

## Case study 2:

# Residential Care Partnership

**Five Rivers Child Care provided residential care with a northern local authority. The contract was over 13 years and was initially set up to provide six additional homes to the three that the authority already had. Rather than opting for board membership, the authority chose to work through partnership meetings.**

### We provided Residential Care and focused on prevention

During the introductory period we agreed to develop 'reach out' services with the aim of prevention i.e. avoiding admission into the care system in the first place. This became so successful that the partnership realised and agreed that fewer residential homes were actually required, saving the authority in the region of £10m across the lifetime of the contract.

As the residential care sector changed with a wider range of providers, the service was reconfigured in partnership to provide additional, more specialist services:

- An emergency home service in one of the authority's existing homes.
- A fostering service for children leaving the residential homes who still required high-levels of support, with support also being extended to their families.

### Conclusions

- The company, limited by guarantee, provided a bond for the initial years.
- Working successfully with the Trade Union and Pension Boards to TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment) across all staff.
- It achieved 'Good' or 'Outstanding' in each of its three homes consistently through the lifetime of the project.
- And provided specialist and professional training for staff, enabling career growth for those who otherwise may not have had the opportunity.
- Excellent, innovative working partnerships were made in response to needs being delivered professionally.
- And crucially children over the age of 13 were provided with high-quality care and stability.
- Throughout the process, all TUPE staff maintained their underlying terms and conditions.

This success 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.