

# asphaleiacare

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.

## care in Kent

### Supporting newly arrived young boys in Dover

asphaleia care is now working with Kent County Council to support newly arrived young boys arriving in the UK, via Dover Port.

care staff try to keep the boys' minds occupied



Back in October 2007 asphaleia care was approached by Kent County Council to undertake some partnership work with a group in the local area.

"All of the young people are based in a reception hotel close to the port on arrival and then aged assessed by a social worker, before a decision is made as to their age," explains West London care manager Edwin Appiah.

"If they are under 18 they are transferred to the local group, where they are provided with other support services, some toiletries and basic clothing," he adds.

Staff support the boys with assistance during immigration issues, health checks and they also spend time with them during meal times.

It can be a very frustrating time for care staff, as the young boys are very anxious when they first arrive and ask lots of questions as to where they may go and how long they will remain where they are. As no timescales are often given, staff cannot provide the answers to their questions.

"As well as support, our staff also provide the boys with some sort of entertainment including Basic English classes, outside activities like football, walks around the town, bingo," says Edwin. "This helps to keep their minds occupied and can ease some anxieties."

The team have formed great relationships with these young boys and now hope to continue this valuable work in Gravesend.

## care develops in West London

### asphaleia care becomes landlord to London properties

Late in 2007 care became the landlord of three West London properties - a very exciting development for the team.

The properties, located in Uxbridge, consist of two for female occupancy and one for male, ages 16-24.

"It is something we as a team have always discussed as we have known how well it works in Sussex," explains Edwin Appiah. "A great opportunity to take the service further."

The delivery of outreach support is provided to the young people within these properties as well as day-to-day maintenance. "The transition for

the young people has been positive in relation to where they were previously accommodated," adds Edwin.

The young people have expressed the properties feel "homely" and they have more freedom to show they can act responsibly in a major step towards becoming independent.

One young person said: "It is good I am still living with people I know and the location is good."

This project is still in its earlier stages and the care team are committed to deliver a good quality service to all those involved.

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

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

www.a-care.co.uk

- on 11th May some of our young people were given the opportunity to attend Chelsea's last game of the season - a day full of mixed emotions especially for West Sussex care manager Tim who is a Chelsea fan.

- student social worker Jason Archie has now finished his placement with us and we wish him well for the future.

- West London staff are due to undertake various training in First Aid and Food Safety

- all the news and results from the asphaleia care Sports Day will feature in the next edition.

# Young person profile

This month we see how a young person in our care is following their dreams

Ahmed\*, 17 years old, has been in the UK for three years, after leaving his home country Palestine. Through the outreach work provided at care, it was discovered he has a great passion for singing and dancing - a passion he has had since childhood.

Ahmed has been receiving outreach support from his allocated worker for one year. He feels very confident in performing and talking to people and likes to express what he feels in the form of singing, writing and dancing.

Ahmed feels proud when he receives positive feedback on what he has done - it gives him a sense of achievement.

Since being in the UK Ahmed has gone to school and studied music and drama. He is currently in college studying Performing Arts.

In between all of this Ahmed has also been involved in local cultural events and performances at college dancing and acting.

Ahmed said "Music for me was a dream to be involved since a young age. Singing and writing my own songs sends a message out about children and the world in general. I like to help people who have been through the same experiences as me."

## care team day

A day of shared learning for the care team

Care teams from London and Sussex met earlier this year for their annual team day. The day involved looking at Every Child Matters, Destitute Young People, the New Asylum Model and Stress.

"The theme of Every Child Matters is something the care teams are involved with in their work everyday," explains Sussex care manager Tim Wall.

"It can directly have an impact on the work undertaken so in some instances may need more consideration and thought. This session involved looking at how our young people can achieve in

the future be it here in the UK or their counties of origin if returned," he adds.

To look at what happens, or can potentially happen, when young people become destitute guest speaker Mary Jane from Brighton Exiles joined the team for the day. The information shared has already been put into practice.

Leia Monsoon, care outreach worker, also spoke about the issues of stress for our young people. She identified the many different signs of stress and explained how it might affect young people.

All the sessions were vital in enabling both care teams to create high quality services to meet the holistic needs of our young people. The more informed our teams are, the better chance care has in achieving their aims.



The asphaleia care team

## care factfile



care member - Christy Mullay

title - Houseparent

why this role? - I never thought I would get the opportunity to work with young people who either no longer had parents or were separated from them right here in England. When I saw this role advertised I was truly excited. I really feel for people who have no family and are lonely in this world. This role gives me the opportunity to try and give them a piece back of what they have lost

what makes me unique? - I can adapt to many different cultures and embrace them easily

one word that describes you - compassionate

something extra - I am a figure skater and ice skating instructor and I love to play ice hockey

to relax I - mostly I relax by lighting some candles and watching a film

hopes for the future - I want to go back to college and learn several different languages

contact - get in touch with Christy at [christymullay@asphaleia.co.uk](mailto:christymullay@asphaleia.co.uk)

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care n. - a thing to be done