

asphaleia fostering

asphaleia fostering provides fostering services for local authorities including child placements and professional development for carers. This service ensures we can make a positive difference to any vulnerable child's life and provide homes for children facing a period of uncertainty.

Welcome to fostering!

We are delighted to be bringing you the first newsletter for the venture. Over the past few years asphaleia fostering has grown from an idea into a fully formed service offering support to young people and their carers.

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This quarterly newsletter will bring you information on asphaleia fostering, details of our activities and stories from our staff and, occasionally the young people who benefit from our care.

asphaleia fostering is part of the asphaleia group, the aim of which is to impact the lives of as many young people as we can.

The story so far...

Carol Lusher, fostering Manager, tells how fostering has grown into a vital service supporting vulnerable young people providing safe and nurturing homes



Carol Lusher

asphaleia fostering has had an exciting journey from an idea to an established service.

In 2004 asphaleia recruited a social worker to set up and register as a fostering agency.

At that time we were working with unaccompanied asylum seekers in our supported houses and through outreach in West Sussex and West London providing for 16 and 17 year olds. A+ was offering education to the under 16s and through our networks we were meeting and working with foster carers. Setting up our own fostering agency seemed the next logical step.

In 2005 I registered as fostering Manager. The challenge was on to recruit carers and get our first foster child. As everything was new, this was no small endeavour!

Our first foster child arrived in August 2007. By the end of 2007 we had three families approved to foster and three children in our care.

The opportunity to work with West Sussex and Brighton and Hove Councils to provide foster carers was key in my decision to focus on the fostering service. We were accepted as approved providers and achieved an overall standard of good in our Ofsted inspection with some outstanding areas too.

Today we have a team of fostering families and are pleased to be working with local children as well as asylum seekers.

Fostering is everything to me

"I have been fostering for over a year and I love it! I have fostered three children in that time and currently share my home with a fourth.

"Many years ago, a friend of mine who fostered told me I should do it. As a mum to three children myself, she thought I would be good at it. Last summer came a point where I felt I could open my home to other children and applied to become a carer with asphaleia.

"asphaleia were recommended to me as an agency. They are very supportive and there is always someone at the end of the phone if you need anything. They offer the unique support of the rest of the asphaleia group and you really feel part of the wider organisation.

"My favourite thing about fostering is making a difference and watching a young person's self esteem grow. I do

find it challenging knowing I cannot go back in time and change what has happened to them in the past.

"The child I have at the moment has no contact with her family. I am supporting her in whatever way I can to meet her needs and encourage her to continue with her education and development.

"If I had to describe fostering with asphaleia in three words I would say interesting, rewarding and challenging. I hope I am doing it for many, many years to come."

By Jo Wells, foster carer



The aim for asphaleia fostering now is to maintain the standards we have and continually work to improve and grow.



foster v.- to promote growth

It's an exciting area to work in with a seemingly endless need for safe and nurturing homes for some of the more vulnerable people in our society.

in the next fostering newsletter..

- could you foster?

- an update on our training series for professionals supporting asylum seeking young people

- a story from a young person about asphaleia fostering

- an update on asphaleia fostering in Kent

Look out for the next issue in Spring 2010!

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

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