

FOSTERING PROVISION



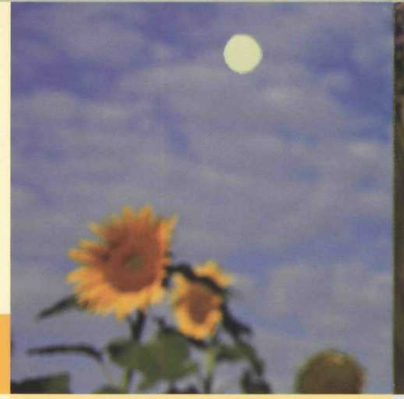
At Sedgemoor, our aim is to generate change for children and young people who cannot, for whatever reason, live full-time with their birth families.

The Fostering Team places children directly into foster care as well as from Sedgemoor Residential care.

Research strongly supports care as the preferred option for children who can no longer live with their families. The Fostering Team recruits families from all walks of life who have valuable life experiences and are motivated to work with children with complex needs. We have successfully placed children and young people from therapeutic communities, children deemed at risk due to their behaviours, for example prostitution and drug/alcohol use. We have also successfully placed children who are struggling to come to terms with their life and therefore need firm boundaries, nurturing, time and patience in order to improve their life chances and choices. We provide education for children whilst we negotiate with local authority education departments ensuring that children do not fall behind and are supported when they have a school placement. A risk assessment is undertaken at the point of referral to ensure that the child referred is suitable for foster care. We would recommend that any child who presents aggressive behaviours experiences a period in Sedgemoor residential care first for assessment and are then be moved in a planned way to a foster family.



The Fostering Team has a range of foster carers who provide respite, short term and long term fostering. Many of our foster carers are approved to be long term 'forever families'. All placements made by the Fostering Team are planned placements with full information and preparation both for the child and foster carer, in order to ensure positive outcomes for children.





The Network

Our network of education provision is managed and co-ordinated by our National Director of Education and Regional Heads of Education.

Satellite Education Units

Serving each cluster of residential houses we have small, specialised single sex education units which together are all fully registered with the DfES.

All Sedgemoor education units deliver a modularised curriculum in a way that minimises pupil disaffection, with all teaching blocks being organised into discrete five-week modules. Both the educational environment and the curriculum are highly structured and offer an educational experience to meet a wide range of special educational needs. We also provide opportunities for all students to access externally accredited examinations through a curriculum tailored to provide an appropriate balance between National Curriculum criteria and individual needs. Education units cater for a maximum of 4 pupils full time with the smaller ones having 7 pupils. All pupils at Sedgemoor are taught in small single sex group settings. In addition to general teaching areas, all Education Units have specialist facilities for Art, Science, Food Technology, Music and Careers.

Outreach Education

Each region has a network of specialist tutors who provide Education Outreach programmes. These are 1:1 arrangements or small teaching groups for more socially and emotionally vulnerable young people whose difficulties require a more highly focused/supported educational response. The objective for each tutor is to re-integrate each pupil back into the 'mainframe' and they may enable this by supporting them in school themselves once the integration programme is under way.

Assessment

In addition to providing a thorough base line assessment for each pupil - that then dovetails into an individual education programme and a comprehensive review programme - Sedgemoor operates a number of specialised assessment centres. These are short stay units and give our skilled, fully supported staff the opportunity to make carefully informed judgements as to the pupils' educational needs, any additional support and a view as to how Sedgemoor will meet those needs.

Vocational Education

Each region has effective links to businesses and local Further Education Provisions enabling our pupils to experience a range of work options and to undertake preparatory work before the pupil commits to a fully supported FE course of study.

"The staff give you attention and your own space."

Karen

