



‘Buddy Scheme’

Job Title:	‘Buddy’
Location:	Staffordshire, Lancashire or Manchester
Reports to:	Registered Home Manager

Horizon Care Limited operates a ‘buddy scheme’ for young people ‘looked after’ in our homes. The scheme provides age appropriate companions and positive role models to engage with young person in constructive activities. The scheme aims to improve the life chances of ‘looked after young people’ and enable them to take more advantage of what is happening locally in the company of a ‘buddy’.

Buddies decide together the sort of things they would like to do. It may be meeting for a coffee, a trip to the cinema, library or an evening class.

Examples of some of the benefits for the young person are included below:

- addresses isolation to which young people in care are particularly vulnerable;
- raises young people’s confidence and self-esteem;
- knowing someone is there if you need them;
- helps with difficulties such as bullying;
- young people may be able to ‘speak out’ if they have support (promoting self care);
- the scheme assists with service improvement through feedback from ‘buddies’;

- where the buddy is someone who has been in care it provides opportunities to share experiences of being 'looked after';
- It provides positive role models and promotes
 - Being valued
 - Self esteem
 - Social skills
 - Skills in problem solving
 - Keeping Safe