Caring for children away from home: messages from research


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Item Type: Book or Monograph
Item Status: Live Archive

Abstract

* What happens to children who pass through residential care?
* How are homes run and what is it like to live and work in them?
* What is meant by quality in residential care and how does this affect outcomes for children?

These are some of the gaps in our knowledge identified in the 1990s after a series of inquiries into the handling of residential care. As part of the government response, the Department of Health initiated a programme of research into aspects of residential care, resulting in a series of books published in association with John Wiley & Sons. Caring for Children Away From Home summarises and brings together the findings discussed in these books and demonstrates their relevance to policy and practice. This book, in conjunction with other titles in the series, contains lessons for all those concerned with children and young people living away from home.

Keywords: residential child care, looked after children, messages from research

Subjects: L Social studies > L520 Child Care

Divisions: College of Social Science > School of Health & Social Care

ID Code: 18619

Deposited On: 12 Sep 2015 11:26

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families. Four out of five children said they ran away to escape family conflict, violence, or abuse. Most children who ran away from care were runaways before going into care. Ian Sparks, chief executive of The Children's Society, which took part in the study, said: "The sheer scale of the problem tells us we have a crisis on our hands. It means in every classroom, in every school the chances are at least one child will run away in the next year. * What happens to children who pass through residential care? * How are homes run and what is it like to live and work in them? * What is meant by quality in residential care and how does this affect outcomes for children? These are some of the gaps in our knowledge identified in the 1990s after a series of inquiries into the handling of residential care. As part of the government response, the Department of Health initiated a programme of research into aspects of residential care, resulting in a series of books published in association with John Wiley Sons. Caring for Children Away From Home