

## Case study 1:

# Emergency Fostering Project

**Five Rivers Child Care created a community-based solution with a London Borough working with children, young people and their families in an attempt to prevent them from having to enter the care system.**

### We established a Not-for-Profit Company

In response to their needs, Five Rivers Child Care established a Not-for-Profit company in partnership with the Local Authority.

- The Authority were given the option to be on the Board and had access on an agreed basis to the management accounts through monthly, then quarterly, partnership meetings.
- Services were developed in conjunction with the key manager in the London Borough, who ensured they were embedded in to the existing provision, avoiding duplication or barriers to communication, and working together.
- After three months preparation the scheme was ready to launch, consisting of three elements;
  1. Recruiting Foster Carers who would work in emergency situations, filling a specific needs gap.
  2. Training those carers to be family workers, conducting home visits.
  3. Additional training invested to improve communication and provide new strategies to manage behaviour.

### Recruiting to meet the specific need was a success

The recruitment specification allowed those carers who wanted to join the profession, but not as 'traditional foster carers', to achieve their ambition. With the benefit of the Five Rivers in Partnership experience, several continued their career path becoming Social Work Assistants and two became Social Workers.

Another valid demonstration of contributing to Social Value through the project!

In addition to benefitting the carers, there were multiple benefits for the Borough:

- **Speed** – We were able to manage the project quickly.
- **On budget** – The project was delivered efficiently to budget.
- **Normal operations weren't interrupted** – We didn't need to convert and persuade existing staff to take on extra work.
- **A genuine partnership was created** – Where there was goodwill on both sides and mutually beneficial energy and optimism.
- **A network of support was established** – Staff and management were able to provide additional, informal support to colleagues.
- **The project was enjoyed and endorsed** – Council members enjoyed having an innovative and value for money project under their committee and the Department of Health spoke highly of the project.

### Conclusions

The agreement made with the London Borough allowed them to take on the service at the end of the contract period, if they wished to do so and with no further expectations from Five Rivers Child Care.

We are proud to say that subsequently, the authority regarded the service as such a success that they opted to do this and the company was duly handed over on agreed terms.

This service can be replicated in this or other service areas. ■



### Five Rivers Child Care is a partner of choice

This flexible model of working and providing responses to specific, identified needs is very characteristic of Five Rivers Child Care and its role, both as a thought leader and pragmatic partner, designing bespoke services, implementing them and delivering them to budget.

We pride ourselves on becoming a partner of choice to those local authorities where there is a good solid base for working in partnership and scope for delivering tailored services with positive outcomes.