

asphaleia care

asphaleia care provides services for young people aged 16-24 based in Sussex and London. We believe effective care can only be expressed in a holistic view and see all young people according to their unique sense of identity.

Summer sports fun day

Young people & asphaleia staff enjoy a day of competitive sporting action!

More than 60 young people joined asphaleia care staff on Saturday 28th July for our annual sports day.

This year saw teams battle out on the football pitch, the running track, table tennis and volleyball court. There was even a test for all football fanatics to see how fast they could kick a football - the fastest being 54 mph!

Sports fans also witnessed a first for asphaleia - our Executive Director causing trouble on the football pitch.

Winners on the day included Team Elite who took home the asphaleia cup after winning 5-a-side football. Ali Najmadeem, who won the Alusine Kamara fair play award, said: "It's an honour to receive this award as it's named after someone so special."

Next year's sports day will be held in Refugee Week and care are hoping to

get more looked after children involved, including teams from our London branch in Uxbridge.

One young person said: "It was a brilliant day - a chance to play with

people from around the world and say no to racism!"

If you would like to find out more please contact us on 01903 218537 or email timothywall@asphaleia.co.uk*



Young people get sporty (& a little competitive) on our sports day

care developments

Exciting new work at asphaleia care



Age assessments

Care has been asked to become more involved with age assessments and will be receiving training from the child asylum team very soon.

Leaving Care Team (LCT)

Care is still hoping to develop an outreach service for all young care leavers and is in talks with the LCT managers to try and develop this work further.

Feedback from the LCT workers has been positive and care staff are hopeful the first referral will happen soon.

Keep checking the care website for more updates on these and other developments.

This newsletter is produced by asphaleia boost - www.a-boost.co.uk

Staff changes at care

- This month care said goodbye to valuable member of the outreach team, Elsie. Elsie has gone on to a new area of work after being with care for over two years. Everyone at asphaleia is grateful for the impact Elsie had on the young people she worked with.

- care are very pleased to welcome two new members of staff to their team. In London, Juan Quesada began working for asphaleia in July. In Sussex Emma Cave has joined the team. Welcome to you both!

For more information about care and any current vacancies, visit www.a-care.co.uk

Tackling tough issues

Care staff participate in team day, dealing with the challenge of returns

On 9th August the care team met in London for a team day, discussing the new asylum model and its impact on unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people, as many face the prospect and reality of their asylum claims being refused by the Home Office.

The care team invited two guest speakers from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to come and explain how the process works if somebody was to return voluntarily. IOM can help asylum seekers return to their home countries in a number of ways.

West London care manager Edwin Appiah said: "This is such a hard area to discuss with a young person. They see us as people who can help them build their lives here, but we also have to talk with them about going back to their

home country. Many don't even want to hear the words 'returning to your country'".

Many questions were asked about how the process works which dismissed lots of the myths that are attached to the IOM; some young people believe just talking to the IOM means they will be returned immediately. Ideas were shared on how this could be approached with a young person and the type of environment in which this could take place. One of the greatest challenges seems to be the young person understanding why IOM is in place.

Edwin concluded: "I do feel more confident talking about this now, however it will continue to be a challenge, as the thought of going home for many young people is just not something they can bear to think about."

Care factfile



Care member - Brook Berhane

title - Outreach Worker

why this role? - Brook previously had a position as a youth worker but wanted to be more involved and be more hands on with young people. He also wanted to work with a different group of young people.

what makes me unique? - Brook had the ability to build a common ground with young people and have an understanding of their needs and issues

achievements - Brook was awarded staff member of the year at the 2007 asphaleia awards

one word that describes you - friendly!

something extra - Brook once played for the England under 12's Cricket team

to relax I - watch DVD's - loads of them!

hopes for the future - to see more of the world

contact - get in touch with Brook at bereketberhane@asphaleia.co.uk

asphaleia fostering

we believe all children have the right to equal life chances



foster v. - to promote growth

fostering receive their first foster child!

asphaleia fostering is celebrating! Our first child has been placed and the team are seeing the first fruits of their labour. "It's been a lengthy journey," says Carol, fostering manager. "But seeing a young person enjoying a joke with his foster carer and looking very much 'at home' makes it all worth while."

Reza Valeh, fostering for the first time, reflects on the experience. "It's been a great start for us to fostering. We have enough shared culture to understand how to live together and we can help our foster child adapt to living in England. We had to make the adjustment ourselves when we came here from Iran and see our own children living with both Iranian and British cultures. I would like to move to a bigger house now so we could foster other children too."

Kamal (not real name) arrived speaking no English but within a month he is already able to have a conversation. He attends A+ and loves his teacher Emily. He has found friends locally to play football with in the park. He is keen to go on to school and says he is very happy in the house.

"We at asphaleia fostering are keen to see other children and young people in our own foster homes and look forward to the day we can enter care's annual football tournament with our own fostering team," says Carol.

fostering are keen to recruit carers who speak Farsi or Urdu. If you know of anyone who may be interested please get in touch with Carol.

Want to know more? get in touch today...

T: 01903 218537/01895 272485

E: contactus@asphaleia.co.uk

W: www.a-care.co.uk

If you would like to be added to our mailing list please email contactus@asphaleia.co.uk

**Thanks to West Sussex Social Services for their financial support with the sports day*



care n. - a thing to be done