



Lighthouse Pedagogy Trust

European Children's Homes



What challenges do
children's homes face?

Timeline to Lighthouse Pedagogy Trust

- 2011 – 2014** Teach First Leadership Development Programme - taught English in a low-income school in Small Heath, Birmingham for 3 years
- 2014 – 2016** Working for Teach First – Established the Teach First Care Network to research the education of children in care
- 2017- 2018** Volunteering in children's homes in the UK. Visits to Germany and Denmark funded by Churchill Fellowship
- July 2018** Founding of Lighthouse Pedagogy Trust
- February 2022** Opening of Treehouse Children's Home

What does our research tell us about the challenges in English children's homes?

1

Challenges with **quality training**, **low remuneration** and high **staff turnover**



Difficulty recruiting and retaining staff



Salaries do not always reflect the high demands and complications of the role

2

Lack of **homes** in the **places** where they are most needed



Providers avoid expensive places like London and instead open in areas where property is cheaper



Homes can often look quite institutional despite being in residential properties

3

Homes can struggle to meet the increasing **needs of children**



More children are coming into care with more complex needs



Not all staff have the level of skill or the qualifications needed to meet the needs of the children

4

Practice is varied and often **not always evidence-informed** or **consistent**



Many homes lack a clear and consistent practice model which is understood by all staff



Nationally, we do not work in an evidence-informed way

European Children's Homes

European Children's Homes – 2017 and 2018 research in Germany and Denmark



People: They recruit and train consistent graduates who work with the most vulnerable. Staff and trained to degree level. Good remuneration and staff retention.



Place: Provide places in areas of need. Create thoughtfully-designed spaces that feel like home



Purpose: Provide a holistic experience, based on education. Very few private homes. Work closely together as a system with social workers and schools



Pedagogy: The approach is universally informed by social pedagogy - a relationship-based way of working with young people – Germany, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands, France, Italy etc

The Danish Model



Josephine Schneider House, Copenhagen

Defining Social Pedagogy



An academic discipline distinct from the concept of 'pedagogy' as used in school which draws on core theories from Education, Sociology, Psychology and Philosophy



An integrative and coherent perspective on supporting learning, well-being and social inclusion using relationship-centred practice to address social inequality



The tools and approaches used by social pedagogues in a range of contexts, such as schools and children's homes



The Treehouse



- Our first home is located in south-west London.
- There is space for six young people aged 12-18.
- It has a bespoke design informed by Danish children's homes.
- We want it to feel like a home, which encourages a sense of safety, opportunity for play, creativity and shared activities with others.
- Awards
 - Stephen Lawrence Prize 2023
 - RIBA London Award 2023
 - RIBA Rising Star Award 2023

Strategic Goals

Vision: ensure that children in care have the same opportunities as everyone else

Workstream 1

Outcomes for children

Run high-quality homes, based on social pedagogy, that are safe, supportive, and financially sustainable. They will improve outcomes for young people and builds evidence to support systemic change.

- **Opening 2 more homes in the next 2 – 3 years and 10 homes by 33/34**
- **Develop supported accommodation for children aged 16+**

Workstream 2

Outcomes for staff

Develop incredible professionals who can improve outcomes for young people in care by upskilling staff in the sector through qualifications and training.

- **Develop and deliver a degree-level qualification for residential care workers**
- **Develop a leadership programme for children's homes staff to tackle the Registered Manager deficit**

Workstream 3

Outcomes for the sector

Transform the sector to improve the experience and long-term outcomes for children in care by developing leadership programmes and sharing our learning.

- **Share what we learn with other organisations**
- **Work with decision makers and, local authorities and commissioners to change the sector for the better**

Questions



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