



59th annual report

incorporating the 2008/09 financial statements



BROWNING HOUSE

Where Children Come First

overview of the year

by Robert Dyson, Chair of Trustees

Hello and welcome to Browning House and our annual report for 2008/09.

During the course of our last accounting year we made the decision to appoint a Chief Executive. Barry Graham was appointed and took up the reins of office in July 2008.

In making the appointment, the Board realised that we were now living and working in a totally different environment to the one which prevailed when Browning House was established in 1950.

The challenge has been to change, and yet not to lose, the friendly and open atmosphere with which everyone associated with Browning House will recognise. We like to think that we have succeeded in starting the modernisation process, without losing that special quality which is Browning House.

I would like to publicly record the appreciation which the Board of Trustees have for the care and kindness given by all members of staff in carrying out their duties, in what are sometimes exceedingly stressful and difficult circumstances.

The Board of Trustees feel that under the guidance of Barry, and with the help of everyone at Browning House, we have laid some solid foundations on which we hope to build in the years ahead. We look forward to the future with eager anticipation.

"We aim to make every assessment a success from the child's point of view."

Karen Keenan, Residential Manager

our vision, mission and values

Browning House has a vision of society where all children have a secure, safe childhood and are loved, valued and able to fulfil their potential

We are a registered Charity and have been working with children and families for nearly 60 years. We are based in the Chapeltown area of Leeds, West Yorkshire.

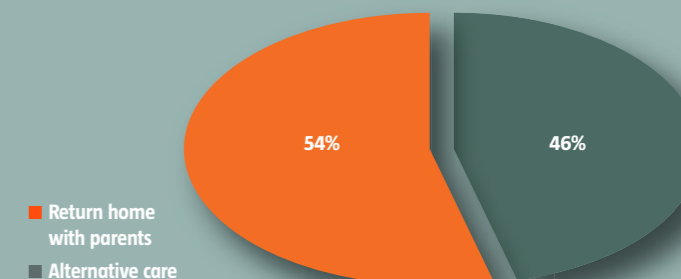
Our main concern is the protection of children; we aim to ensure this by offering parents or carers a role-model and training to enable them to care for their children within the community. We are regulated by Ofsted, and are recognised as one of the leading Family Assessment Centres in the North of England.

Our approach is based on an understanding of how babies and young children develop; how their potential is realised depends on how the baby's, and later the child's, needs are met. This is fundamental to meeting the five outcomes of the Government's 'Every Child Matters' framework. Children need well informed decisions to be made about their future where a parent's ability to care is in doubt. Browning House can provide a safe environment that will provide the information to enable those important decisions to be made.

Our aims are to:

- enable babies to grow and develop as healthy individuals
- support and encourage parents, carers and significant adults to develop their feelings, skills and knowledge necessary to nurture their children safely and enable them to fulfil their potential
- assess the ability of parents, carers and significant adults to be able to care for children safely and enable them to fulfil their potential

Outcome of Assessment (2008/09)





overview of the year

Barry Graham, Chief Executive

Prior to my arrival in July 2008, Browning House had been through a period of considerable uncertainty. This was due to changes in funding and whether residential family assessment centres were needed.

I quickly became aware of the skills and commitment of all staff to their work with children and their parents or carers. This work was impressive in its sensitivity, ensuring that the child was always held central to the way we worked.

It became apparent from talking and listening to the comments of those who use our services that there was respect for our work, and that there were families living in each Local Authority area which needed the residential services we provide. It was also clear that Browning House's reputation rested on the quality of its services and the ability to assist Courts and Local Authorities in the complex and difficult process of decision making in the best interests of children.

I have come to admire the honest and direct ways that staff communicate with parents. For some parents this

honesty and clarity (explaining which behaviours are helpful and which are unhelpful to their child's development) are a new experience, and one which is respectful of them as individuals. These skills and approaches are important contributions to the child protection service, and they are a good basis for developing an organisation which is sustainable in the long term.

Having established the need for our services, collectively we began a systematic review of the way we work. We have recruited staff to strengthen our team, in addition to developing our systems and supervision processes in order to prepare us for the future.

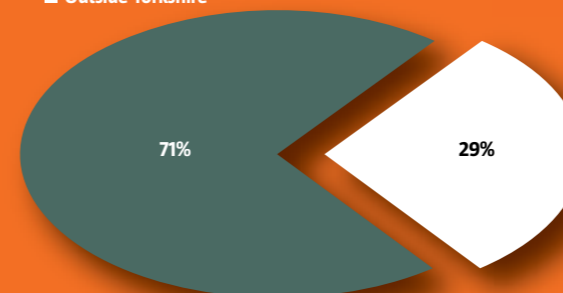
I would also like to record the support and encouragement I have received from staff, the Board of Trustees and the Senior Management Team.

This has been a year of investing in the future of children.

Local Authority referrals (2008/09)

Most referrals we receive come from Local Authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber. However, we do accept referrals from the whole of the UK.

- Yorkshire and The Humber
- Outside Yorkshire



our work

Residential assessments

We offer residential assessments for families referred to us by Local Authority Children's Services. This usually happens when there are serious concerns about a parent's ability to look after their children. A typical assessment lasts around 12 weeks and involves a family coming to stay at Browning House. Families are intensely monitored whilst a parent's ability to look after their child is assessed. Our excellent, multi-disciplined staff-team pass on knowledge, skills and advice to parents in order to help them develop their own parenting skills. This assessment information is then compiled in a report on each family, which is then passed on to Children's Services, Legal Services and the Courts for them to decide whether it is in the child's best interests to stay at home with their parents/carers or to find alternative care.

Browning House has 13 bedrooms that are monitored by a scanning audio system to provide maximum security. Families are encouraged to spend time in the house's communal areas such as the family room, living/dining room, kitchen, conservatory and gardens. There is also a purpose built nursery to encourage baby play and communication. Every family is also given their own photograph scrapbook and DVD of their time at Browning House as a memento of their stay.

Day assessments

Browning House also offers day assessments for families. This is often when there are concerns about a family that do not warrant a full residential assessment. They can also be used as a means of assessing a parent's commitment to undertaking a

residential assessment without moving their baby from a settled foster carer placement. Often families can spend two or three days a week with us as part of their continuing day assessment.

We have developed a creative and flexible response to supporting parents in a day assessment. We help parents to recognise the needs of their child through example and demonstration, education, observation and positive encouragement.

Assessment

Browning House undertakes residential and day assessments with parents/carers in line with the Department of Health's 'Framework for the Assessment of Children in need and their families.' The assessments take account of the three domains:

- The child's developmental needs
- Parental capacity – the parent's ability, commitment and motivation to respond appropriately in meeting the child's needs
- The family and wider environmental factors

Browning House uses a number of well-researched and supported tools for assessments:

- NCAST: Assessing and assisting child-parent interaction
- The Needs jigsaw
- Supporting parents with learning disabilities (Sue McGaw)
- In my shoes

"As families tend to reside at Browning House my work with them is a lot more intense, and I gain a greater understanding of what is happening than when I worked in a Local Authority."

Manda Brook, Case Manager



Karen Keenan, Residential Manager

We receive calls from Social Workers and the Courts where they are unsure if we would accept a family. Parents/carers sometimes present complex needs, including significant risk factors associated with the care of their children, or they may have a history of not co-operating with social care professionals.

We will consider working with every family that is referred to Browning House.

We will not discount a family purely on written or historical information.

Each referral is viewed in-depth and time is taken to meet the parents in order to make an informed decision regarding the viability of them undertaking an assessment. If we can manage the risks that are identified then we will offer an assessment.

Where possible, we want to keep families together and manage the risks that they may present, whether this be to their children, themselves or others. This means that we have to think creatively about how we can do this safely whilst still meeting the needs of the child and its family.

Examples of families that we will consider:

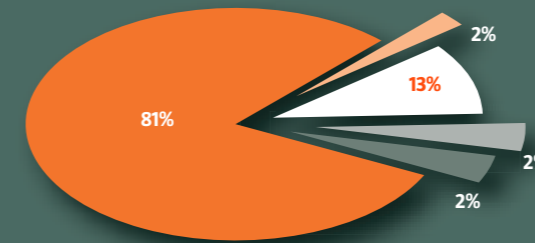
- A single father with offences for assault and arson.
- A couple with a two year old child and a new baby; dad has mental health and anger management issues and mum has a learning difficulty. There are allegations of domestic violence.
- A single mum; it is her fifth child and her other children have been accommodated as a result of her drug use and personality disorder. Arrangements would need to be put in place for contact for two of her other children who may become part of a rehabilitation plan.

who we work with

Parent ethnicity

The majority of families referred by Social Services are of White/British origin, however we have an increasing number of families coming from a Black or Asian background that reflects the local and national demographic.

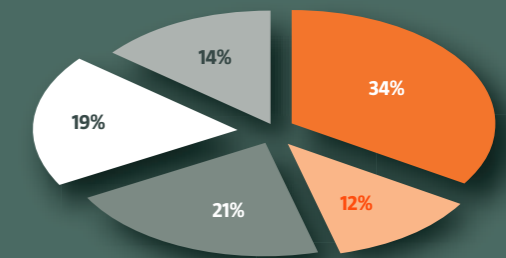
With the use of interpreters we can also provide assessments for families whose primary language is not English.



- Asian/Asian British - any other
- Asian/Asian British - Pakistani
- Black/Black British - African
- Mixed - any other
- White British

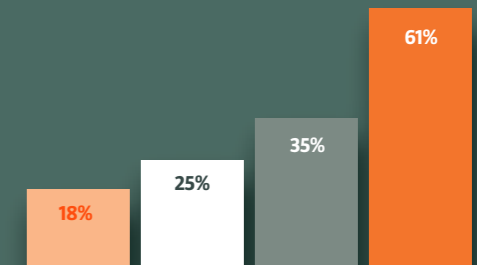
Child age on admission (2008/09)

- <2 weeks
- 2-4 weeks
- 1-6 months
- 6-12 months
- >12 months



Parents with specific needs (2008/09)

- Learning difficulties
- Mental health issues
- Own time in care
- Drug/alcohol use



“At Browning House we assess, then assist and assess again.”

Matthew Broadhead, Case Manager

financial statements

statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st March 2009

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	year ended 31/3/09 Total funds £	period from 1/1/07 to 31/3/08 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2,996	568	-	3,564	1,163,183
Investment income	20,525	-	-	20,525	42,537
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Residents	1,081,135	-	-	1,081,135	1,286,264
Total incoming resources	1,104,656	568	-	1,105,224	2,491,984
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities					
Residents	1,290,317	568	2,006	1,292,891	1,283,963
Governance costs	28,933	-	-	28,933	24,067
Total resources expended	1,319,250	568	2,006	1,321,824	1,308,030
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES					
	(214,594)	-	(2,006)	(216,600)	1,183,954
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward	1,086,157	-	97,797	1,183,954	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD					
	871,563	-	95,791	967,354	1,183,954

balance sheet at 31st March 2009

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2009 Total funds £	2008 Total funds £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	129,114	-	95,791	224,905	279,125
Investments	6,407	-	-	6,407	6,407
	135,521	-	95,791	231,312	285,532
Current assets					
Debtors	260,851	-	-	260,851	308,822
Cash at bank and in hand	537,659	-	-	537,659	631,226
	798,510	-	-	798,510	940,048
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	(62,468)	-	-	(62,468)	(41,626)
Net current assets	736,042	-	-	736,042	898,422
Total assets less current liabilities	871,563	-	95,791	967,354	1,183,954
Net assets	871,563	-	95,791	967,354	1,183,954
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	871,563	-	-	871,563	1,086,157
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	-	-	95,791	95,791	97,797
Total funds	871,563	-	95,791	967,354	1,183,954

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007). The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 8 October 2009 and were signed on its behalf by R A Dyson - Trustee

next steps our future plans

Barry Graham, Chief Executive

This year has involved important changes to strengthen what we do even further, and to develop the organisation so that it can provide new services.

This will ensure that we are prepared for the future and have the ability to innovate whilst still providing our excellent services. The sad death of Baby Peter has increased the demand for our services but it has also highlighted the importance of a child centred approach in decision making.

We are building upon our experience of delivering a residential service to develop a Community Assessment Team that will initially provide services within the West Yorkshire area. Community Assessments will involve assessing parents and carers within their own choice of setting; this could be their own home or a suitable alternative.

In October 2009, we will hold our first professional conference to increase our profile amongst social care professionals and to engage the sector with up to date research.

In 2010, we will also be establishing a training service which focuses on child and parent interaction.

This is the beginning of developing Browning House for the future. As we enter our 60th year we will continue to build on our successes by focusing on the needs of abused and vulnerable children and their parents who so frequently face enormous challenges.

The changes we plan to make would not be possible without the commitment and positive contribution of all staff. Their continued professionalism and devotion to Browning House's future is marvellous.

This is our remit, this is our challenge.

“we will build on our successes by focusing on the needs of abused and vulnerable children and their parents”

Browning House would like to thank the following people for their generous donations benefiting the families in our care.

Financial donations:

Beeston Parochial Church Council
M Bond
Boston Spa School
HHJ S Cahill QC
Charles Brotherton Trust
Christ Church, Halton Guild
Dominic Harding
Gay & Peter Hartley's Hilliards Charitable Trust
P R Giles
S P Grenfall
Becky Jackson
R Jepson
Holy Family Sisters
Mr & Mrs Page
Shadwell Methodist Church
Snowball registered charity
T & N Middleton
Middleton St. Mary's PCC
Thomas Danby College
Mary Thorpe
Unified Courts Choir
Wharfedale Vineyard
Zurich Community Trust

Donors of goods include:

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Maggie Beech
J Bewell
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Ann Cawley
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Rachel Garry
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Ashfield Primary
Christ Church
Froebelian School
Holy Trinity Church, Leeds
Lidgett Park Methodist Church
Meanwood Methodist Church
Moorlands School, Leeds
Parish Church of St. Mary's
Ripon & Leeds Diocese Mothers Union
Roscoe Methodist Church
St. Barnabas Church, Weeton
St. Mary's Whitkirk Church
St. Philip's Mothers Union
Trinity United Church, Leeds
Wesleyan Holiness Church
Woodhouse Methodist Church