

In Newbridge School we work to support young people with a variety of learning needs which makes it difficult for them to engage fully in mainstream schools.

We care massively about all of our students and have put together some information to help them, and those who care for them, understand what is happening.

Some of our students experience separation from a loved one during their very early life. This can result in Attachment Disorder.

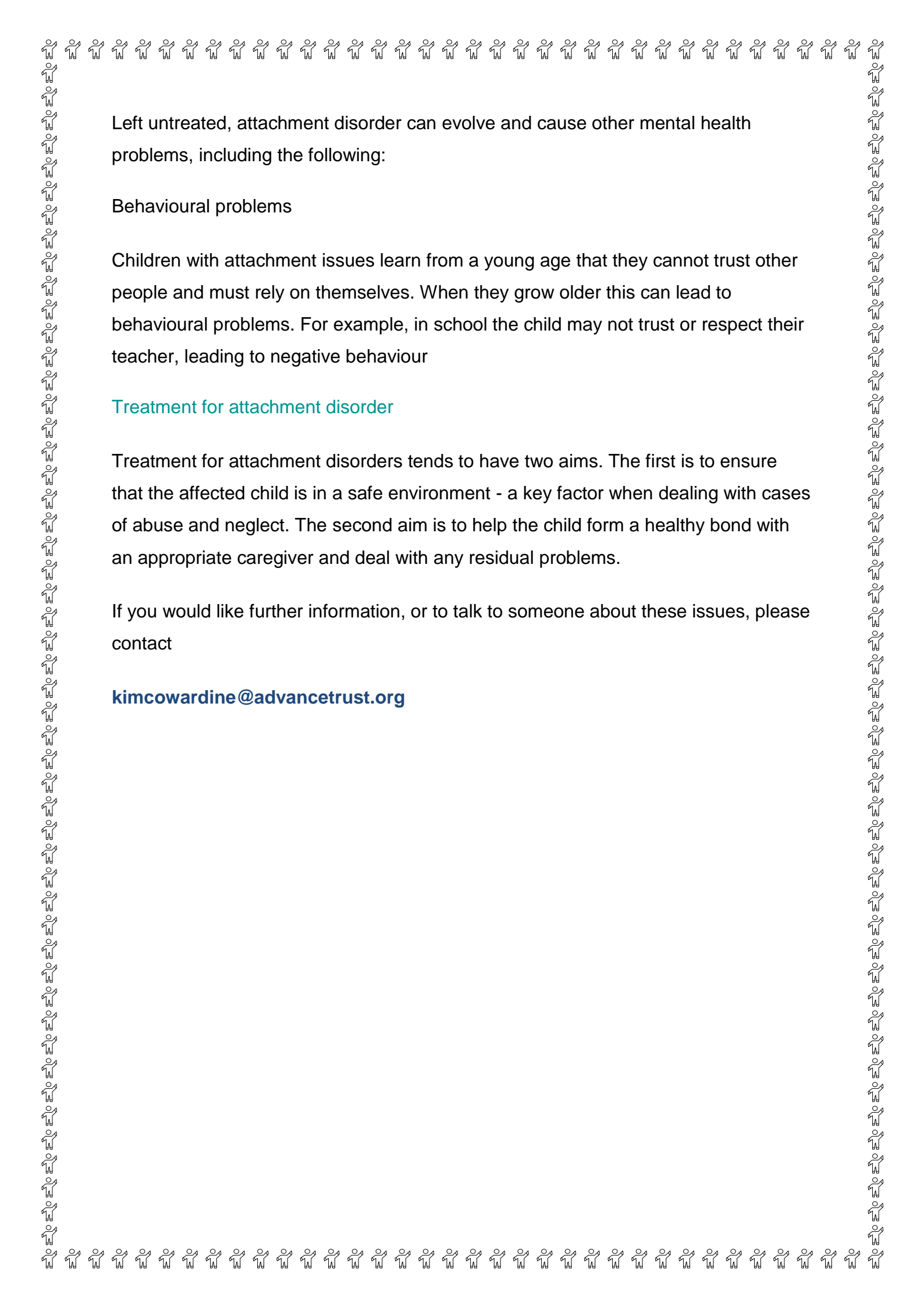
Attachment is the deep connection established between a child and caregiver that profoundly affects the child's development and ability to express emotions and develop relationships. ... A child with insecure **attachment** or an **attachment disorder** does not have all of the skills for building meaningful relationships.

When babies are born they rely on parents or caregivers to protect them, care for them and look after both their emotional and physical needs. Having these needs met allows them to form a bond with their parents, or 'attach'. Forming this attachment helps children learn to love and trust others, to regulate emotions, become aware of others' feelings and develop healthy bonds in the future.

If for some reason this bond isn't formed, children can develop attachment issues - including attachment disorder. It may be that the child felt "abandoned" or "isolated" or "uncared for" during their early years. The reasons behind such experiences can be complex, but for a young child all they understand is that they cannot depend on others.

Sadly this lack of attachment can lead to future behavioural issues and may affect relationships and social bonds.

What can attachment disorder lead to?



Left untreated, attachment disorder can evolve and cause other mental health problems, including the following:

Behavioural problems

Children with attachment issues learn from a young age that they cannot trust other people and must rely on themselves. When they grow older this can lead to behavioural problems. For example, in school the child may not trust or respect their teacher, leading to negative behaviour

Treatment for attachment disorder

Treatment for attachment disorders tends to have two aims. The first is to ensure that the affected child is in a safe environment - a key factor when dealing with cases of abuse and neglect. The second aim is to help the child form a healthy bond with an appropriate caregiver and deal with any residual problems.

If you would like further information, or to talk to someone about these issues, please contact

kimcwardine@advancetrust.org