

Horizon Pride



It has been a busy start to the New Year. On a positive note, we are really excited about the 3 new children's homes that have joined Horizon Care, along with new staff and new young people. We have finally gained registration for our School in Stafford which is now able to educate the young people in our care as well as young people from other parts of Staffordshire.

Pedagogy training has been rolled out across the Company, this is really exciting on two levels. Firstly, we believe we are the first company in the Country to roll out such training which puts everyone on the cutting edge of residential care. Secondly, and more importantly, we hope it will underpin practice and therefore giving everyone more confidence in recognising themselves as 'Care Professionals'!!!

Unfortunately, we have experienced a high turnover of staff in the last few months. This, as everyone knows, creates a lack of continuity both for the young people and the daily running of the Homes. A focused recruitment drive has brought and will continue to bring new staff to post to strengthen the current staff teams within the Homes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of staff who has shown dedication and gone the extra mile when needed. We really appreciate your hard work and commitment, it makes such a significant difference to the work we do and the young people we look after– thank you!

New Homes

We are delighted to welcome all the new members of staff who have recently started work at our new children's homes. Chaseley House in Salford, opened in February, and is being managed by Lisa Hurst with the help of the Assistant Manager, Lee Weston. Bonnie Yule, Lisa Day and Emma Attwood have all joined Chaseley House from other homes along with a new recruit Keri Richards.

Derrylea Cottage in Northern Ireland, which opened in January has an entirely new staff team.

Karen Welsh is the Home Manager; working alongside her team, Darren Ferris, Sarah-Jayne Mulligan, Betty Morris, Stephanie Gunnoe, Brenda O'Hare and Paula Devlin.

Garston House in Liverpool has also now joined Horizon Care. The Manager, Vicky Moran is leading her staff team with the help of the Assistant Manager, Angela Donohue. The team of Residential Care Workers are Louise Gerrard, Rachel Meehan, Phil Wilcott, Peter Kennedy, Brian Thorogood and Peter Oakley.

Pedagogy

Stephan Kleipoedszus, from the Pedagogy training has forwarded his comments on the recent training days. "In the training sessions so far I have met a great number of highly motivated professionals. It has been great to listen to the, sometimes challenging, discussions on how Social Pedagogy can be integrated into the everyday work. I am very optimistic that much of what has been discussed will be developed further in practice. However I would like to encourage more people to make use of the possibility to continue the discussion"

Research Study

Hannah is currently undertaking an investigation into the possible causes of high staff turnover. This involves an Attitude Survey which will highlight what areas you are happy or unhappy with. One of these has been sent to each of you for your completion. (This can be anonymous but if you wish to sign it please feel free.)

This will not only help us to maintain a happy working environment for all members of Horizon Care but will also go towards Hannah's Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management.

We need all forms back before Friday 4th April in order to begin analysing the results. Hannah would like to thank you for your cooperation and time in this project.



Blake 'fish face' Barns caught a world record weight goldfish from the Rawtenstall fair!

Welcome...

Elaina Hendricks and Emma Crotty at The Arches; Jo Francis, Manager, Sarah Vickers and Hannah Dawes at Windy Arbour House; Rod Grainger and Gill Cranton at Ford Cottage; Jacky Miller at Parklands; Patricia Shepherd at Railway Cottage; Emma Jones and Kim Reid on our Bank.

YP Competition

If you can complete the word search using the words below and send the correct answer to Head Office before 4th April, you will earn yourself a £5 voucher!

M	F	R	U	B	A	D	T	S	G	U	S	A	H	S
Y	G	C	H	I	C	K	S	D	R	J	A	H	U	C
B	J	H	D	H	A	K	D	G	S	P	R	I	N	G
U	D	O	O	M	J	D	A	H	O	G	D	V	T	F
N	T	C	B	Y	F	E	A	S	T	E	R	B	D	A
N	D	O	V	V	Y	M	S	A	G	G	B	J	K	F
Y	O	L	U	E	E	B	F	J	S	G	H	S	H	D
I	N	A	F	D	J	D	H	J	W	S	P	M	N	E
U	N	T	E	F	L	E	N	U	V	T	Q	A	C	Y
U	N	E	N	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	S	M	U
E	B	Y	M	D	M	S	G	I	C	H	H	G	A	G
P	L	M	J	F	B	Z	X	Y	B	C	U	N	Y	W
U	N	I	M	E	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	Q	H

Special Mentions

- Well Done Amy Cuffin, who completed a questionnaire for National Voice of the Child and came 2nd place in the competition, winning a £15 voucher!
- Welcome to Noi Swan, our new addition to the Head Office. Noi is in the third part of her ACCA qualification and joins us as Finance Manager.
- Welcome to all the new Young People; Rebecca, Lindsey, Megan, Rosheen, Corey and Charlie.
- Gill Davis has started her role as 'Operations Manager'. Gill will supervise and support the managers on a day to day basis. Gill who holds a masters degree and has enjoyed a long career in Social Work, is a welcome asset to Horizon Care.

Chicks Eggs Lambs
Daffodils Sunshine Bunny
Chocolate Hunt Easter
 Spring

Outstanding!

A massive congratulations to all the staff at Parklands for all their hard work and effort in achieving the recent Outstanding Inspection Report. This is the highest accolade that can be awarded to any children's home and is rarely achieved!

Vacancies

We currently have vacancies in both Chaseley House and Railway Cottage; along with two at our Bacup homes. There are also vacancies in Staffordshire at Windy Arbour House. If you know of someone keen to work within our homes please ask them to contact Hannah at Head Office for an application pack.

Sharks Stale

Once upon a time there lived a professional shark and next door there lived two old dolphins. Each day the shark would say "you two old dolphins bring me my food!" So each day the dolphins would have to bring the shark his food.

One day the shark said to the dolphins, "Bring me my food!" and the dolphins said "We are tired of bringing you your food, aren't sharks supposed to catch their own food?" The shark replied "Not when I've got you two!"

Suddenly the Queen of the Reef swam past. The shark said "Oi you, Queen of the Reef, shouldn't these two dolphins bring me my food?"

"Not if they don't want to" she replied. "and don't call me 'Oi', my name to you is "Your Highness!"

The shark said "What if I don't want to call you Your Highness? What are you gonna do? Eat me?"

"I won't" replied the Queen, "but someone will! All that I need to do is whistle and the King of the Reef will come and do what I say."

"Go on then, whistle" taunted the shark.

"So be it" and the Queen let out a long loud whistle .

Out of nowhere the shark King says "Oi you, are you picking on my Queen?"

The shark took one look at the King and was so petrified that he wet his pants! "No your Highness" muttered the shark. The Queen cut in - "He called me 'Oi'"

"Oi... Oi...! How dare you disrespect my Queen!"

The kings face turned red with anger and the little sharks face turned white with fear. "You my boy are going to be punished and will work as a slave in my kingdom until you take your last breath!" bellowed the King.

The little shark begged, "but, but, I've got a wife and children."

"You should have thought about that when you were picking on the dolphins and my wife. Now your family will suffer too!"

By Blake