



OUR DIRECTORS

PHILIP MCVAY – MD AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL

Phil, the Company founder and Managing Director, set up Horizon Care Ltd in August 2000, with the intention of offering quality care to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people with challenging behaviour.

Phil worked his first residential shift on 22 November 1996. “It was a baptism by fire but it taught me a lot: the need for firm, consistent boundaries from the start as well as the resilience you need to withstand challenging behaviour and the resourcefulness you need to change it. There is a real lack of understanding by most people of what this work actually entails.”

Phil wanted to start his own company to pursue his goal of ensuring that young people in care were afforded the same opportunities as other children.

He was the Registered Manager for Horizon Care’s first Homehome, Oaklands, from April 2001 until January

2003. To this day he remains committed to offering a needs-led service, promoting the welfare of the child, maintaining continuity of placement and avoiding placement breakdown wherever possible.

Phil still loves nothing better than the times when he is in direct contact with the young people. “It’s the deep sense of satisfaction you get from seeing someone achieve, children with traumatic backgrounds doing normal things, and the shared experiences like taking our kids to Ireland on their first flight – they loved it and so did I.”

Phil’s hobbies and interests are mostly extreme sports, including skiing, snowboarding, moto-x and rally driving.





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AMANDA KNOWLES – CARE DIRECTOR

Amanda began her social work career in 1976. She has been employed in a number of voluntary and statutory settings and has managed her own business. She has fostered difficult-to-place teenagers, worked in various residential settings as a residential care worker, in fieldwork settings as children and families social worker, and with the NSPCC as a child protection officer.

Amanda gained her CQSW in 1989 and is a member of the Chartered Management Institute. She has held several managerial positions including Children's Resource Centre Manager with responsibility for residential homes, family centres, youth justice services, a community support team and an eight-bedded regional secure unit.

“Throughout my working life, I have worked outside of normal office hours. I realise the need for out-of-hours support in social work and have the flexibility necessary to provide it. I also recognise the need for visible

leadership, clear direction and good communication. I firmly believe in the value and effectiveness of the team work approach. I have always been committed to high-quality service delivery, and set high standards for myself and seek to develop these in others through mutual respect and supportive working relationships.

“My first contact with Horizon Care was as a referring social worker and I subsequently joined the company as the Care Director in November 2002. From the outset, I have shared the vision of providing well resourced, individualised care that offers real opportunity for young people disadvantaged by circumstance to realise their full potential and achieve the best possible outcomes.”

