

# Charville Lane - providing services for asylum seeking children



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Charville Lane provides accommodation, care and support to young people in a safe and appropriate manner within a registered Children's Home setting.

The service offers a stepping stone in a young person's journey into settlement in the UK or a place of safety when they can no longer remain in the family home.

The service is able to support:

- Young men and women aged 12-17
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- Children indigenous to the UK who require a place of safety
- Young people who are subject to a Deprivation of Liberty order



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Young people who access the service may have experienced trauma in their lives, have low self esteem and a mistrust of people.

They are supported by residential staff to develop semi independence skills and build positive relationships.

This could be by encouraging simple things such as eating and preparing a meal with the staff team or other young people or going out to do the shopping.

The young person may build a relationship with the staff and other young people residing in the service and can provide emotional as well as practical support.



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Asylum seeking children may arrive at Charville Lane with the clothes on their back and nothing more.

They will probably have experienced major trauma such as the death of their families, and a long, difficult journey to the UK.

They will not speak much English and be upset and withdrawn.



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The service provides interpreters to understand the young person's fears and concerns, which could be things like a mistrust of people or a fear of being returned to their country of origin.

The service will then put things in place to support and reassure the young person, such as making sure their religious and cultural needs are met.

This could be by providing practical things such as a Quran and prayer mat for a Muslim young person, as well as engaging them in education, social activities and learning English.



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Over time, the young people start to open up emotionally to the team and their social workers.

They make friends in the service and may start to attend religious services, such as at the Local Mosque for example.

They share views and experiences with the support of others and gradually build more and more confidence.

It is hoped that many will move on to an appropriate Foster Placement or Host family when the time is right.



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