

Shaftesbury Young People

NEWS

28 August 2008

Camp re-unites separated children

The very first Siblings United camp in the country has been held recently in Medway. Children from families separated by care spent the week in fun activities and building shared experiences together.

The children were re-united in a scheme to facilitate better contact and stronger relationships between siblings who do not get the opportunity to spend time together. The scheme, described by Lord Laming as *'imaginative and very exciting'* is planned to roll out around the country next year to allow many more children to get together.

The children went canoeing, swimming and tried out dry slope skiing as well as learning circus skills and a range of art and craft activities.

Feedback from the young people was universally positive and included:

'Run the camp every year for ever'

'I really want to come again'

'I love Siblings United; I can spend time with them (the siblings) and have fun'

Siblings United is organised and run by the charity Shaftesbury Young People.

For more information contact siblingsunited@shaftesbury.org.uk; ring 020 8875 1555 or visit www.shaftesbury.org.uk

Notes for Editors

Siblings United is run by Shaftesbury Young People, working with Delma Hughes.

Shaftesbury Young People was founded in 1843 and works with over 8000 young people a year. Over 800 are in care, care leavers or in other ways in need of extra support. The charity works with local authorities around the country.

Delma Hughes is an experienced art therapist who is committed to improving sibling contact for children looked after.