

# Ten Years of Memories



This brochure marks Hythe House Support's 10th birthday; a decade of caring for children and young people. It's an opportunity to thank everyone who's been involved in our work so far, to look back, and to look forward. And to remember how important it was to be a child yourself...

## Ten years of providing excellent services

Fostering

Education

Therapeutic and counselling services

Respite

Pre-school nursery

Residential Family Unit



## Welcome to our ten year review, by Brendan, aged 18

I was surprised but pleased when Hythe House asked if I'd say something about their 10th birthday for this brochure. It's been ten years in which Hythe House has played a big part of my life. I came into care when I was 8, and it felt like the end of the world.

Ten years is a long time. For me, it's been over half my life.

When I was ten, I wasn't able to live with my own family, and to be honest, I didn't have a lot of happy memories from when I was a kid. I was also starting to get into trouble. From my personal experience of being placed in care at a young age, it can be scary not knowing who you will meet and what the future holds for you, and it can be overwhelming to a young person. But there was no need to be frightened. Everyone I met in Hythe House valued me and genuinely had a kind and caring nature. Growing up with my foster carers made all the difference in the world to me. I left with many happy memories of my time spent with Hythe House, and life skills that have put me in good stead for the future. Now I am training to be a mechanic, and about to go into my third and final year. I know I couldn't have achieved that without the support of my foster carers and Hythe House, so that's one reason I'm very proud to be a part of this brochure.

Brendan



## Ten years of Hythe House memories and achievements

### I remember...



'Creating a positive, engaging environment for young people to access education and achieve was a great feeling. I knew our school would give young people a great grounding for their future lives'.

'When we gained our 'Outstanding' from Ofsted... everyone in the office shared some tears, some champagne and a banoffee pie! But then we all realised - this isn't the end of a process, it's just the start of maintaining that excellence...'



'When we enrolled our first foster carer, it felt like a new member had joined the family'.

'When I started Hythe House Support ten years ago, my family and I were building on decades of hands-on experience in fostering, but we had much to learn about running a business. We worked really hard at this, and the proof lies not only in the 'Outstanding' grade we've gained from Ofsted, but in the success stories we have achieved in the lives of young people over the last ten years.'

**Maggie Duffy**  
Managing Director and Founder



'Opening the nursery just felt right. Caring for little children felt like a natural extension of our work with young people'.



'Every young person deserves to have happy memories of their childhood. That's something I can give, as a foster carer.'

## Growing up within the Hythe House family

*'Things are easier when I see my mum now.'*



*'I used to keep things bottled up. Therapy taught me how to count to ten, how to step out of an angry situation. Those lessons put me on a good path and will stay with me my whole life.'*

*'I started to do really well at school for the first time in my life. I was star pupil several times, and I began to feel like I could achieve something.'*



*'I was quite naughty at first, so angry; and I ran away a lot. After a while though, I started to feel my behaviour was letting my foster mum down, and I didn't want to disappoint her because she meant a lot to me.'*



*'Being around caring adults, and learning their life skills means that I can now help other people who've had sad or bad experiences, as I can understand what's happened to them.'*  
Brendan

## Everyone deserves happy memories of childhood

'When I was ten, I wasn't able to live with my birth family. But I'm determined that every child who becomes part of the Hythe House family will move on in life with happy memories of their time spent with us. That's the mission we share with our foster carers, and we'd like to share with you.'

Maggie Duffy



'I like going to school for the first time ever'.



'I love having a pet and being able to care for it'.



'I like all the activities I do with my foster parents. I feel like they treat us all the same'.

'I went on my first holidays with my Hythe House family... It was the first time I'd been out of the country. I felt like a real member of the family.....'



'I love going camping!'

When I came here I was scared;  
I didn't think anyone cared.  
Now I've been here for quite a long time,  
I now know that I'm gonna be fine.  
I speak to Yvonne and Steve about what's wrong  
Now my problems are almost gone.  
Yvonne and Steve have taught me a lot -  
About my future and what I've got.

This poem is for my foster carers. I've come a long way since I've been there and they've stuck by me through thick and thin. Thank you both very much.

(by J, one of the first children to come to us and now a young adult)

*The next decade.....*

## *Our 100th child - Chloe\**

*Baby Chloe joined us in 2012, the hundredth child to come into the Hythe House family. She and her mum are staying together in a loving and supportive environment with carers who can offer them both stability and encouragement. We'd like to think that the next ten years will be happy ones for Chloe, both while she is with Hythe House and when she finally moves on.*

*Over the next ten years Hythe House Support will become a teenager. We'll try not to be stroppy and we promise to keep our room tidy!*

*We look forward to working with many more children and families who need our support and experience, and offer them the very best childhood memories we can.*

*\*not her real name.*



## *Afterword by Brendan*

*'What I'd say to a young person coming into care today is:  
Don't be scared. You're not alone. You can make it.'*

*Hythe House Support looks forward to working with you during the next decade.*

*For further information about our services, please contact us on:*

*Tel 01795 438634*

*Website [www.hythehousesupport.co.uk](http://www.hythehousesupport.co.uk)*

*Email [enquiries@hythehousesupport.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hythehousesupport.co.uk)*

*No cared for children have been photographed for this brochure.*

*Some names and other details have been changed to protect children's identities.*