventions are delivered to babies, children and young people and their families, from prenatal up to age 25. We have a region-wide presence, with focused activity in Northumberland, and North Tyneside, with an ambition to grow our work and have a stronger presence across the North East in the coming years.



Delivery includes therapeutic services, mental health support, youth work, domestic abuse support, family support, community-based initiatives, participation and consultation activities and our UK wide Poverty Proofing© initiative.

We want to lead systemic change and do this by campaigning on issues affecting babies, children and young people; challenging those in positions of influence at all levels who make decisions affecting the lives of babies, children and young people; and working to influence social policy and system change to address obstacles preventing babies, children and young people growing up happy and healthy.

Where We Are Going

Recent national and global events have seen the need for our services increase within the region and beyond. Our five-year strategy seeks to grow our capacity to meet the needs of babies, children, young people and their families when we can make the biggest impact on their lives.

The strategy, which launched in 2021, focuses on three primary objectives: Sustainability and growth, reach and impact. Key objectives include growing the impact of our work by diversifying our portfolio of activities, bringing in new income streams, growing our audiences and campaigning on behalf of our communities. We also recognise that our power is in our people, so we are investing in strengthening our workforce through different initiatives, from investing in learning and development to developing employee ambassadorship.

You can view [the full 2021 to 2026 strategy on our website](#).



Where We Began



Our charity has been helping children and young people grow up healthy and happy since 1891. Originally named the Poor Children's Holiday Association (PCHA), our purpose was to offer support to the children living in poverty by giving them a 'hand up, not a hand out', an ethos we pursue to this day.

We were founded by John H. Watson and John T. Lunn, who wanted to take action to improve the health of children living in the slums of Newcastle. What started as a single day trip to Tynemouth for 120 inner-city children, caught the public's imagination and very soon weekly trips were being organised, paid for through public donations.

A rich history followed, as the charity grew and innovated to meet the changing needs of children over time, including clubs and community activities, children's homes and TB Sanatoriums. To learn more about our history and what connects the start of our 130-year journey with the charity we are today, watch our short anniversary film [You Are Not Alone](#).



Counselling Student Placement – Therapeutic Services Information

What you are applying for

The Counselling Service in Therapeutic Services works with 9–18-year-olds in the Newcastle and Gateshead area. We have some work in Northumberland and Sunderland, though these are often more complex clients. A student coming to work with us would usually be based in our Newcastle or Gateshead offices where there will be other staff around to support you.

You are applying for a one-year placement to do direct therapeutic work with children and young people. Occasionally their families or carers may be involved. We believe in client choice and autonomy and will always put the child's needs first. We would prefer applications from people who have prior experience working with children and young people and have an interest in staying in this field. Some knowledge of more creative ways of engaging young people and possibly play work would be an advantage too.

We are seeking people who can commit to working with clients in the after school hours—usually 3-7pm. We advise all people seeking client hours that you are unlikely to complete all of your hours within an academic year while working with us and should be looking for a second placement.

What level are you at?

Please choose which role you will be applying for based on your qualification and experience level.

Role	Level	Experience level and level of responsibility
Service Volunteer	Pre therapeutic training / A-level or FE college Counselling level 3 course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shadowing other parts of the service – drop-in / schools team / group work delivery. Assigned to a specific task Not able to participate in counselling
Student Placement	Foundation Degree or Level 5 course (2nd year) Guild trainees – year 2 or 3, prior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre based with staff support Gradually increasing caseload based on competencies. 3-4 clients max Start out with low level cases. Shadowing of IA's progressing to leading IA by the end of placement.



	counselling experience required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially supported with CIVI recording Only considered for phone or online work after initial face-to-face work and training.
Volunteer Counsellor Degree or Post Grad level Placement	Post placement, counselling degree level or years 4 and 5 at Guild. Art Therapy or Play therapy year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving towards independent practise and possibly outreach after several months Up to a day's work – 4-5 clients Able to do IA's after initial shadowing (unless progressing) Able to work online or by phone independently Increase in complexity of caseload to include some cases with social workers/care teams or complex symptoms. Self-harm and suicidal ideation likely in cases.
University Placement	Psychology or Mental Health degree, year 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement designed for a specific piece of work. Not direct therapy work, though could participate in group sessions or other services in the project.

What to expect from a placement?

- We aim to offer a fully supported placement, allowing you to become integrated to our team.
- The Clinical Coordinator will offer line management and regular review opportunities. You can also have support from any member of the counselling team throughout your placement. We all have different skills so sharing practise helps us all to learn. We run bi-monthly peer supervision which everyone is welcome to participate in, or students may wish to form their own peer support links.
- We run a full induction training programme and ongoing training through the year to help you with issues specific to the work with young people. All volunteers are welcome at team meetings also, to help them build links within the organisation.
- We offer monthly contributions to clinical supervision costs for student placements. Some of our counsellors are trained supervisors so you can choose to work with a member of the team, if you feel able to manage that boundary within the work.



- For volunteer counsellors, where you are working with a more substantial number of clients, we would also contribute monthly to supervision. This may be discussed separately if you reach a certain level of responsibility in your role.
- If you are asked to travel outside of the projects as part of your role, these costs will be reimbursed.

What we expect from you

- You will need to agree to an enhanced DBS check as part of this role. We will be seeking references and the competency sign off from your training provider. We form a link with your training provider and you should be aware that we will feedback about your progress or any concerns.
- You must have a supervisor in place before you start your placement. We will also link to this person so that we can communicate about your welfare.
- You agree to arrive on time for your sessions and stay in the service to complete any recording as needed. Any client work undertaken must be completed sufficiently before you leave the placement, unless we have concerns about the work you are doing.
- You agree to work within the safeguarding processes and considering any health and safety in your work. This is for yourself and the client. We expect all staff to have a professional, bounded relationship with clients that is also fun, engaging and supporting. As a service we look outside the counselling box and encourage you to consider the person holistically; supporting their wider needs if and when relevant.
- You will need to take part in the counselling service induction training and Children North East inductions. This is a minimum of 3 days commitment, which will be separate to your counselling hours. We cannot accommodate everyone when booking the dates for this so please be aware we can only 'make up' the time on specific parts of this. There will be ongoing training through the year, which we highly recommend you take part in.
- We understand many people work elsewhere while they are training, may have family or caring responsibilities. We expect you to manage your own time and self-care so that you can commit to the responsibilities of a placement. An open dialogue about



your needs is standard practice in our service. Where we feel the needs of the clients are not being met we may ask you to review how you are working or make other recommendations to support you.

- In rare cases we may ask a person to suspend or end their placement. It may be that you require greater self-development before continuing or we agree you are not meeting the needs of our service/clients. This will be communicated to your course leaders and your supervisor.
- We may provide references following a placement. There is opportunity for some progression within the service, however this cannot be considered standard.

How to Apply

Please visit the "Our Vacancies" section of our website at www.children-ne.org.uk/work-with-us/vacancies to apply. Please note CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date

Friday 3rd July 2026 at 12 noon.

Contact

Please contact our HR team if you have any questions regarding the role on 0191 256 2444 or hr.team@children-ne.org.uk



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