

Case study 3:

Towards Independence

Five Rivers Child Care provided specialist staff to work in outreach, in order to support young people moving towards independence.

Supporting young people's independence

One of the London Boroughs asked us to set up a specialist provision to support young people who were either on the edge of care or had been in residential/foster care and needed help to become independent.

Working with the Local Authority, we established the following objectives for the project:

- To ensure young people were not at risk in the community.
- To provide staff who would specifically be able to engage with young people.
- To train those staff, enabling them to have high-levels of professional responsibility.
- To design models of intervention, effective in the community setting.
- To fulfill the request on a project-based, time-limited period of 18 months.

Conclusions

The successful implementation of the project resulted in the objectives being delivered alongside a number of additional, noteworthy outcomes:

- A professionally established service was delivered quickly (within a short time period).
- The project being efficiently managed was therefore cost-effective.
- The project was delivered within a 'Social Enterprise' ethos.
- Emergency out of hours support was introduced.

In addition, at the end of the period, the local authority continued to 'spot purchase', allowing the organisation to grow nationally, providing specialist staff to a number of other authorities who were expressing concerns about:

- The emotional mental health of young people.
- The need to provide not only emotional support but a form of mentalisation.
- The need for emotional literacy training.
- The need for emergency out of hours support.

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.