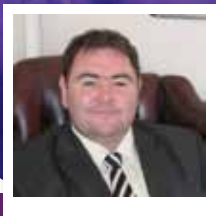


real people real improvements...

northerncare news
autumn/winter
2008-2009



northerncare
because every child is individual

Welcome to the winter edition of northerncare news. Our latest newsletter highlights the efforts and outcomes within our homes and practice over the past few months. One specific example of the excellent projects and activities our children and young people get involved in was the magnificent response to the Olympic Games competition which allowed for so much creativity, effort and imagination.

Our focus in recent months has been on our educational delivery to all the young people in our homes and the outstanding GCSE results and other educational achievements have only highlighted the effort both young people and staff have put in, inside and outside the classroom, and are pivotal to improving the life chances of many looked after young people. In the forthcoming months there will be many innovations and changes within education to develop and enhance our offering to all our pupils.

Following on from our success and inclusion on The Sunday Times Virgin Fast Track 100 list, northerncare have also been helping the NHS celebrate their 60 year anniversary with our Best Practice article under Care and Special Educational Needs in the commemorative book. We have an exciting 2008-2009 expansion plan in operation, which you can read more about inside, and we look forward to continuing and developing our partnership with your local authority over the coming months and years.

David Rae
Chief Executive

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Ofsted Filming

When Ofsted were looking for a children's residential service to film to highlight their new remit of inspecting children's homes, they asked their inspectors to recommend a service. Top of the list was The Nook, northern^{care}'s care and education service for boys aged between 8 and 13, based near Colne in Lancashire.



A film crew from Channel 2020 was dispatched on location to The Nook to obtain footage to use in the film. Budding film star, Nathan aged 11, agreed to take on the lead role alongside his co-star and Registered Manager, Brian Carrott (Jasper). The remit was to capture Nathan in his bedroom, on the telephone, making lunch and playing football. Footage would then be used by Ofsted to demonstrate internally to their own staff their expanded inspection role, with filmed case studies, on the Ofsted intranet.

The film crew was led by Producer (and Camera Man) Chris O'Brien, ably assisted by Assistant Producer, Hollie Foster, and Camera Assistant, Shannon O'Brien. In each film setting, lighting and the camera had to be positioned,

with the camera being moved on mini-rails in order to move with the action. The only thing missing from the set was a clapperboard and a director shouting "Take 9" as Nathan patiently walked up the stairs for another shot. Nathan's patience was a redeeming feature of the day – there were none of the big star tantrums from him, instead a willingness to listen and learn, and a mature attitude. This helped the crew to get the film in the can in half the time they had allocated for the shoot, and as a reward, they were then able to enjoy the sandwiches prepared by Nathan and Jasper while they were being filmed, while watching the playback of the footage.

So for Nathan, he has taken the first step on the road to media stardom, with a glowing reference from Chris O'Brien that he is "a natural in front of the camera". A big well done to Nathan, a big thank you to Chris and the film crew for their understanding, and a big thank you to co-star Jasper and all the young people and staff at The Nook, who kept out of the way and allowed the film shoot to proceed without interruption.



Ofsted Outstanding



Following on from our multiple "Outstanding" ratings during our homes' Ofsted inspections and the subsequent 2006-2007 Ofsted Outstanding award, northern^{care} have continued to achieve overall quality ratings of "Outstanding" throughout 2008. We now have a total of 11 homes across the country that have achieved this rating, some numerous times, and the rest of our homes have achieved overall ratings of "Good".

Home	Ofsted Overall Rating
Piers House, Pennsylvania House, The Limes, The Birches, Oakwood, Aidenswood, Glendale House, The Cedars, Park View, New Haven, Sycamore House	Outstanding
The Willows, The Old Hall, Mill House, Evaglades, The Firs, The Nook, Applegate, Primrose Cottage, The Elms, West Tarn, Rowan House, Holly House, Number 19	Good

Celebrating Success in our Homes

Beijing Olympics Competition

northern^{care}'s homes were given the opportunity to embrace the summer Olympic Games in Beijing by representing a different country each. At our Summer Managers' Event, each Home Manager drew a country out of a hat from those participating at the Olympics.

Each home's challenge was to come up with an imaginative way to represent that home's chosen country. This could be anything they liked!

Each home presented their discoveries to their Service Manager and northern^{care}'s Directors presented the two Cluster Winners with £100 cheques and the overall Winner with a £500 cheque, all to be used for recreational activities. Well done to every home that took part and congratulations to the winners.

Cluster Winner - Aidenswood

Aidenswood in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire drew Japan and had an excellent afternoon learning about the country. Everyone got crafty and made t-shirts and decorations depicting the Japanese flag and then made a Japanese feast for their evening meal, including various national dishes. There were also a number of games played and a few brain teasers including Sudoku.



Cluster Winner – The Willows

The Willows in Herne Bay, Kent created a Safari in their hallway for their country, Kenya. They drew and learnt about many of the animals that you would see on Safari if you visited the country and learnt all about the area, local people and the ways of life there. The children at The Willows are aged between 5 and 11 and they made some excellent wall displays and even turned themselves into a local tribe!



Cluster Winner and Overall Winner of the Olympics Competition – Park View

Park View in Accrington, Lancashire drew America from the hat and held a week-long event to discover many different aspects about the country. In education they learnt all about the War of Independence, Native American Indians, the Prohibition, Al Capone, race and America's space exploration. They also made some excellent wall displays depicting all of the aspects they had studied.

There were also many other events involving aspects of American life taking place throughout the week, including a ten pin bowling tournament, baseball and dodge-ball PE lessons and a 2 on 2 basketball competition between the staff and young people. They also went sea fishing, Banger racing, had a Las Vegas night where various typical games were played for sweets and hosted two cinema nights where Batman and Geronimo were viewed with hot dogs and popcorn.



northerncare's Head of Education at the forefront of TES reform

Paul Heaven was described in a recent Times Education Supplement front page article as a "top UK teacher...ready to play a key role as the British teaching community embraces its bright and buoyant future". One TES member said, "Paul has been doing some really good things up to now, so I'm looking forward to comparing notes and sharing ideas and resources."

Paul and his teaching colleagues nationally have been connected through the new network and resource platform TESconnect which has enabled them to share resources, ideas, experience and advice. The launch of TESconnect is timely with the beginning of the new school year. To read the full article please visit www.tes.co.uk



Arrival of Mark Thomas, Business Development Manager

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mark Thomas as Business Development Manager at northerncare. Mark joins us from The West Midlands Children's Commissioning Partnership where he was Project Manager. He has over 12 years experience in the independent sector, having previously worked in the NHS commissioning in North East London.

Mark is particularly interested in improving outcomes for young people, having been heavily involved in regional work in the North West and West Midlands, and has been working with Walsall Council on introducing an Outcomes Framework to multi-agency teams.

To find out how northerncare can enable young people to achieve improved outcomes, please contact Mark on 07816 070460 or email him at mark.thomas@northern-care.co.uk



PHILIP HOLT, FOUNDER AND CO-OWNER OF NORTHERNCARE

northerncare help celebrate 60 years of the NHS

northerncare are delighted to have been included in the publication "60 years of the National Health Service". Entry into the publication was by invitation only in recognition of making a significant contribution to the sector.

The commemorative book celebrates the ethos of patient care, the powerful research, the world class facilities, the suppliers, the partners and the committed staff that make the NHS such a unique achievement.

The limited edition was produced and delivered in 2008 to UK MPs, senior government officials, local, health and education authorities, Universities, NHS Trusts, Primary Care Trusts, emergency services, CEOs and chairs of FTSE 350 and Times Top 100 companies and widely throughout the Health industry.

northerncare's profile is under Best Practice for Care and Special Educational Needs and celebrates the company's history, achievements, partnership working, children's outcomes and future aims.

northerncare's young people aim high!

Chelsea from Primrose Cottage certainly has reason to be very proud of herself. Nearly two years ago a very angry and hostile girl arrived at Primrose Cottage who had no intention of staying. She fought against staff, peers, Social Services and her family. Today, her transformation is unbelievable. Chelsea is now a polite, hard working and extremely likeable young woman.

She was determined to do something with her life so, with the help and support from staff, she wrote out her CV and began handing them out in the local area. One of the most sought after

hairdressers spotted her potential and employed her as a Saturday girl. After only a few weeks the owner of the salon was so impressed with her he offered her a permanent full-time apprenticeship, which includes attending college 1 day a week to do her NVQ training.

To celebrate her successful achievement, David Rae presented Chelsea with a voucher for a Pamper Day at the local Health Spa. Dave also presented Chelsea with 8 Entry Level AQAs. Well done Chelsea from all the staff at Primrose Cottage.



Andy was introduced to Piers House from one of northerncare's assessment homes in February 2006 and is a great example of a professional assessment service being undertaken and the appropriate future placement being identified to fit his assessed needs.



Andy had been excluded from mainstream school and had other issues that the staff worked with him on. After an initial period of stabilisation and assessment within the Piers House classroom it was deemed that Andy had the capability of attaining GCSEs.

Andy eventually re-joined mainstream education at Bispham High School in January 2007 on a full-time basis in Year 10. Bispham High was identified as the desired choice as it is a Performing Arts college as well, which was perfect for Andy as he was already a member of SCREAM, a drama school which he attended every Saturday morning. His hard work and dedication reaped the awards when he went on to sit and pass 7 GCSEs in August 2008.

Andy has also achieved in other areas including his dramatic ventures with SCREAM. Through this he registered with an acting agency where he gained work. Most recently, Andy has worked on the BBC programme, "Waterloo Road" gaining national coverage. He has also been involved as an advocate for northerncare, in the form of appearing in our company DVD, filming video clips for exhibitions and being the face of our brochure.

Andy has used the support and guidance offered to him at Piers House to become a mature and well balanced young man who is now working part-time in a local sports shop and attending college 4 days a week on a course to gain a Diploma in Drama.

northerncare sponsor new Fylde Soccer School



northerncare are pleased to announce they are the main sponsors of the new Fylde soccer school for children and young people aged 5 to 12 years of age. The soccer school is run by Bolton Wanderers player, Gavin McCann, ex-Sheffield Wednesday and Blackpool FC player, John Hills and ex-Blackpool and Everton FC player, Jamie Milligan. Training sessions are held Monday to Friday throughout the school holidays at King Edward VII and Queen Mary High School in Lytham St Annes, Lancashire.

The courses are specifically designed to introduce children of all abilities to the game and continue their development in football and also help them understand the necessity of maintaining a good level of personal fitness. Children receive professional training from local professional footballers in a fun, safe environment. The sessions are open to children and young people across the Fylde coast.

Please contact Jamie on 07703 213979 or visit www.fyldefooty.co.uk for more information on booking places. All northerncare looked after children aged 5-12 have the opportunity to take part. In addition, Jamie and Gavin hold monthly football training sessions at the same high school, for young people from northerncare homes aged up to 17. They will also be giving any young people and staff who wish to gain a National Level One coaching badge from the Football Association the opportunity to be put through during these monthly sessions and by having additional coaching sessions as well.

We are extremely proud to be involved in this new project as we believe that all children and young people should be encouraged to participate in positive activities in their communities, to help them be healthy and enjoy and achieve.

Dwayne is a young person who was introduced to Piers House from Redbank Secure unit after completing 6 months of a 12 month sentence for committing numerous offences. He was a very high profile young man within his local police force and was well known by all local agencies including the Social Services department.

He quite openly stated on introduction in September 2006 that he didn't wish to live in Blackpool at Piers House. It is testament to the hard work of all the staff and to Dwayne himself, that not only did he commit to Piers House but he has managed to complete many positive things during his time at the home.

Dwayne is a very intelligent young man who was identified as being able to complete formal qualifications to a high standard. It was deemed appropriate that Dwayne should complete his formal education in Year 11 at a local college. A course was highlighted and, after completing an entrance exam, Dwayne was accepted on a course to gain a Diploma in Construction which he commenced in September 2007.

Despite having a few issues early on in the year, the valuable support from both the College and his key worker enabled Dwayne to settle down and complete the year. When Dwayne received his results it was with great delight that we found out he had achieved a "Distinction" for his efforts.

Dwayne has also started to rebuild his relationship with his mother and his placing authority is delighted with the progress he has made during the time he has been with northerncare. He hasn't committed any further offences and is fully integrated in the local community. He has formed a positive friendship with a college friend, which has led to him playing for a local football team in the Sunday league.

Dwayne also has a caring and mature side which has been evidenced by his relationship with another young person who lives at Piers House. This young person has special needs and Dwayne soon noticed how the staff team tried to support this young person and formed a positive relationship with him.

Dwayne is currently employed by a local window fitter and goes out to work 4 days a week. He plans to do this until he is of the right age to join the army in 12 months time.



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Conferences and Events

National Commissioning and Contracting Training Conference

We are proud to announce that northerncare were sponsors of the NCCTC at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire on 2nd and 3rd October 2008. Our workshop on the day was held in partnership with Coventry City Council and entitled, "Achieving Improved Outcomes through Commissioning" which reviewed the largest block contract ever awarded. This presentation is available by visiting our website at www.northern-care.co.uk and clicking the download request.



Community Care Live, London

northerncare will be exhibitors at Community Care Live, Children and Families on 29th October 2008 at the Business Design Centre, Islington. We hope you will come along and meet us at stands 82 and 83.

If you missed out on either of these events, we would be more than happy to discuss developing relationships between your local authority and northerncare either over the telephone or in person. Please contact Mark Thomas, Business Development Manager on 01253 316160.

Proud Sponsors of The Excellence Network

northerncare are delighted to again be part of this innovation: The Excellence Network. Community Care's honours programme has a simple but significant objective – to recognise excellence and share it with the whole of social care.

Alongside this celebration of teamwork, The Excellence Network will also recognise Community Care Champions. They'll be individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty. The awards will be presented in May 2009 at the honours ceremony.



Working in Partnership with FC United and Local Authorities

northerncare have been working in partnership with FC United, the supporter-owned football club, since 2006 to provide free tickets to young people in care and their carers for all the club's home fixtures. As one of the largest providers of residential childcare with education in the UK, northerncare is fully aware of the importance of including young people in care in the community and achieving positive outcomes.

Young people in your local authority are eligible to participate in this scheme. Tickets are available for carers when taking young people to the home matches at Gigg Lane, Bury (1 adult ticket per 2 young people). Disabled access tickets are also available upon request.

We are extremely proud to be leading the way with this pioneering project, working in partnership with local authorities and FC United. It is a true representation of the principles by which the company runs; supporting young people in order to further their lives. We believe that all young people should be encouraged to participate in their communities and we are endeavouring to facilitate this with all our partners.

Following on from the success of our last three football tournaments, northerncare will be holding a 4th tournament in partnership with FC United on Saturday 8th November 2008 at Powerleague (previously the JJB Soccer Dome) at Trafford Park, Manchester. northerncare will be providing tickets for everyone to go and watch the FC United home game against Ashton United after the tournament which kicks off at 3pm at Gigg Lane, Bury.

If young people from your local authority would like free tickets for any FC United home games or would like more information about taking part in the tournament, please contact Laura Harvie on freephone 0800 040 7870 or email her at laura.harvie@northern-care.co.uk.



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northerncare's young people excel in education



Here at northerncare, we recognise the importance of education and how stable education supports stable placements, and both components are key to significantly improved outcomes for looked after children. We believe that every child should be given the opportunity to enjoy and achieve in education, be it by formal public examinations or vocational awards.

northerncare offers an educational service that engages young people from KS3 to KS4 and into post-16 opportunities. The continuity of an educational service that links stability to evidenced achievement and attainment is a powerful reason to maintain placement stability.

northerncare's schools provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum for each young person, at an appropriate level judged as suitable to their individual needs, age and intellectual development. Below are some of our educational outcomes for 2008.



Did you know that 39% of children in placement at northerncare on 31st August 2008 had been excluded from education prior to admission, and of those, 100% were now on a school register?

For all children in placement on 31st August 2008, 25% were eligible to sit a GCSE or GNVQ in the year 2008 and of those, 69% sat at least one GCSE/GNVQ, of which 95% obtained at least one GCSE grade A to G.



58% of children aged 16 years or over were discharged between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008 with at least one GCSE grade A to G or GNVQ. 54% of those discharged went onto independent living in the community and 38% were discharged with plans to go onto further education, training or employment.

This academic year, one young person at The Old Hall in Halifax sat and passed 9 GCSEs, gaining 3 grade C's, 5 grade D's and 1 grade E.

Between the young people at Aidenswood in Staffordshire, they gained 3 GCSE grade A* (all in Science), 2 GCSE grade B's, 3 GCSE grade C's, 1 GCSE grade D and 1 GCSE grade E.

Across two of our girls' homes, 7 young people passed their Adult Numeracy and Literacy and 2 passed GCSE Maths.

Five of the young men placed at Park View in Accrington have gone on to gain placements on work apprenticeships or courses at local colleges and workplaces to study Mechanics, Equine or Building.

One young man at Piers House in Blackpool sat and passed 7 GCSEs, gaining GCSE grades C in Drama, D in Double Science and English, E in Religious Education and Maths, and F in Design and Technology. You can read more about Andy's story on page 5 of this newsletter.



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New Homes and Services



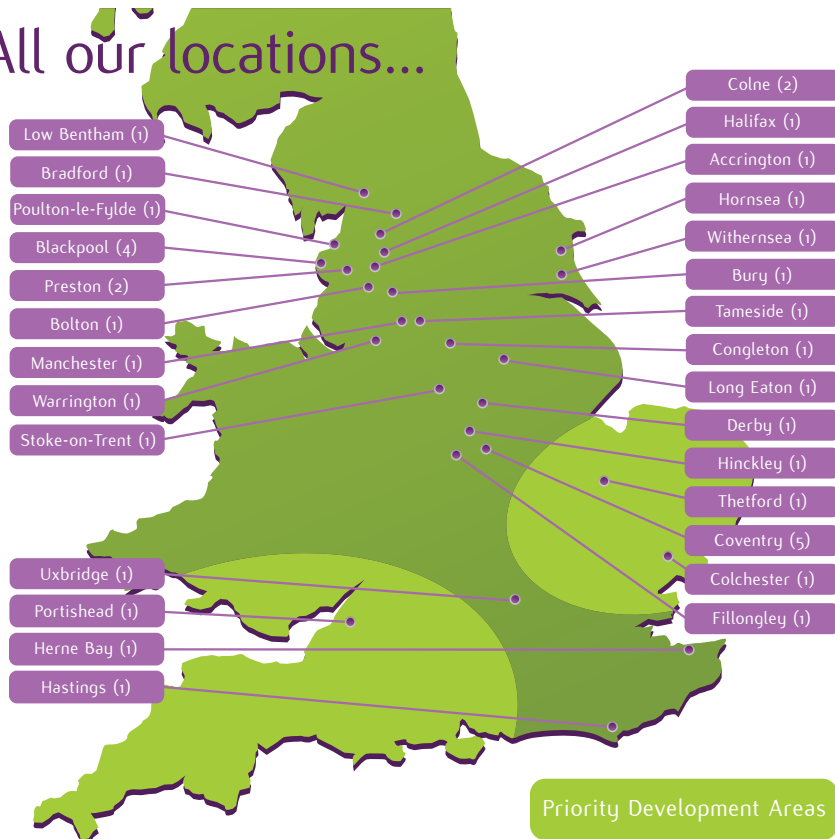
New eco-friendly service in Uxbridge, West London

Blandford House opened in October 2008, and a number of open days and visits were held to showcase this innovative service. NCERCC (National Centre of Excellence for Residential Care) described it as "amazing" and visitors from Ealing and Hillingdon Councils were thrilled at the standard of accommodation. Blandford House is the first environmentally friendly residential care service in the country. Situated in Uxbridge, West London, it provides care and education for up to 10 boys aged 11-17 with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties. The home is split into two 4-bedded sections (one of which is high support) and 2 semi-supported apartments, with on-site education. Blandford House was part of a regeneration project supported by Hillingdon Council, and represents the first northern care service to be established in London.

northerncare's 6th home for vulnerable young women

The Hollies is a 6-bedded girls' home in Haslingden, Lancashire and will extend our total number of single sex girls' homes around the country to 6. As with our other girls' homes, The Hollies provides 52 weeks of care and education to young women aged 11-17 who present challenging behaviours which may be due to attachment disorders and unstable backgrounds and/or for those who suffer from self-harm, substance misuse, and who have experienced abuse or are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

All our locations...



Assessment Service expands

northerncare are also due to open Beach Park, a 6-bedded home for boys in Portishead shortly. Due to demand for our 28-day assessment service by our Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Beach Park will offer assessments for 2 young men aged 11-17 and 4 beds for short or long-term care for males with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties.

Receiving northern care news

If you did not receive this newsletter directly or you have other colleagues who would like to be added to our distribution list, please email laura.harvie@northern-care.co.uk or contact Laura direct on freephone 0800 040 7870.

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Contact Us

If you would like more information about these or any other northern care homes or you have a referral, please call us on freephone 0800 040 7870.

Services:

- Boys with Emotional, Social and Behavioural Difficulties
- Vulnerable Young Women
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Assessment Services

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