

# asphaleia care

asphaleia care provides services for young people aged 16-24 based in Sussex and London. We believe effective care can only be expressed in a holistic view and see all young people according to their unique sense of identity.

## Mums and babies day out

### asphaleia care has a day of tropical fun!

asphaleia care recently organised a fun day out for young mums and their babies in the care of Hillingdon Social Services.



The group were treated to a tropical zoo experience where they were able to get up close and personal with some very tropical creatures.

They were able to take part in an interaction attraction where they were able to touch, hold and stroke some unusual animals. These included lizards, birds and having a 6ft Boa constrictor slide along their legs!

"This day gave the chance for young mother's to bond and talk with other people who know what they are going through. Being a mum is difficult at the best of times and this trip was a chance for the girls to unwind and relate to others who have been in the same boat." Said Anne-Marie, Outreach Worker

The second part of the day was getting the girls and their babies playing in the Snake and Ladders children's play area. There were two areas for the mothers and babies to play and the girls got a lot of exercise chasing and playing with their babies and other children in the area.

**'It was a really fun day out. Something I would definitely do again'** One young mother commented

"With Christmas and the new year on the way, it is another opportunity to get these young women out and about and meeting new people. It also gives the

kids someone else to play with besides mum." commented Anne-Marie

Almira, Mental Health Project worker who also accompanied us on the day trip said "It was a fantastic bonding experience for both the mothers and their babies. The babies showed no fear while stroking the snake unlike their mother's and myself. This is something I would definitely do again (minus the Boa Constrictor!)."



## Reaching out in Sussex

Building on its work with asylum seeking young people, the asphaleia care team in West Sussex is also now delivering outreach support for indigenous young people.

West Sussex Social Service's 14+ team made the first referral of an indigenous young person who needed support following discussions with Tim Wall, West Sussex Care Manager.

The asphaleia care team was keen to start this work and support this young person and was able to refer them to an education and employment training programme with asphaleia training which has helped boost their

confidence. Feedback from the young person's social worker has been good. Stating there has been a significant change for the better in the young person and they are making progress to become independent.

"This is a great opportunity for asphaleia care to widen its impact and support even more young people in need," says Tim.

"The indigenous young people supported by social services have very different needs to asylum seeking young people. The struggles they face often relate to emotional and behavioural difficulties and we are developing our links with CAMHS and the youth offending teams." he adds.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

- the care team in West Sussex are delighted to hear that a number of young people supported by Gatwick Children's service will be going to University this year with one taking a social work degree
- in Kent asphaleia care is currently interviewing for a Project Worker with two young people actually forming part of the interview panel!
- five young people from care in Kent attended a three-day residential trip to the New Forest. This was headed by the Red Cross after contact was made by Care Manager Edwin Appiah. The activities the young people took part in were water sports, sailing, cycling, a beach clean, games and having fun!

# Our new team in Kent

## The team settle in and start making an impact

asphaleia care has been working hard in Kent over the past few months on a new and exciting pilot scheme to provide support to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).

The ambitious scheme, aimed at providing accommodation and independent training skills, commenced in April 2009 and is starting to make an impact on the asylum seeking young people.

"Kent has been a pioneer in delivering services to UASC for many years. It has always been our desire to work with the Social Services Department," explains Executive Director David Cottrell.

"We have set up 20 places of accommodation for young people and have developed a programme of on-site learning.

"It would be our ultimate ambition to create a network of support services and even our own local learning centre to bring our asphaleia combination of care and learning together in this service.

"Kent Social Service Department have been great to work with and we hope it is a long term partnership. But that is up to us to earn!" He adds.

We welcome Clayton and Jodie as our first Kent staff and we have more on the way!

## Why asphaleia care



Juan Queseda - Outreach Worker

"I have worked for asphaleia care since July 2007. In that time I have been given the opportunity to develop a wide range of professional skills but most importantly, asphaleia gave me the opportunity to impact young people.

"I had experience of working with young people in Spain with the focus of my work in entertainment and sports. I travelled around the UK with a theatre company for a year before deciding to settle down in London and rediscover my career working with young people.

"When I saw the position of outreach worker for asphaleia I thought it would be a challenging and rewarding job and would match my personality and skills. The challenge of helping a specific group of people was appealing and something I could relate to in different ways.

"I feel that helping others to achieve and overcome barriers is important and something I feel passionate about.

"The approaches of asphaleia towards young people and the values of the organisation inspire me to become not only a better professional but also a better person."

## care factfile



care member - Anne-Marie Kelly

title - outreach worker in the West London care team

why this role? - having worked as an administration officer for the asylum team of Social Services and personal experience with those who work in the system, I felt the desire to branch out and have a larger effect on working with them directly. I also wanted to expand on knowledge and skills which asphaleia has supplied.

what makes me unique? - my door is always open

one word that describes you - compassionate

something extra - I'm a natural blonde and no one believes it!

hopes for the future - to have an impact on people who need it the most

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care n. – a thing to be done