



## **THE EXTRA MILE**

**Project Manager: Catherine Slater**

**Deputy Manager: Val Peachey**

**Tel: 0161 763 5535**

**Presentation to Employer Forum on Diversity  
21 April 2004**

### **Young Care-leavers**

#### **1. REASONS WHY YOUNG PEOPLE MAYBE IN CARE:**

95% care leavers in care for no reason of their own.

- Abuse
- Neglect
- Death of a parent
- Adoption breakdown
- Mental health of parent

#### **2. TYPES OF CARE:**

- Residential Home
- Residential School
- Foster Care
- Placement with other family member/friend

#### **3. DIFFERENT OUTCOMES**

Positive/Negative/  
Resilience

See diagram 1

#### **4. ISSUES FOR LOOKED-AFTER CHILDREN**

- Number of placement moves
- Lack of family contact
- Lack of identity / fragmented person
- Lack of self-worth
- Look to other young people to form alliances – family
- Lack of trust in adults



## **THE EXTRA MILE**

**Project Manager: Catherine Slater**

**Deputy Manager: Val Peachey**

**Tel: 0161 763 5535**

### **5. PREPARATION FOR LEAVING CARE**

Leaving Care Act came into force in 2000. Ring fenced grant given to Local Authority to improve services for 16+. This Q.P. money was to improve the life chances for young people leaving care (Dept Health 2000)

- In conjunction with government, the social exclusion unit wanted to ensure that young people leaving care and entering adulthood were not isolated and were able to participate socially and economically as citizens.
- Research in 1999 Department of Health had shown for care leavers:
  - 50% unemployed.
  - 75% no formal qualifications.
  - 20% homeless within 2 years
  - 23% adult prisoners.
  - 38% young prisoners.
- Highlighted how young people were forced to live independently in quick transitions and having to tackle:
  - Challenge of managing a home
  - Find and remain in employment
  - Cope financially
  - Bond & sustain a network of friendships,all within a small space of time.



## **THE EXTRA MILE**

**Project Manager: Catherine Slater**

**Deputy Manager: Val Peachey**

**Tel: 0161 763 5535**

### **6.**

#### **ISSUES AFFECTING EMPLOYMENT**

- Lack of adequate housing
- Mental health issues
- Teenage pregnancy
- Lack of motivation/malaise
- Lack of belief in themselves
- Distracted by other forces:
  - Peers
  - Relationships
- Drug/alcohol misuse.
- Criminal history
- Cynical view of training scheme:
  - Financial
  - Exploitative
  - Commitment
- Lack of support network
- Looking to develop a mentoring/ volunteer scheme

### **7.**

#### **WHAT WE DO TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE**

Each young person has a personal adviser, who develops a Pathway Plan which covers all aspects of a Young person's life:

- Health
- Education/Employment
- Finances
- Housing
- Leisure, etc.

Extra Mile works closely with Bury EST and Connexions to:

- Gather information about a young person's achievement and potential.
- Access skills & abilities for employment.
- Work creatively to increase their employability
- Ensure employment contacts are flexible.
- Provide adequate & continuous emotional & financial support & raise awareness of needs of young people in employment.
- Monitor outcomes.
- Liaise with Housing Dept/other agencies & voluntary organisations.
- Work in a solution-focused way.



## **THE EXTRA MILE**

**Project Manager: Catherine Slater**

**Deputy Manager: Val Peachey**

**Tel: 0161 763 5535**

### **DIAGRAM 1**

#### **THE MOVING ON GROUP**

The moving-on group are likely to have had stability and continuity in their lives; are

- highly resilient
- welcome increasing independence
- and are able to make good use of the help offered to them

#### **THE SURVIVORS GROUP**

The survivors group have experienced more instability, movement and disruption.

Positive outcomes for this group are likely to rely much more heavily on the quality of aftercare support that they receive.

#### **THE VICTIMS GROUP**

The victims group have had the most damaging pre-care experiences and, in the main, care was unable to compensate for this.

They are most likely to be unemployed, homeless, lonely, isolated, and to suffer from mental health problems.

Aftercare support was unlikely to help them overcome their poor starting points, but was very important to them.