

Secure Welfare Coordination Unit Referral

Date of referral	
Referring local authority	Reading
Court applying to for S.25	Reading
Primary reason for order	Danger to self
Expected/requested start date of placement	20/03/2026

Social worker

Name	Ezra Fitz
Telephone number	01968 375265
Additional phone number	
Mobile number	07791 263523
Additional mobile number	
Secure email	ezra.fitz@reading.gov.uk

Team manager

Name	Spencer Hastings
Telephone number	01968 375265
Additional phone number	
Mobile number	07791 238755
Additional mobile number	
Secure email	spencer.hastings@reading.gov.uk

Placements team

Name	Placements Team
Telephone number	01872 635425
Additional phone number	
Mobile number	
Additional mobile number	
Secure email	placements.team@reading.gov.uk

IRO

Is there an IRO contact for this referral?	Yes
Name	Caleb Rivers
Telephone number	07589 473641
Additional phone number	
Mobile number	
Additional mobile number	
Secure email	caleb.rivers@reading.gov.uk

YOT worker

Is there any current involvement with the Youth Offending Team (YOT)?	No
---	----

Is the young person:

Currently in hospital	No
-----------------------	----

Currently missing	No
Currently in Police custody/on Remand	No
Agreement to pay a bed retainer in principle	Yes
Subject to a current Threat to Life Warning or Osman Warning from the Police	No

Personal information

Legal first name	Hannah
Legal last name	Brown
Preferred name	Hannah
NHS number	6402140252
Social care system ID	679744
Gender	Female
Ethnicity	White - British
Date of birth	06/02/2010
Age	16
Religion	No Religion
First language	English
Interpreter required	No
Height	5ft
Weight	65kg
Legal status	Full care order
Do you intent to initially place under the 72-hour agreement?	No

For under 13's: Secretary of State/Welsh Ministerial approval

Applied for
Granted

Placement history

Current placement

Placement type	CLA - A children's home registered with Ofsted
Start date of current placement	18/09/2025
Is the young person subject to a DoL Order in this placement?	Yes
Additional staffing levels	2:1
Contact person	Emily Fields
Tel No/Email	emilyfields@reading.gov.uk

Previous placement

Placement type	CLA - Other
Start date of previous placement	18/04/2024
End date of previous placement	18/09/2025
Additional staffing levels	2:1
Contact person	Jenna Marshal
Tel No/Email	jenna.marshal@reading.gov.uk

Placement history

Placement type	Start date	End date
CLA - A children's home registered with Ofsted	10/03/2020	21/07/2022
CLA - A children's home registered with Ofsted	21/07/2022	14/09/2022
CLA - A children's home registered with Ofsted	14/09/2022	15/02/2023
CLA - A children's home registered with Ofsted	15/02/2023	18/04/2024

Has the young person been in secure welfare, justice or a No
secure mental health placement before?

At what age did the young person first become known to Before birth
children's services?

At what age did the young person first come into care? 10

Young person overview

Pen picture

Hannah is a bubbly child with lots of energy. She has a diagnosis of ADHD but this is managed with medication. She enjoys animals and one day hopes to become a vet. She loves horse riding, baking and going to the cinema especially the popcorn. Hannah has experienced a very traumatic upbringing with her parents both in and out of prison and hospital and her relationship with her parents has been inconsistent as a result of this. Hannah has demonstrated the ability to build positive relationships with staff when she feels safe and comfortable. Hannah takes pride in her appearance and will not go a day without putting her makeup on, she loves watching makeup videos on YouTube and spends a lot of time ensuring she looks her best. Hannah's childhood experiences have impacted on her self-esteem and this is often portrayed through episodes of self-harm, with there being an escalation of this in recent times.

ACE's

Evidence of verbal or emotional abuse	Yes
Physical abuse	No
Sexual abuse	Yes
Domestic abuse	Yes
Parental substance misuse	Yes
Loss of a parent (death or separation)	Yes
Parental mental illness	Yes
Physical or emotional neglect	Yes
Parental criminal behaviour or imprisonment	Yes
Separation from parent due to parental deportation or detainment	No
Young person is a parent	No
Bereavement of a significant person	No

Background/family information

Hannah was born in Reading and has been known to children's services since before birth due to the high frequency of domestic abuse incidents between Mr and Mrs Brown. Hannah's life has been repeatedly disrupted by her father, Mr Brown's numerous arrests for drug dealing and assaults on her mother, Mrs Brown. The police were involved with the family on a weekly basis as Hannah was growing up and she was handed around to different family members such as her Granny and Auntie. Mrs Brown has mental health struggles and was unable to provide adequate quality of care for Hannah from the age of 10 which is when Hannah became a looked after child and was placed in the care of her Granny. However, Hannah's presenting needs became significantly more complex and challenging, and her Granny became ill and was no longer able to care for her. Hannah moved into the care of the local authority and was

placed in a residential placement. She stayed here for a few years before being served notice due to the escalation in behaviours that challenged.

Hannah was then placed in an emergency residential placement in London. She stayed here for several months but it soon became apparent that she was being exposed to CSE. Hannah does not recognise that she is being exploited, she believes the men she is meeting with are her friends and present her with gifts because they care for her. Staff have witnessed Hannah returning to placement with Gucci bags, expensive perfume and jewellery. There is concern that these men are sexually exploiting her as Hannah has reportedly told another child in the home that she sent nude pictures of herself to several males as they requested to see them. There is evidence to suggest that Hannah has been raped by one of these men as she returned to placement in distress and telling one of the children that a man did not stop when she did not want to continue. Although there is evidence to suggest Hannah has been sexually abused by these men, Hannah believes these men love and care for her but the local authority are concerned that she is being groomed by them as some of them are 40+ years old. The local authority believe Hannah finds the attention of these men appealing due to the negative impact of her childhood experiences and how they have affected her feelings of self-worth. Hannah gravitates towards these older men because she feels that they complement her without recognising how harmful their behaviour is.

Hannah moved back to a residential placement in Reading due to concerns over the men she was being exploited by in London. She settled in this placement but not without its challenges. There was an increase in self-harm and this was felt to be attributed to Hannah feeling that she had been separated from people she thought cared for her, as opposed to people who were exploiting her. She threatened to jump off the roof of placement several times as well as swallowing shards of glass from breaking her mirror. A DoL order was granted, and this helped Hannah to stabilise and reduce many of the behaviours that challenged. Hannah has experienced significant trauma in her life and is extremely vulnerable to CSE which is a big concern for the local authority. There has been an increase in the incidences of self-harming, which has resulted in several attendances at A&E in the past few months following the ingestion of objects such as glass and batteries. Hannah's early experiences have left her exposed to resorting to these behaviours as a coping mechanism and she needs therapeutic input to help assess her needs and concerns.

What recent events led to a secure welfare placement being required?

In Hannah's current placement, the incidences of self-harming have escalated to more than 3 episodes a day. A secure placement is needed to stabilize, reduce and eliminate these occurrences, and it is agreed by the local authority that secure is the most appropriate placement to meet Hannah's needs. Hannah will utilise anything to enable her to engage in self-harming incidences whether that be shards of glass from breaking a mirror to banging her head against the door handle. Hannah has repeatedly expressed suicidal thoughts and supporting her in her current placement has become increasingly challenging due to insufficient staffing. On 17th October, Hannah was admitted to A&E after swallowing a battery in an attempt to take her own life. She was monitored until the battery passed. Hannah needs specialist therapeutic intervention in a secure environment to work on understanding the trauma she has been through and reduce self-harming incidences.

Presenting behaviours

Violent/challenging behaviours including fire setting

Hannah does not display violent behaviour towards staff or peers, if she is angry or frustrated, she isolates herself which frequently results in self-harming incidents.

Self-harm & suicide attempts

Hannah has sought self-harming as a coping mechanism from an early age. Her mother would often tell Hannah she ruined her life and how she will never achieve anything in life. This has resulted in Hannah having very low self-confidence and attachment issues.

Hannah often ingests items such as shards of glass from breaking mirrors. Early concerns were noted when Hannah began self-harming by making superficial cuts to her arm and thighs, this has then increased to drinking bleach and threatening to jump off the roof of her placement to end her life. Hannah has expressed to staff multiple times that she wishes to end her life, so the local authority is extremely concerned for her safety.

Hannah has been to A&E multiple times for ingesting items and has been monitored closely before naturally passing them.

Substance misuse

Hannah does not currently misuse substances; however, when she goes missing, her vulnerability may increase the risk of exposure to substance misuse. Hannah has vaped and smoked cigarettes in the past but has not taken any illicit substances. When Hannah has been out in the community with unknown males, we know she has drunk alcohol such as vodka and rum. To our knowledge, she has not misused any substances in the past year. This was more frequent in her placement in London.

Sexually harmful behaviour

Hannah does not display any sexually harmful behaviour.

Sexualised behaviour and/or child sexual exploitation

There is a concern that Hannah has been sexually exploited as she regularly met with older males when she was placed in London. She would return to placement with presents such as expensive jewellery and Gucci bags. Hannah has said these males 'really care for me' and 'understand me like nobody else' and she has said she has engaged in sexual acts with them. The local authority is concerned for Hannah's safety and health as she refuses to undergo testing for STI's or pregnancy.

Since moving away from London and having the DoL order in place, Hannah has been unable to see these men, but she feels sad and angry that she was taken away from them as she believed they were the only people who cared for her. Hannah has not seen these older males since 2023 and has not been exposed to any sexually exploitative behaviours since this time to the best of our knowledge.

Absconding

Hannah frequently went missing from her placement in London, but these occurrences are less frequent now due to the DoL order that is in place. She has gone missing a few times in the past few months and she has been found at her granny's house as this is where Hannah would like to live. The exact locations where she met the various men during her placement in London remain unclear; however, she was frequently escorted back by them and often returned with an expensive gift. The local authority is concerned that Hannah has been exploited by these men.

Gang affiliation/criminal exploitation

There are no current concerns, but Hannah could be vulnerable to criminal exploitation.

Is the young person subject to a Prevent or CONTEST arrangement?

No

Is the young person subject to NRM or has a referral been made?

No

Care planning

Summary of present care plan

Hannah is subject to a DoL order in her current placement, and she was making relatively good progress, but her behaviour escalated in recent months, and the local authority are seeking a secure placement to stabilise her. The current care plan is 2:1 staffing in her current residential placement, but this is not enough to keep her from being exposed to harm as she is considered to be a danger to herself, and her incidences of self-harm have become more frequent with daily episodes. The intention is that Hannah will be able to live with her granny again as she enjoys this and has a good relationship with her, but a secure placement is required to stabilise her current behaviours whilst accessing therapeutic help. Hannah will need at least a 6-month secure placement for the appropriate work to be carried out. The local authority is seeking to increase the additional staffing levels whilst a secure placement is sought.

First aim of placement

To ensure Hannah's safety and support the stabilisation of her incidence of self-harm, her environment must be closely managed to minimise access to items she could use to harm herself. This safeguarding approach should begin from the moment she enters the placement and remain consistent throughout her stay. Staff will also work with Hannah to help her develop and transfer these safety skills, supporting her to maintain them when she eventually moves on from the placement. Hannah will need 1:1 support to help her identify and understand the triggers linked to her incidences of self-harm and suicidal thoughts, and to develop healthier, safer alternative coping strategies.

Second aim of placement

To re-engage in education as Hannah has missed out on a lot of learning opportunities due to placement instability and behaviours that challenge. Hannah will be supported to re-engage with education by attending sessions within the Secure Children's Home. The focus will be on re-establishing routine, building confidence, and identifying her learning needs.

Third aim of placement

To engage in therapeutic support, and for Hannah to begin work on addressing her past traumas. For Hannah to understand her mental health needs and receive therapeutic support. For CAMHS involvement to continue and complete mental health work with Hannah. To support this, Hannah will need to engage with CAMHS or a therapeutic service where she can develop personalised coping strategies to help her regulate her emotions, recognise early signs of stress, and respond more safely when faced with difficult or overwhelming situations. This therapeutic input will be essential in helping her manage the emotional impact of her past experiences and build healthier, more adaptive ways of coping moving forward.

What is your proposed exit and transition plan from a secure placement?

Transition planning will begin as soon as a secure placement is sourced and will be reviewed every 6 weeks. The plan is for Hannah to return to live with her Granny as they have a good relationship and Hannah trusts her. This is dependent on the work carried out in a secure placement and how successful this is. If the local authority feel Hannah would benefit from a further residential placement following secure, then this will be taken into consideration and planned appropriately. Hannah is to have no contact with her mother or father following a secure placement as this could trigger a trauma response.

Interaction techniques

Hannah is a friendly but shy individual who enjoys the company of others. She tends to be cautious about trusting others due to experiencing significant instability in her relationships during childhood. However, if you show her you care for her, she soon warms up and forms secure attachments with you. Hannah can feel rejected if she does not get your undivided attention, this has led to increased vulnerability to exploitation from older males. Hannah cares deeply about her friends, but she sometimes feels jealous and insecure when she perceives them to be receiving a disproportionate amount of attention. Consequently, Hannah can present as egocentric. Engaging her in discussions about animals or makeup helps her feel acknowledged and understood and she enjoys this.

What are the young person's views/wishes/feelings regarding being in secure?

Hannah wishes to move back in with her Granny and does not understand why she needs a secure placement.

Approved contacts for young person

Name	Relationship	PR	Preferred contact number	Phone	Letter	Visit	Address
Veronica Brown	Granny	Yes	07289760236	Yes	Yes	Yes	5 Honeysuckle Lane

Health

Medical information

Current illness/injury

Hannah has recently swallowed a battery and went to A&E to be monitored, no treatment needed.

Current medication/treatment

Hannah is currently prescribed Citalopram for her anxiety.

Current tobacco use

None to the best of my knowledge. Hannah has vaped and smoked cigarettes in the past.

Current drug use	The local authority does not believe Hannah is currently misusing any substances, but she may be vulnerable to it when she goes missing from placement.
Current alcohol use	None to the best of my knowledge . When Hannah has been out in the community with unknown males, we know she has drunk alcohol such as vodka and rum.
Is a detox from substances required?	No
Medical conditions	None
Physical conditions	None
Treatment in the last 12 months	Hannah has needed to attend on a few occasions A&E over the past year due to ingesting items.
Special dietary requirements	None.
Undiagnosed/suspected physical conditions	None.
Encopresis	None.
Enuretic	None.
Visually impaired	None.
Hearing impaired	None.
Vaccinations	None.
Allergies	Hay fever
Asthma	Yes, carries a blue inhaler.
Epilepsy	No
Diabetes	No
Dental requirements/orthodontics	No

Has the young person been diagnosed with the following:

A learning disability	No
Autism	No

Is the young person suspected to have the following:

A learning disability	No
Autism	No

If yes, provide details

Mental health & neurodiversity

Assessment status	Completed
When (date)	12/11/2024
Who (professional role)	Clinical Psychiatrist
Where	In placement
Outcome and follow up treatment	Recent assessment as a result of a self harm episode. Outcome highlighted that the behaviours are often triggered at times of crisis and not related to a mental illness.
Does the young person have any diagnosed mental health or neurodivergent conditions?	Yes

Condition	Professional	Date
Anxiety	CAMHS Nurse	12/11/2024
Low Mood	CAMHS Nurse	12/11/2024
ADHD	Clinical Psychiatrist	24/02/2020

Does the young person have any suspected mental health or neurodivergent conditions?	No
--	----

Previous/current mental health service involvement

Inpatient CAMHS (e.g. Tier 4)	No
Community CAMHS offered	Yes
Community CAMHS engaged	Yes
Eating disorder service	No
Other mental health input	Hannah has been assessed by CAMHS and has been diagnosed with anxiety and low mood which she takes medication for.

Youth justice

Summary of all offences

N/A

Education

Known to the local authority's virtual school	Yes
Virtual school head name	Alison Dilaurentes
Virtual school head contact details	AlisonDilaurentes@reading.gov.uk
Currently on roll at school	Yes
Current school	St Johns
Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL) name	Melanie Grape
DSL contact details	Melanie.Grape@reading.gov.uk
Currently educated other than school	No
Currently excluded	No
EHCP (previously SEN Statement)	No
Current SEN status	No special educational need
Any other relevant information	Hannah's education has been significantly disrupted due to her presenting needs that impact on her emotional and behavioural regulation, frequent missing from care episodes, and placement instability. She has not engaged in education since the beginning of 2024. She enjoys music and English and hopes one day to work with animals.

Religious/cultural needs

Are there any specific cultural, religious, or ethnic considerations to take into account?

Hannah celebrates Christmas and Easter but would not say she was religious.

Assessments

Date of assessment	Type of assessment	Assessed by
12/11/2024	CAMHS	CAMHS mental health practitioner

Any other relevant information

N/A