

Case Studies - Measure what we value, not value what we measure

If we are to take a holistic view of the contribution our organisation is wanting to make to these children's lives we have to help them come to terms with their past, in the best way that we can, deal with the present and at the same time plan and consider for the future. Carving memories is one example. The other in a much more general way, is as I said earlier, that we could perhaps measure our contribution by:

- a) The number of opportunities we seek to create for the young people that we look after
- b) How hard we try to create those opportunities

I would suggest that no other yardstick is either appropriate or credible. This is perhaps best demonstrated by:

1. Looking at some of the children who we have dealt with in the past who have left our organization some time ago
2. Some of the children who we are currently looking after, who are reaching the end of their time with us, having been with us a number of years
3. Some of the young people who are just beginning their career with us now.

Of the young people that we are going to consider, some have been successful, some have not.

We are going to look at the elements that have contributed to a successful or an unsuccessful placement.

Before we do that perhaps we should consider in some detail what constitutes a successful or unsuccessful time at Pear Tree. If we can, as stated earlier, help our young people come to terms with their past abuse, deal constructively and positively with the present and use their skills which they have learnt to move on this surely must be some sign of success. Success must be measured in small units. In my view, for the young people that come to us with sexually abusive behaviour, quite simply, not hurting anybody else must be the greatest success of all. Enjoying appropriate relationships with a small number of people is the icing on the cake. Developing a career and providing for ones self, and possibly a family, must be the cherry on that cake.