

ANTSER CASE STUDY

FLOURISH FOSTERING CASE STUDY

Embedding Antser Virtual Reality across the independent children's services sector to improve the lives of children and young people in care



Flourish
Fostering

INTRODUCTION: ANTSER PARTNERED WITH INDEPENDENT FOSTERING AGENCY, FLOURISH FOSTERING TO EMBED VIRTUAL REALITY ACROSS THEIR PRACTICE

This year saw the 'Outstanding' independent fostering agency, Flourish Fostering, partnered with Antser to become one of the first in the UK to use its pioneering virtual reality (VR) films within its training.

Specialising in providing bespoke therapeutic care to children, Flourish Fostering uses Antser VR to tackle prevalent topics, such as childhood trauma, child sexual and criminal exploitation (CSE and CCE), and train Foster Parents in advanced subjects more quickly, providing a realistic perspective of fostering that facilitates deep understanding and empathy for each child's lived experience.



Overseen by Flourish Fostering, Antser Virtual Reality was used to tackle the impact of childhood trauma in foster care settings.

USING ANTSER VIRTUAL REALITY TO UPSKILL FOSTER PARENTS THROUGH IMERSIVE LEARNING AND PROVIDE A REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE OF THE CHILD'S WORLD AND WHAT BRINGS THEM INTO CARE

The first training developed by Flourish that uses Antser VR is called 'PARCEL It Up', standing for having a Playful, Accepting, Responsive, Curious, Empathic, Loving attitude towards a fostered child who has experienced trauma. The PARCEL training course provides Foster Parents with a virtual experience of being a traumatised child, along with strategies to also aid the healing process of children and young people impacted by their memories of childhood trauma.

"This course was great, It really shows the child's perspective. I feel it could also help new Foster Parents understand the things that could either help or hinder in certain situations"

– Foster Parent

During the training course attendees were shown a range of profoundly impactful film which allowed the Foster Parents to be immersed in 360-degree experiences of a traumatic event, such as domestic violence, all virtually 'viewed' through the child's eyes.



Using VR headsets and 360-degree immersive films designed by Antser, Flourish Fostering Foster Parents will find themselves immersed in the virtual experience.

VIRTUAL REALITY PROVIDES AN IMMERSIVE WORLD FOR LEARNING ABOUT CHILD EXPLOITATION

Showing a variety of different situations, Foster Parents became a 'fly on the wall' in a situation a child in care often finds themselves in at school, in the community or in the home, where memories of their early traumatic experiences prompt them to behave in ways that are, to the untrained eye, seen as unacceptable. A further course has now been developed by Flourish, to be launched this Autumn, which concentrates on how young people in care can all too easily be targeted and 'befriended' by people within their community whose real intention is to exploit their vulnerability for sexual or criminal gain.

Using Antser VR, staff and foster parents were able to walk in the footsteps of children and young people, helping them to better understand the root cause of difficult or disruptive behaviours, thereby increasing empathy and insight, allowing them to modify their responses to de-escalate and manage the situation.

VR has been proven to be an effective learning tool, with a recent PWC study finding:

- Attendees learn x4 times faster than classroom and e-learning methods.
- Are x4 more focused learning environment.
- Are x3 more connected to the content.
- Are 40% more confident to apply the learning that is experienced through this means.



Foster Parents are using Antser Virtual Reality to walk in the footsteps of a child suffering from trauma, abuse and neglect

EVALUATION

Using Antser VR, staff and foster parents were able to walk in the footsteps of children and young people, helping them to better understand the root cause of difficult or disruptive behaviours, thereby increasing empathy and insight, allowing them to modify their responses to de-escalate and manage the situation.

Comments from social workers taking part in the training:



“This has been a superb course, VR is definitely the way forward; to be put into certain virtual environments gives me an understanding I wouldn’t have had before. I would highly recommend this course.”



THE OUTCOMES

- ✔ VR is an effective and engaging tool to gain insight into the child's perspective.
- ✔ Increases awareness and understanding of prevalent topics, such as child sexual exploitation and grooming.
- ✔ The training equips staff and Foster Parents with the skills to take forward in how they handle situations with children with adverse childhood experiences.

FUTURE PLANS FOR USING ANTSER VR

In a survey of Foster Parents and social workers, over half of respondents (60%) had never used virtual reality before. Results also revealed that after using the VR, 100% of respondents said they had a deeper understanding of the child's perspective and that the VR had equipped them with the knowledge to make an impact in their work.

Following the training, positive feedback from respondents have stated they would recommend the training in the future due to its powerful and detailed portrayal of the situations.

Looking ahead to the future, Flourish Fostering are keen to continue working with Antser to include the VR to develop more courses, specifically around Gangs, County Lines & Crime.

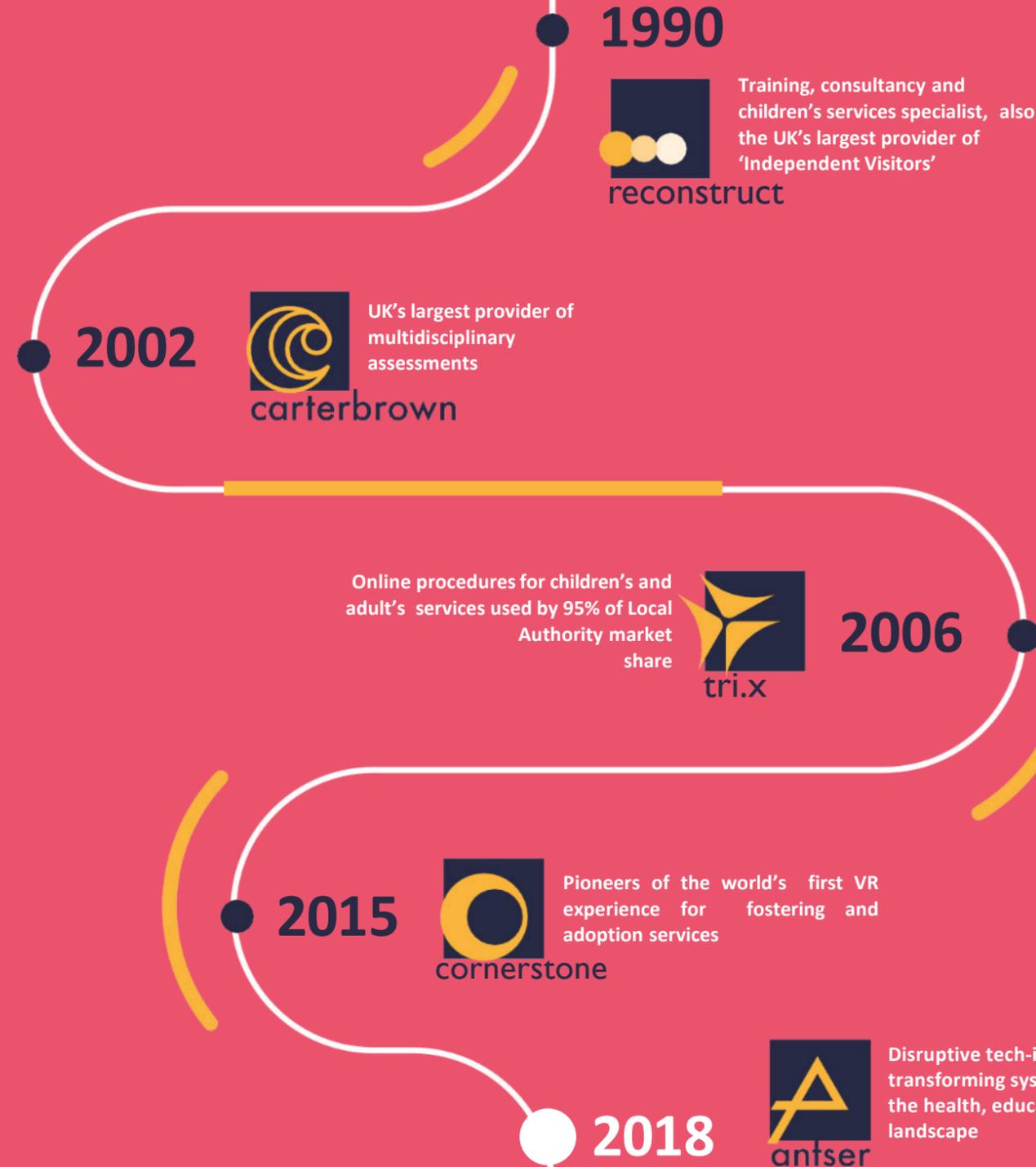


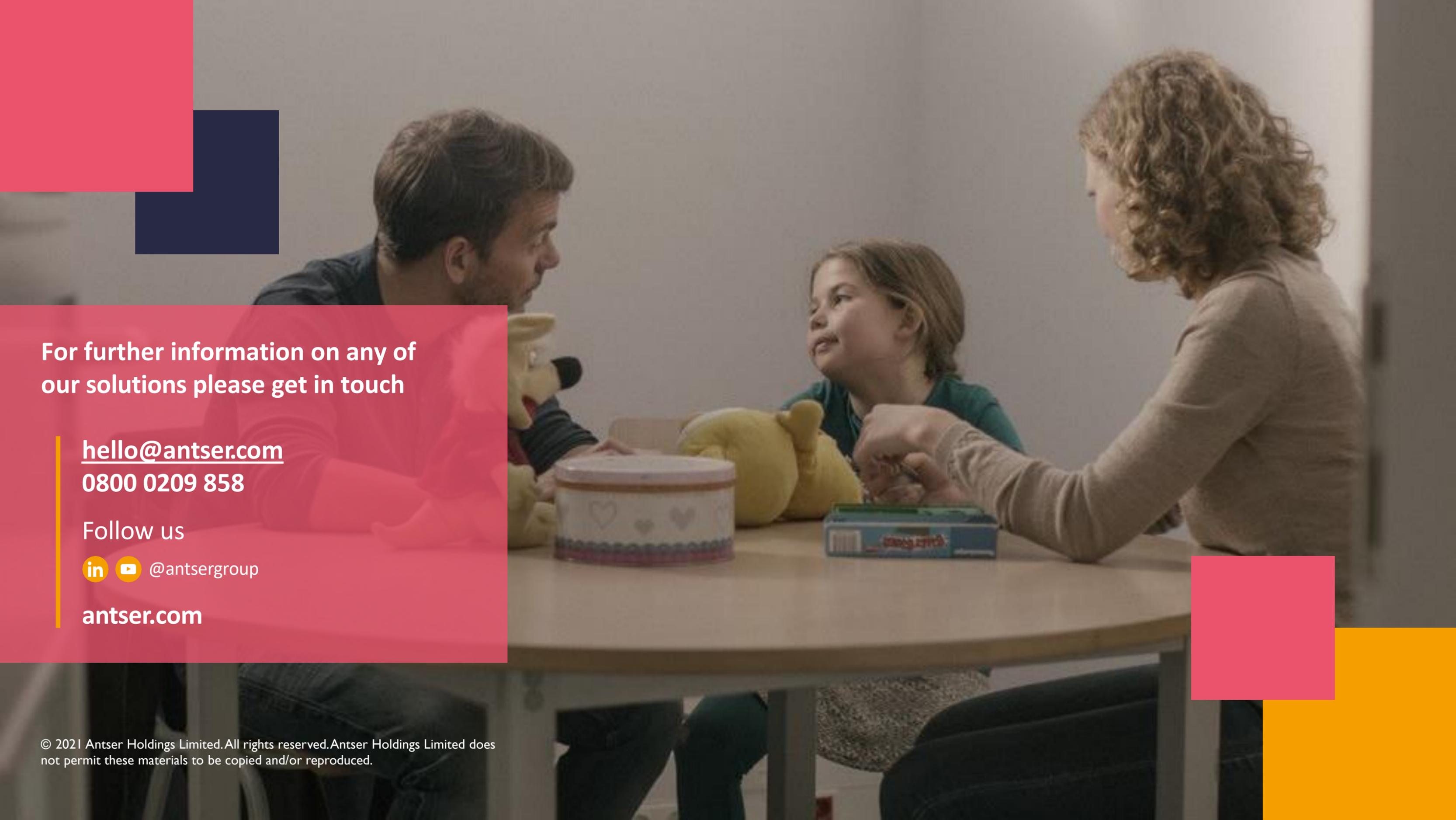
ABOUT ANTSER

Antser is an integrated organisation delivering transformation in health, education and social care.

We deliver end-to-end services to the children's and adult's social care sector, in partnership with local authority and independent providers. We also support the wider team working with children in, or on the edge of, care in the areas of health, education, community teams, police and judiciary.

Our solutions range from core compliance to transformation and technology all with one aim in mind – to deliver better outcomes.



A photograph of a family of three sitting at a light-colored wooden table. On the left, a man with short brown hair is looking towards the center. In the middle, a young girl with brown hair is looking towards the right. On the right, a woman with curly brown hair is looking towards the center. On the table, there is a white container with a heart pattern, a yellow stuffed bear, and a blue box. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. There are decorative colored shapes: a pink square in the top left, a dark blue square below it, a pink square in the bottom right, and a yellow square in the bottom right corner.

**For further information on any of
our solutions please get in touch**

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