

██████████
date of birth: ████████ 1972
date of admission: 02.09.1985
discharged: 01.07.1987

██████████ was referred to us by the ██████████ Children's Board as a child who could be contained by neither Greenfields Children's Home nor Valnord Special School. He is the ██████████ child in a family of ██████████ and ██████████ who had no contact with the father following his completion of a two year prison sentence. The mother abandoned the children in 1981 since when all have been continuously in care. Our major concern with ██████████ was the absence of a family base for the boy in ██████████ which was the cause of considerable concern throughout his somewhat erratic course at Les Chenes. He returned to Greenfields Children's Centre on his discharge from Les Chenes and while the ██████████ Children's Department are generally pleased with his greatly improved behaviour, ██████████ is experiencing difficulty in adjusting to the demands of employment.

██████████
date of birth: ████████ 1971
date of admission: 23.05.1984
sentenced to Young
Offenders Centre: ████████.1987

At our last meeting, I reported that ██████████ had been charged with serious offences of illegal entry and theft. His case was to be reviewed in June and shortly before his scheduled appearance he committed two further offences involving an attempted illegal entry and the theft of a moped. Unfortunately, he involved other children in these offences and so the "guarded" optimism that had been felt for ██████████ was destroyed. When he appeared before the Juvenile Court, the Bench felt there was no alternative to custody and ██████████ was sentenced to three months at the Young Offenders Centre.

██████████ was released from the Young Offenders Centre on 16th October and, sadly, was soon in trouble again. The Children's Office determined that it would be appropriate for him to be placed in the ██████████ at a residential centre providing for older children. At the request of the Children's Office, he was re-admitted to Les Chenes on 25th January for a two week period, during which time he attended interviews at two ██████████ establishments.

██████████
Date of birth: ████████ 1971
Date of admission: 26.03.1986
Discharged: 27.10.1987

██████████ is a member of a family that has been well known to the Children's Department for many years. All the children had been admitted to residential care due to ██████████ confinements and illness. ██████████ experienced major difficulties adapting to secondary school and became heavily involved in delinquent behaviour. A Breach of Probation eventually led to his placement at Les Chenes.

In September 1987, he joined the "[REDACTED]" at Highlands College which immediately led to a placement with [REDACTED] on the reclamation site. I am pleased to report that he had made excellent progress at work and, despite continuing difficulties at home, has presented no problems in the community.

[REDACTED]
Date of birth: [REDACTED].1972
Date of admission: 13.11.1985
Discharged: 28.01.1988

[REDACTED] was placed at the school as subject of a Probation Order. He was a youngster who posed enormous problems of control in both home and school. This had led to a period as an in-patient at the C.P.U. but further deterioration into delinquency resulted in his placement at Les Chenes.

[REDACTED] responded well to the control and demands of Les Chenes, and as the final phase of his course was placed at [REDACTED] for work experience. This led to an offer of permanent employment which in turn opened the way for [REDACTED] discharge and return to the care of his parents.

Number of Children

These movements bring the number of children currently placed at the school to sixteen - fourteen boys (three of whom are from Guernsey) and two girls. (One of whom is from Guernsey).

Ten Years On

It is now a little over ten years since the first child ([REDACTED]) was admitted to Les Chenes. He actually arrived on 14th September, 1977. The first girl ([REDACTED]) was admitted on 18th May, 1979. In brief:-

79 children have been admitted to the school,
69 of whom have been admitted to extended courses,
and 55 have completed extended courses.

We do, of course, endeavour to keep in touch with our ex-pupils, some of whom now have their own families. Often we are made more aware of the youngsters who have continued to experience problems and have featured prominently in the Court Reports of the Jersey Evening Post than of those who live settled lives. Our best researches indicate that of the 53 children who have completed courses,

2 have subsequently been placed in Senior Schools in the U.K.,
4 have required treatment as Psychiatric in-patients,
10 have been sentenced to terms at either the Y.O.C.,
Youth Custody or Prison,

of these, both who were placed in Senior Schools subsequently were sentenced to terms of imprisonment as was one who required Psychiatric treatment.

While such statistics are inevitably somewhat depressing, they conceal the considerable success of 39 of our ex-pupils who have not gone on to cause further problems in the community. Others who served sentences at the Y.O.C. and/or Prison have subsequently settled-down to useful lives while sadly a small number have become recidivists.

We are acutely aware of the tremendous investment which is put into children during their courses at Les Chenes and strive for success with all. At the outset we recognised that some are so badly damaged by their experiences that no amount of effort can result in them developing into well-balanced, purposeful members of the community.

We do measure our progress with children in a number of ways:-

- i) in terms of educational development including improved numeracy and literacy at one end of the scale and success in public examination at the other; the development of practical and social skills; the development of a commitment to other people; the development of interests and associations which present an alternative to inappropriate behaviour.
- ii) in terms of arresting a process of deteriorating behaviour, often associated with delinquent behaviour. A crude measure of this is whether a child offends during the time of his placement at the school.
- iii) in terms of whether the child develops to the point that he has the basic life skills and attitudes which enables him to make choices between appropriate and inappropriate behaviours. The skills and choices are exercised in a range of settings including home, work and community.

All the above are relatively easy to test but occasionally encouragement can be drawn from those youngsters who can initially experience problems but later make use of the skills and controls they developed at the school.

While much has changed during the ten years since opening, certain elements have been maintained within the basic philosophy of the school.

The Behavioural Approach

A central plank of our operation has been the operation of our Merit Award System, variations of which have been used in other units. Throughout, the system has been a systematic means of rewarding good attitude, behaviour and work and of discouraging inappropriate attitudes, behaviour or work.

We are now on our third major variation of the system for we have recognised that in time any "system" becomes more complex in its operation and less relevant to a particular group of children. It is essential that they identify with what becomes their system to the development of which they have made a significant contribution.

Practical Work at Different Levels

We have always placed a considerable emphasis on requiring the children to become involved in the daily life and development of the school. At the basic level all children are involved in household duties and domestic work, in redecoration and maintaining the grounds.

Over the years we have also engaged in a small number of major projects including the refurbishing of the greenhouse and the construction of the Outdoor Stores. Such activities have been of particular value as they have engendered a very real sense of achievement among those children who have been involved in their development. During 1988 we intend to commence a further major project with the planning and construction of a "Project Area" alongside the ballcourt.



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04/02/88.