



Orchard House  
Family Assessment Centre



## Welcome

---

Orchard House is an independent family centre opened in 2006 under the direction of Dr Freda Gardner, Consultant Clinical Psychologist.

The centre provides residential and community based assessments and a variety of psychological assessments and interventions for adults, children and families.



## The Centre

Orchard House is an independent family centre opened in 2006 under the direction of Dr Freda Gardner, Consultant Clinical Psychologist. The centre provides residential and community based assessments and a variety of psychological assessments and interventions for adults, children and families.

Complex assessments can be arranged to include extended family members and other carers when necessary. We are able to provide a specialised assessment and intervention service for parents and children with learning difficulties, physical disability or mental health problems. We are able to provide assessments for children with complex medical conditions. We have close links with the Women and Children's Division at Musgrove Park Hospital and Somerset Primary Care Trust. We are also able to provide assessments for parents who are engaged in drug or alcohol rehabilitation programmes. We work closely with the established NHS providers of rehabilitation services.

At Orchard House we are able to provide comprehensive psychological and psychiatric assessments if required. We are able to make recommendations for any necessary intervention either during admission or following discharge. At Orchard House we are also able to provide psychological intervention, one to one parenting training including a parenting programme similar to the Webster Stratton Parenting Groups. We are also able to provide emotional based counselling or specialised drug or alcohol counselling. Some of the intervention services can be provided without additional cost. The availability of these services can be discussed directly with the Clinical Director.

### **Dr Freda Gardner**

Clinical Director; Consultant Clinical Psychologist.

### **Ros Weller**

Registered Manager; Social Worker

---

## About Orchard House

Orchard House is situated in Taunton, which is the County Town of Somerset. It is a Georgian house with six large bedrooms each with an adjoining bathroom and some with additional living space. The main living areas are arranged so that families can spend time with other families but they are also able to live as a family unit as they would at home.

Orchard House has accommodation for up to six families. Each bedroom has an adjoining bathroom. There are four separate communal living areas including a playroom. There is a fully equipped laundry room where parents can do the family washing. The kitchen is set up for parents to cook meals for themselves and their children. Five of the residential areas and all communal areas are monitored by CCTV.

We also have therapy rooms in a therapeutic centre where interventions and assessments can be conducted in an appropriate environment.

At Orchard House 24-hour supervision and CCTV monitoring is available in five of our residential units and in all communal areas. There are experienced clinical psychologists at Orchard House who work alongside the social worker and the family assessment staff.

Psychological input is therefore provided for all assessments. Specific psychological assessments and intervention can be provided during parenting assessments if required. Psychiatric assessment and management can also be arranged.

There is a pleasant and enclosed garden where children can play safely and parents can sit outside. There are also safe out-door toys for parents and children to enjoy.

At Orchard House we provide a programme for residents during the assessment period. The sessions include childcare and child development, behaviour management, self care, assertiveness training and relationship issues.



## Local Facilities

There is an information booklet at Orchard House which provides details of local facilities for parents and children. There is also information about places of interest where parents may like to take their children. Visits and outings will be arranged and supported by staff. The large town park which parents and children can enjoy is just a two minute walk away. It is a particularly child and parent friendly park, with large areas for ball games and other activities.

The town centre and a large park are both a few minutes walk away. Parents are supported to make use of these facilities. Orchard House is 20-minute drive from both Junction 25 and 26 of the M5 motorway. Taunton train station is a 15-minute drive away. The assessments are conducted in accordance with the Department of Health Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (2000). The service is registered under the Residential Family Centres Regulations, 2002.

Taunton has a modern swimming pool appropriate for families. Visits to the pool are arranged and supported.

The library is a brief walk away and parents can use all the available facilities. Orchard House has arranged for residents to have the use of the sports and fitness facilities at Blackbrook Sports Centre.

There are also many activities for parents and children which residents of Orchard House can attend. Rental of DVDs can be arranged locally.

Health care is provided by a local surgery. Several of the GPs have a special interest in parents and young children. If parents or children have any specific health needs, these will be discussed at the pre-placement planning meeting and the surgery will be informed if necessary in advance.

Education is provided for any school age child at a local school. The Head Teacher is supportive of parents at Orchard House and is willing to provide placements for children whilst they are at Orchard House.

The children who have attended the school while resident at Orchard House have all without exception had a very positive experience. NHS dental care is available at Taunton and Somerset Musgrove Park Hospital for any urgent problems.

There is a Women's Health and Family Planning Service in Taunton, which offers advice and information. Appointments can be arranged if required. There is a church within easy walking distance, which parents can visit if they would like to attend any religious services or if they would like some time for quiet reflection.

At Orchard House we are also able to make arrangements for any families' faith based needs. There are a variety of local parent toddler groups, which residents can attend.

It is important to note that no specific extra charges are made for these services.



## The Team

---

Tel: 01823 351785 Email: [info@orchardhousefac.co.uk](mailto:info@orchardhousefac.co.uk)

### **Dr Freda Gardner**

**Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Director**

Freda Gardner is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist. She has worked clinically with parents and children for over fifteen years. She was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Bristol and conducted research on parent and child psychology funded by the MRC, BHF and United Bristol Hospital's Special Trustees.

Dr Gardner has provided assessments for the Courts in respect of child care contact and parenting assessments since 2000. She has worked directly in the assessment and psychological management of parents and children combining clinical and theoretical experience.

### **Ros Weller**

**Practice Manager**

Ros Weller qualified as a Social Worker in 1995 and gained her Child Care Award in March 2004. Prior to working at Orchard House she gained extensive experience working for the Local Authority in Children and Families teams.

After leaving the Local Authority she worked in the independent sector with organisations offering placements to children and young people living away from home. Ros also gained a business management qualification in September 2007.

### **Paul Hart**

**Financial Director**

Paul Hart has a background of 20 years in business and finance, working in a variety of commercial roles. He is an experienced management and company accountant, having previously worked for Argos, TV-am and The Kobal Collection amongst others. Paul's particular skills are in developing practical business systems and in communicating numbers effectively to colleagues and clients.

After leaving London in 1995, he set up his own business in the West Country, advising and supporting small and medium sized companies in start up, financial organisation and business development. Initially involved on a consultancy basis, Paul joined the company full-time in 2007.

Although Paul is specifically involved in the business side of Orchard House he is also profoundly committed to the service that is provided. He has made a significant contribution to all aspects of planning and development and works very closely with the Clinical Director. Paul is also available to discuss financial arrangements for services directly with professionals and managers because he has an in depth understanding of the services provided at Orchard House.

### **Dr Mari Aldridge**

**Chartered Clinical Psychologist  
and Forensic Psychologist**

Mari Aldridge qualified as a Clinical Psychologist in September 2007. Prior to working at Orchard House she gained extensive experience as a Forensic Psychologist working for H.M. Prison Service HQ in the Offending Behaviour Programmes Unit specifically researching and developing a programme for men with a history of domestic violence. Within this role she also undertook risk assessments, psychological and psychometric assessments and rehabilitation work.

In 2002 Mari completed her Masters Degree in Criminological Psychology at the University of Birmingham. Her research thesis focused on the typologies of men who commit extreme acts of domestic violence. Dr Aldridge joined Orchard House in 2007. Since then she has undertaken assessments for the Courts in respect of child care contact and parenting assessments.



## Dr Arabella Bowen

### Chartered Counselling Psychologist

Arabella Bowen qualified as a counselling psychologist in 2001. She was then employed in mental health services, working for Central & North West London NHS Trust, undertaking child, adult, adolescent, couple, and family clinical work. She completed a Masters degree in Infant Observational Studies and the application of Psychoanalytical Concepts to Working with Children, Young People and their Families in 1998.

In 2005 she completed advanced training in Systemic Family Therapy. Dr Bowen has special interests in attachment and family assessment issues, cognitive-behavioural, psychodynamic and family therapeutic approaches, and the psychological effects of mental health problems on relationships.

Dr Bowen joined Orchard House in 2006. Since then she has undertaken assessments for the Courts in respect of child care contact and parenting assessments.

## Dr Vanessa Snowdon-Carr

### Chartered Clinical Psychologist

Vanessa Snowdon-Carr has worked within the field of Clinical Psychology since 1996, qualifying as a Clinical Psychologist in 2002. She has gained extensive experience in parent and child assessment and intervention, specialising in child and adult mental health, psychometric assessment, family intervention, alcohol and substance misuse, recovery from abuse and the psychological management of child and adult trauma.

Dr Snowden-Carr joined Orchard House in 2006. Since then she has undertaken assessments for the Courts in respect of child care contact and parenting assessments.

## Dr Maya Spencer

### Consultant Psychiatrist

Maya Spencer qualified in 1984 and has worked in Adult Mental Health in the NHS since that time. She currently works as an NHS Consultant Psychiatrist and also closely with Orchard House. She is also available to provide clinical assistance if necessary.

She is also able to provide formal psychiatric assessment and management if required. She is also available to provide reports and assessments for court.

## Dr Sarah Tonks

### Chartered Clinical Psychologist

Sarah Tonks obtained a qualification in Health Psychology in 2000 and worked in this field for Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust until 2002. She qualified as a Clinical Psychologist in 2005 and has been in full time clinical posts since that time. She conducts both adult and child clinical work with special interests in child parent assessment issues and child and adolescent mental health. Therapeutic interventions provided include psychological and other therapeutic management for adult and child mental health difficulties.

Dr Tonks joined Orchard House in 2006. Since then she has undertaken assessments for the Courts in respect of child care contact and parenting assessments.



## Jackie Sillett

### Assessment Co-ordinator

Jackie's work experience has involved working with children and adults in a professional caring role. For 25 years she worked as a children's nanny in England and abroad spending these years with 5 different families, often as the sole carer of the children in her charge. She also worked within secondary education as a learning support assistant and sole carer for young people who due to childhood trauma were unable to take part in mainstream education.

Jackie has also worked in a hospital as a ward administrator coordinating general administration, auditing and the overall smooth running of the environment of the ward.

Jackie has developed extraordinary skills in understanding the needs of vulnerable children. She is also able to provide sensitive and practical feedback to parents who experience difficulty with aspects of parenting and care. Jackie has worked at Orchard House since 2006 and has contributed to the development of the centre and to assessment process.

## Samantha Burdon

### Practice Co-ordinator

Samantha has a BTEC in Social Care. She has worked for Social Services in Taunton for 3 years with adults with learning disabilities both in a residential setting and a day centre. She worked with people with profound multiple learning disabilities as well as adults in supported living accommodation in the community with Downs Syndrome and autism. Sam then worked as an occupational therapy assistant at Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust Hospital.

Her role involved observing patients in hospital and their own home doing everyday activities to determine the level of support needed whilst in hospital and for discharge home. She has also spent time doing voluntary work with the Conquest Riding School for the Disabled as a leader with groups of children.

## Vicki Fairfax-Ross

### Child Care Co-ordinator/Health Visitor

Vicki is a Registered Nurse and Health Visitor. She also has a BSc in Sociology and Social Administration and is currently studying towards her City and Guilds 7302 teaching qualification. Vicki is also a baby massage instructor.

Prior to joining Orchard House her experience has been in a variety of care and support roles working with children and parents both in the public and voluntary sectors. This has included employment as an unqualified social worker providing advice and support for young, single homeless mothers in temporary residential accommodation and also work as a trained volunteer supporting parents of babies with special needs in using the Portage Programme to facilitate overall development.

## Family Assessment Workers

Orchard House has a team of 20 full and part time family assessment workers. All staff have various levels of experience working with children and/or families and were recruited because of the different skills that they bring to the centre. The staff all have backgrounds working professionally with children in care, nursing, health visiting, teaching, occupational therapy, mental health, learning difficulties and various complex medical needs. Attached to Orchard House we also have a consultant psychiatrist, a designated health visitor, a qualified registered sick children's nurse and a physical therapist.

The staff at Orchard House have a variety of different previous work experience. A specific training programme is however also provided. The training includes child development, child protection procedures, behaviour management and also attachment issues. Currently we have 4 staff qualified to NVQ 3 Level or above and 8 staff working towards NVQ 3 in Child Care and Development.

## Other Staff

At Orchard House we have the services of a physical therapist who is available to provide assistance and support with all aspects of physical well-being if this is required by residents. Many parents have derived benefit from help with relaxation and advice with regard to nutrition and exercise. Specific advice with regard to nutrition and cooking is regularly available to parents if required. Play therapy is available if required and relaxation training can be provided.



## Parenting assessments

Parenting assessments at Orchard House follow the Department of Health (2000) Assessment Framework as a practical model to place parenting functioning in context. Within the Framework it is stated that in order to meet a child's developmental needs and promote his or her welfare, parents need to provide the following:

- Basic care
- Ensuring safety
- Emotional warmth
- Stimulation
- Guidance and boundaries
- Stability.

Children are placed in the centre of a triangle comprising:

- A child's developmental needs
- Parenting capacity, and
- Family and environmental factors.

At Orchard House our comprehensive parenting assessment includes an assessment of each parent, each child and family functioning, as well as a specific assessment of parenting capacity and parent/child interaction. Usually at the viability assessment stage a full history of the parents and children is taken. This is used together with background records and observations of the interaction of parents and children to gain a picture of the functioning of the family.

A full parenting assessment includes extensive observation and data gathering focussing on the following areas of parent/child interaction:

### Child

- Attachment behaviour
- Emotional functioning
- Emotional and social behaviour
- Responsiveness to parent

### Parent

- Psychological aspects
- Emotional functioning
- Responsiveness
- Warmth/empathy
- Capacity to provide appropriate stimulation/verbal interaction
- Capacity for co-operative interaction and play
- Behaviour management/rules and boundary setting
- Distance/closeness regulation
- Emotional management/containment
- Ability to provide routine
- Physical care
- Feeding
- Bathing/changing
- Ability to support and to manage the sleeping/bedtime routines of the infant/child
- Capacity to ensure safety

Standardised assessments, including the Parenting Stress Index and the Parenting Assessment Manual are used alongside clinical assessment.

As part of the assessment we also aim to understand the level of insight that a parent has in relation to the difficulties that they have experienced and also with regard to the effects that the difficulties may have had on the child/children.

We also aim to assess motivation to change and the capacity that the parent or parents may have to sustain any changes or developments that may have been achieved.



## Service model

At Orchard House it is our aim to provide comprehensive evidence based and cost effective assessments. We are aware of the need to avoid delay and it is a priority to provide assessments in a time frame appropriate for children. We are also able to co-ordinate assessments to work in collaboration with other appointed professionals

Viability assessments are always conducted. The assessment will be carried out at the appropriate location. This may be in obstetric units, mother and baby foster placements or at Orchard House. If viability assessments are not conducted at Orchard House we would encourage parents and any school age children to visit Orchard House in advance of the assessment. In some instances we are able to review documents to assess whether a residential assessment is in the best interests of the child or children and whether, in principle, the assessment proposed meets the criteria of Orchard House. There is usually no charge for this form of viability assessment. Recommendations for any assessments are always made if it is considered to be in the best interests of the child. This is the primary criterion for any recommendation.

Recommendations are also made using a staged approach. This means that if an assessment is recommended the initial assessment phase is usually for a period of between 2 and 6 weeks. This enables the staff to focus on essential issues in advance of an early review. If specialist placements are recommended for parents with mental health or learning difficulties, specialised staff, usually a clinical psychologist will be provided to ensure that the assessment is conducted according to the needs of the child and the parents. Any feedback provided is appropriate for the parents.

In this way our assessments are comprehensive and commensurate with any special need. A member of staff will attend court if required. This will usually be the professional who completed the viability assessment.

Before admission we require a Risk Assessment, Placement Agreement and the Financial Agreement to be signed by the Local Authority. We also require any necessary medical information in advance of admission. Any parents or children with long term conditions such as diabetes, or with any other ongoing need for medication will need to have their medication and any necessary medical equipment for the period of the placement.

Educational needs for children are also established and arranged at this stage. At the beginning of the assessment we arrange a planning meeting with the parent/s, Local Authority and the Children's Guardian. Final plans for the placement are made at that stage and a Key Worker from the family assessment team and any specialised staff are identified. The parents will be shown around Orchard House and they will be made aware of the facilities and the services that are offered. We will also ensure that the parents are aware of the CCTV cameras and the rules and regulations of Orchard House.

It is our usual practise at the Planning Meeting to agree all individual issues such as the need for any visitors or visits or attendance at any meeting or other appointments.

It is our policy to ensure that placements are individual and specifically designed to meet the needs of the child whilst ensuring that the assessment is appropriate and representative. During the first day, the parents are provided with support to settle in.

We make every effort to ensure that the children and parents feel comfortable at Orchard House. We also make every effort to accommodate particular needs and preferences. Visits to schools are arranged for the children and parents during the first week. It is our usual policy to recommend a Review Meeting after 2 to 4 weeks depending on the assessment period recommended. An Interim Report is provided to all parties at this stage.

The local GP surgery will meet urgent needs and routine care but they regret that they are unable to provide prescriptions for long term conditions.

The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (DH 2000) forms the basis of our parenting assessments. The Parenting Assessment Manual, Sue McGraw and Every Child Matters (2007) are also used to inform assessments. Additional theoretical and clinical perspectives are also used depending on need. The use of any other specific assessment perspectives will be discussed following the Viability Assessment. The Final Report is provided within 4 weeks of discharge. Any specific instructions in addition to the assessment of parenting will be addressed. All reports are provided in a format for court. The author of the report and or the Manager will be available to attend court. It is helpful if Orchard House can be notified of the date of the final hearing as soon as possible.



## Assessments for Parents with Learning Difficulties

It is essential when assessing parents with learning difficulties to be aware of the current clinical and research evidence to ensure best practice.

Assessments of parents with learning difficulties are regularly conducted at Orchard House, and we have appropriately qualified staff and specific expertise. We are therefore able to provide detailed and comprehensive assessments.

It is our practice to allocate a qualified clinical psychologist to each family placed with us to ensure that the assessment is sensitive to the specific learning difficulties of parents, whilst ensuring the safety of the child.

It is well documented in psychological literature that overall IQ score is not a reliable predictor of the capacity or potential capacity to provide appropriate parenting. It is recognised that it is essential to have information with regard to the specific profile of cognitive and adaptive functioning of the parent.

A parent may, for example, be able to achieve an average to low average score on performance skills demonstrating a capacity to plan, but they may have very low scores on verbal reasoning. They may also be able to perform over-learned skills but find it difficult to flexibly apply learning to situations necessary for parenting. Difficulties with verbal reasoning may also prevent a parent from being able to understand information provided by professionals relevant to parenting.

It is essential for this information to be available in advance of the assessment to ensure the integrity and the appropriateness of the assessment process.

At Orchard House we are able to provide a detailed assessment of the cognitive and adaptive functioning if this has not been provided in advance. These assessments will be conducted by the clinical psychologist allocated to the family.

When these initial assessments are completed, the clinical psychologist and other experienced staff are able to provide appropriate information to the parents. Evidence based methods are always used, which include a variety of modes to convey information including the use of pictures, television clips and modelled behaviour rather than relying on verbal or written information.

These and other methods of conveying information and training parents have been found to be effective when specifically adapted to the individual needs and abilities of parents (Morris, 2003; Shearn 2001). The most efficient forms of education are interactive, practical, involve repetition or reinforcement and use pictorial materials (Hurr, 1997; McGraw, Ball & Clark, 2002; Feldman & Case, 1999; Llewellyn et al, 2002).

At Orchard House we are also able to assess families with regard to other important factors which have been found to have an impact on the overall ability on the parents and to meet the changing needs of the children. These factors include:

- A parent's childhood experiences
- Previous parenting experience. During any assessment the past parenting experiences and the parent's own experience of being parented will be assessed. The assessments will include The Parenting Assessment Manual (McGraw, et al, 1998). Clinical Psychologists will also assess the insight and understanding that a parent has, to assess risk and their capacity to understand and meet the changing needs of a child.
- Contribution of partner; family and other social support. For any assessment of parenting, the parenting ability of the parent is essential. If parents are to provide parenting to the child or children together, a joint assessment is evidently recommended. If a partner is not to be a full time parent their contribution to the overall parenting is important to assess. The role and possible support of the wider family is also an essential aspect of the overall parenting assessment.
- Mental health and emotional functioning
- Environmental factors and social stressors. For parents with learning difficulties any problem with mental health and psychological functioning are assessed. If any symptoms are found to be contributing to difficulties with regard to parenting, appropriate intervention or other management may be provided.



We also make every effort to establish contact with community mental health services and/or learning disability services as soon as possible so that any intervention can be continued following discharge.

- Social skills
- Ability to generalise learning
- Capacity to work with professionals
- Engagement with services in the community the capacity for parents to develop the skills required to manage day to day life with their child can often be organised and assessed within the community. This becomes possible when appropriate base line assessments have been conducted.

It is therefore our practice, when appropriate, to recommend day or overnight assessments or community based assessments. We are also able to provide intensive and if necessary, long-term follow up in the community.

These important factors are included in all assessments and a psychological overview will be provided as a part of the assessment.

When these methods and techniques are employed parents can respond very swiftly and the integrity of the assessment can be assured.

#### References

- Feldman, M.A. & Case, L. (1999) Teaching child-care and safety skills to parents with intellectual disabilities through self-learning. *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.
- Hurr, J. (1997) Review of research on parenting training for parents with intellectual disability: methodological issues. *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education*, 44 (2), 147-162.
- Llewellyn, G., McConnell, D., Russo, D., Mayes, R., & Honey, A. (2002) Home-based programmes for parents with intellectual disabilities: lessons from practice. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 15, 341-353.
- McGraw, S. Ball, K. & Clark, A. (2002) The effect of group intervention on the relationships of parents with learning disabilities. *Journal of Applied Research Intellectual Disabilities*, 15, (4) 354-366
- McGraw, S., Beckley K., Connolly, N., & Ball, K. (1998) *Parenting Assessment Manual*. Pill Creek Publishing.
- Morris, J. (2003) *The Right Support: Report of the Task Force on Supporting Disabled Adults in their Parenting Role*. Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- Shearn, N. (2001) Too dependent on services. *Community Care*.



## Cognitive assessment

Cognitive and other neuropsychological assessments can be conducted by the psychologists from Orchard House. It is our recommendation that when parents have learning difficulties or if they may have borderline difficulties, cognitive assessments are conducted at the beginning of any parenting assessment. The cognitive assessments provide important information with regard to the capacity to understand verbal feedback. If this information is available we are able to provide appropriate comprehensive assessments.

At Orchard House we have frequently been asked to conduct assessments when parents have already had an assessment of parenting but the cognitive ability of the parents has not been known and the parents have argued that they have not understood the feedback provided.

## Psychological assessments

The following assessments can be provided:

- Comprehensive psychological assessments.
- Reports with regard to psychological functioning and parent child attachment and care issues.
- Risk assessments.
- Assessment of special needs, including assessment for autistic spectrum disorder and any learning difficulty by an appropriately trained clinical psychologist.
- Assessment for learning difficulties and adaptive living using The Vineland Assessment in conjunction with clinical and other assessments.

## Assessments of children

A child can be assessed during community or residential assessment. It is also possible for individual child assessments to be provided. Developmental, cognitive and assessments of attachment can be conducted. Other specific psychological assessments can be provided.



### Psychiatric assessments

Adult psychiatric assessments can be conducted at Orchard House. Our NHS Consultant Psychiatrist has extensive experience working with patients with a variety of psychiatric conditions. Assessments can be conducted with recommendations for psychiatric management and/or intervention.

### Paediatric assessments

Dr Rebecca Mann who is an NHS Consultant Paediatrician at Musgrove Park Hospital is available to provide paediatric management and/or intervention. She has considerable experience working with parents and children. She also has considerable experience working in childcare proceedings and in child protection.

### Assessment of contact

At Orchard House we are able to offer assessments of contact between children and parents on a non-residential basis.

### Risk assessment/Substance abuse

The clinical psychology team at Orchard House has significant experience in the research and clinical application of research in the area of risk assessment with regard to parenting issues. Residential and non-residential assessments can be provided.



## Psychological interventions

At Orchard House we are able to provide psychological interventions for adults, children and for families.

The clinical psychology team has a variety of expertise. We are able to offer therapeutic interventions including cognitive/behavioural therapy, emotional based counselling and other psychological interventions.

Cognitive/behavioural therapy for children is also provided. Family and couple therapy is also offered. Attachment based therapeutic work is provided for both adults and children.

Our service is provided to the NHS and also to the Local Social Services. We also have close links with the post-graduate Exeter and Bristol clinical psychology training courses. We also have trainees working with us. The trainees are funded by the NHS and so their services can be made available without cost. The availability of these services can be discussed directly with the Clinical Director.

## Substance abuse

Support for rehabilitation can be provided for parents if they are already engaged in a rehabilitation programme. We have close links with local services and we are able to facilitate engagement of residents with the local team.



## Referrals

Orchard House accepts referrals from a wide range of sources. All referrals will be considered flexibly with the aim of providing the most appropriate expert assessment and intervention for families and their referrers. Orchard House family therapeutic service can accept referrals from local GP and NHS consultants. Local schools are also able to make referrals.

## Family

Referrals for work with families are taken mainly from Social Services and family law professionals. Orchard House is also able to take referrals from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, other mental health professionals, general practitioners and individuals or their families.

## Child

Referrals are taken from Social Services, family law professionals, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, other mental health professionals, general practitioners, schools, educational professionals and individuals or their families.

## Adult

Referrals are taken from general practitioners, mental health professionals, Social Services and individuals.

## Procedure

Assessments and interventions for care proceedings will usually require a viability assessment to be undertaken. The viability assessment is an opportunity for our multi-disciplinary team to provide an initial assessment of the needs of the family and make recommendations for the structure of the assessment or intervention. For individual adult and child assessments or interventions, an initial assessment would form part of the first meeting with a member of our multi-disciplinary team.

## Risk assessment

Orchard House requires the completion of a Risk Assessment, Placement Agreement and Financial Agreement prior to admission.

If you would like to make a referral or if you require any further information please telephone **01823 351785** or email us at **[info@orchardhousefac.co.uk](mailto:info@orchardhousefac.co.uk)**