EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
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29th October 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

EPSOM & EWELL TIMES

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Epsom centre brings hope to youth who need support

20 January 2024



With one of three Surrey centres based in **Epsom** the multi-agency **Hope Service** gets a glowing **Ofsted report**. Published last month the report finds that the Hope Service, provided by Surrey County Council and Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust, 'continues to be an outstanding school' following its previous 'Outstanding' inspection outcome in 2018.

The Hope Service, which is registered as a Pupil Referral Unit, offers a 'Day Programme' with a curriculum comprising education, therapies and activities. This is part of the broader multi-agency **Hope Service offer in Surrey** which supports young people age 11-18 who are experiencing complex mental health, emotional, social and behavioural challenges which cannot be met by one agency alone. The Hope Service works with the young person, their family and wider network to offer support to try and prevent placement breakdown or the need for a psychiatric hospital admission.

In a glowing report, Ofsted inspectors note that 'pupils flourish at this inspirational school' due to the 'nurturing relationships they form with staff as soon as they join'. Inspectors also found that young people receive 'highly specialist support, in every aspect of learning and development' helping them to grow in confidence and in turn 'realise their full potential and aspire to a bright future when they leave school'.

The report also highlights that 'staff take careful steps to construct an ambitious curriculum for every pupil', with pupil voice central to this and pupils' views captured 'at each stage when planning individual curriculum programmes'.

Inspectors found that the school has a 'palpable air of serenity', empowering individuals to have a 'clear sense of self-identity and autonomy' and readying them for adulthood. The school also offers a significant amount of expert advice and support to the wider community via their outreach work and parent and carer support and information sessions, with parents and carers crediting the school for 'giving their child hope for a positive and healthy future'.

Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, said;

"I'm thrilled to see that this incredible school continues to be recognised as Outstanding by Ofsted. One of the priorities in the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to support children and young people with their mental health, including focusing on access to early, appropriate support to prevent further escalation of need, and supporting the emotional wellbeing of parents and care givers.

"The outcomes the Hope Service achieves for Surrey children are remarkable, with staff being able to provide the support young people need to meet their emotional and mental health needs, while at the same time providing a top quality education delivered with high levels of personalisation, kindness and belief in each young person.

"Young people and their families come into contact with this service at a challenging time in their lives, and its vital that we and partners are able to provide a high quality service upon which they can rely."

The full inspection report can be found on the Ofsted website: **50234890 (ofsted.gov.uk).**

You can read more about the Hope Service, including the school offer, assessment and out of hours 'Extended Hope' crisis service, and free fortnightly online parent and carer support sessions on a range of topics on the **Hope Service** website.

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