

EXTENSIVE EDUCATION



We have an absolute commitment to the importance of education. Our very clear starting point is that education at Sedgemoor is non-negotiable. Wherever the young people live within the range of Sedgemoor residential or Outreach provision, they are expected to attend school either through Sedgemoor resources or in mainstream schools. We have constructed our education programmes in a way that we believe minimises the risk of continued failure and gives clear opportunities for all to succeed. We provide an extensive needs driven range of educational opportunities with exceptional staff-pupil ratios and full statutory reviewing throughout.









Whilst the Fostering Team works closely with Residential Care to identify children who could be placed in foster care, most of the children referred are placed directly into foster care.

Discussions take place between the referring authority and the National Fostering Manager, which identify the child's needs and a profile of a family that would best suit the child. The Fostering Team will then provide information to the referring authority in respect of potential foster carers who provide the best 'match'. Following full information being provided and the child's social worker visiting the potential foster carer, a plan of introductions will be drawn up which, if successful, will result in a placement date being agreed by all parties involved.

Positive working relationships are the essence of Sedgemoor's fostering service. Foster carers understand the importance of communication with the fostering services enabling any issues to be dealt with in an efficient and effective manner. Equally, supervising social workers understand the importance of supervision, support and the management of foster carers, which enable young people placed to enjoy safe and consistent foster care. The Sedgemoor fostering team and foster carers work actively with placing authorities and all other professionals involved to ensure positive outcomes and improved life chances and choices for the child or young person.

All foster carers receive pre and post approval training. Mandatory post approval training programmes are to NVQ level 3; Caring for Children and Young People, Safe Caring, First Aid, Child Protection and Behaviour Management.

Foster carers are supervised by qualified social workers with experience in family placements. All new placements are subject to at least weekly supervision for the first six months of placement. Foster carers

"I hope that you can come here and be as happy as I am."

Kelly

receive daily telephone contact for the first four weeks of placement, thereafter two to three times each week and will at some stage be reduced to weekly if appropriate. All foster carers participate in an on-going training programme; additional training needs are identified through supervision and annual reviews.

Sedgemoor Foster Care Services are registered with the NCSC and actively work with the National Standards of Foster Care (UK) 1999 and the Fostering Services Regulations 2002. Sedgemoor's Foster Care Panel is chaired by a BAAF representative and in line with the Regulations approves foster carers.

Every child or young person placed with foster carers will be expected to attend school. If they cannot attend a community school for any reason they will be educated within Sedgemoor's educational provision on a 1:1 basis, whilst a community school placement is identified. Sedgemoor actively works with the local education services and will support children in community schools in order to prevent suspensions and exclusions. Our success rate of integrating children into community schools is impressive with all children placed attending and benefiting from being a part of the community.

"We were most impressed with the care, effort and money that is invested to try and turn difficult children into responsible citizens."

Magistrates Courts