Acquired Brain Injury Services
Our Acquired Brain injury (ABI) services are dedicated to providing support for people with complex needs following a brain injury. We understand that no two people and no two brain injuries are the same. We offer a variety of supportive pathways, personalised to suit each person’s specific needs. We are focussed on the strengths, interests and dreams of everyone we support.

Our Support

Our Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) services are highly personalised and focus on the rehabilitation and development of people’s skills. We also support people with complex needs, including those with a dual diagnosis.

We have been providing services for people with an ABI for over 35 years. We have a proven track record of supporting people into their own tenancies and in supporting individuals who have previously been difficult to place.

Our ABI services can act as a short term ‘step down’ transitional service to promote skills for independent living, and medium to long term placements are available, if appropriate, for individuals with significant long term needs.

We provide physical, cognitive, social and behavioural support to enable each person to build on their strengths, interests and aspirations. We actively promote community participation, autonomy and vocational pathways.

We are able to support individuals who have:

- Traumatic brain injuries
- Stroke / aneurysms
- Alcohol related brain injuries (including Korsakoff's syndrome)
- Brain injuries as a result of hypoxia, encephalitis, meningitis and tumours
- Physical and mobility needs
- Diabetes, epilepsy and PEG care
- Behavioural, psychological, emotional and forensic needs
- Cognitive and executive functioning difficulties (memory, attention skills, information processing, insight, social, problem solving & planning difficulties)
- Dual diagnosis with Mental Health or substance misuse

We also have neuro-disability services to support individuals with conditions such as early onset dementia and Huntington’s care.

Individualised Support Pathways

We can offer varied specialised brain injury support:

- Transitional (short or medium term) rehabilitation goal focused placements
- Short term community skill assessments / cognitive assessment placements
- Specialist emotional / behavioural support placements
- Slow stream rehabilitation
- Long term residential care
- Supported living tenancies
- Specialist outreach support in your own home
- Vocational support
- Respite placements

We also offer personalised programs of activities, established to enable people to relearn previous skills and gain new skills where possible.
The Headway Approved Provider Scheme

Three of our Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) residential services have successfully achieved Headway Approved provider status. The teams at Isfryn, Chesterwood and Oakhill have worked extremely hard to achieve this award. The process is rigorous and looks for specialist ABI support for individuals and their families in 33 domains.

This process ensures that services gaining Approved Provider status can demonstrate their provision of appropriate specialist care for those with an ABI. Key aspects of the process include ensuring staff working in the service are aware of and responsive to issues associated with ABI, and that the service considers the information and other needs of the individual, their family and carers. Each successful service is accredited by Headway for a two-year period as an Approved Provider.

Positive Steps

Our Positive Steps workshops take place within a safe environment, under the guidance and support of our clinical team. Positive Steps enables people to develop their own cognitive and social skills. There is a focus on decision-making, attention and memory skills and social functioning. Each person is encouraged whilst having fun and engaging with others.

ABI Residential

We offer a range of residential settings that support people to live somewhere that is right for them. We strive to support people to live as independently as possible, now and in the future. All our residential settings provide support using a personal approach offering people greater choice and control over their own lives.

- **Byron Lodge, Blackley, Manchester**
  12 studio apartments and 2 en-suite bedrooms

- **Chesterwood, Kings Heath, Birmingham**
  5 en-suite bedrooms

- **Evergreen, Moseley, Birmingham**
  8 en-suite bedrooms

- **Isfryn, Ystradgynlais, Swansea**
  8 en-suite bedrooms

- **Kington House Annexe, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan**
  4 en-suite bedrooms

- **Oakhill, Fforestfach, Swansea**
  7 en-suite bedrooms

- **The Grove, Kidderminster, Worcestershire**
  12 en-suite bedrooms

- **Warmley Court, Warmley, Bristol**
  10 en-suite bedrooms

- **Eilat, Charminster, Dorset**
  6 en-suite bedrooms

- **Ty Newydd, Newport, Gwent**
  6 en-suite bedrooms

- **Westholme, Mosely, Birmingham**
  13 en-suite bedrooms

We also have Dual Diagnosis services that can support people with Acquired Brain Injuries. They are located in Birmingham, Cheltenham, Neath, Newport, Swansea and Weston-super-Mare. We have ABI Supported Living services throughout England and Wales.
Clinical Input

Our clinical team work intensively with staff to support people to develop effective cognitive, communication, emotional and behavioural strategies. The team includes:

- ABI Advisors
- Clinical Support Nurses
- Specialist Behavioural Advisors

Specific input and support available if needed:

- Neuro-Occupational Therapy
- Neuro-Physiotherapy
- Neuro-Speech and Language Therapy
- Neuro-Psychology
- Neuro-Psychiatry
- Specialist Behaviour Input
- Vocational Rehabilitation

All therapeutic input is incorporated into daily life in line with their goals and aspirations. Each person’s progress is monitored through a recognised outcomes measurement tool. This is regularly reviewed by the multi-disciplinary team.

“I love having my own home, I have come so far from where I started my journey. I am in the best place now and able to call it home. I am an adrenaline junkie and love to try new things, I even went jet skiing last year. I felt the need for speed! I love being independent and love the staff team that support me. They listen and make my dreams possible.”
ABI Assessment Tools

Our ABI assessment tool was developed in conjunction with Professor Roger Woods to ensure each individual has a thorough assessment of their current abilities. From the assessment, cognitive support plans are devised to support processing, insight, attention and executive functioning as appropriate, to develop and review strategies and to quickly identify any changes in support. The aim of support strategies is always to enable the individual to achieve the highest degree of independence as possible.

All therapeutic input is integrated into daily strategies or functional measured goals in line with the individual’s aspirations. Progress for individuals on a rehabilitation pathway is monitored through recognised outcome measures and reviewed regularly by the multi-disciplinary team. We are able to facilitate family network groups and our clinical and management team are available to support family to understand the changes occurring.

Our skilled and highly trained support teams utilise a range of tools to measure progress and track outcomes including:

BIIES - The Brain Injury Independence and Emotional Scale measures independent living skills and emotional well-being.

SASNOS - The St Andrews Swansea Neuro-behavioural Outcomes Scale measures social interaction, relationships, engagement, cognition, inhibition and communication. This enables us to track and share progress in a graphical format to support assessment, review and outcome measurement.

GAS GOALS - The Goal Attainment Scoring tool (GAS) is used to support people to focus on achieving key objectives and manageable milestones. Daily records are kept which track achievements and progress.
Person-Centred Support Planning

We provide specialist brain injury support. Our staff support each person to create a person-centred plan that tells us how they want to live their life now and in the future. Through a range of communication tools, we ensure that each person is closely involved in the development of their own plan. Through our specific ABI support plan, we are able to have a holistic approach to support, whilst enabling key progression areas to be identified for focused goal setting.

Some examples of how we have supported people include:

- Working towards independence with personal care tasks
- Skills building to manage money
- Travel training to gain confidence and independence
- Learning to stay healthy and exercising
- Support with medication and health appointments
- Discovering new hobbies, getting out and having fun!
- Accessing vocational training and work experience
- Managing correspondence and bills
- Building social skills and expanding social circles

Care Pathway

Our residential settings are tailored to meet the needs of each person who lives there. We work with people to develop their support plan which is unique to their individual needs.

Our Supported Living services enable people to live independently in the community, in their own homes or in a supported tenancy. Support can be offered from a few hours to 24 hours a day as well as overnight support if needed.

Each person’s pathway is unique. People can join at any point and move up or down the care pathway dependent on their needs.