

ANTSER CASE STUDY

FLOURISH FOSTERING

Foster Parents share their experience of using Antser Virtual Reality technology as a training tool within the children's social care sector

Flourish
Fostering

INTRODUCING VIRTUAL REALITY AND IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES TO FOSTER PARENTS

Flourish Fostering, an Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' independent fostering organisation, has become one of the first in the UK to pioneer virtual reality to tackle prevalent topics, such as child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Antser VR has been implemented across the organisation to upskill Foster Parents in advanced subjects more quickly, thereby providing a realistic 360-degree perspective of the child's world and what may bring them into care.

Talking about their first experience with the VR training, Foster Parents embraced and welcomed the innovative training.



“One thing that stands out to me from the training, is you are a toddler, sitting on the floor and you can't move around. Mum and dad are there, dad comes up in your face and screams at you, and you really feel the fear and panic, and rationally you know you're sitting in a room of people and safe, but you are shut off. It is all so consuming that you forget and become immersed in the experience.”

– Foster Parent

COMMENTS FROM THE FOSTER PARENTS

Nicola and Kevin Woodall, both foster parents who have been fostering for almost 15 years, said:

“We understand lots about children, their behaviour and what they have been through, but virtual reality provides you with a better perspective. When you look at children from their point of view and not as a foster parent, it is a whole new world of understanding.”

Additional comments from foster parents:

“It’s all very well being told or shown the statistics or being shown the data, but it’s different actually experiencing it first-hand for yourself from the child’s point of view.”

“I can apply the training to the children in my care because I have seen an example of what they have actually been through. It has allowed me to see that trauma is built from literally inside the womb.”

When comparing Antser VR enabled training to previous training they have received, Foster Parents said it was unrivalled.

HEAR FROM A FOSTER PARENT

Sharon Hausrath, a Foster Parent for over 11 years, said:

“Even with a master’s degree in therapeutic fostering and adoption, the VR training allowed me to learn something very new, and even though I am highly qualified and knew a lot about trauma and neglect, I found the virtual reality training offered greater insight than all the other training I have had over the years ever did.”

She continues by saying that:

“Training with the perspective of a VR headset touches a different part of your learning. You’re more aware of what situations must feel like. Using the headset, it gives a different perspective, and allows you to fully see different environments of what it must be like as a child.”

“When I did the training, everyone there had their own experiences of looking after children, but the VR allowed you to tap into a real, visceral, emotive experience. It gives you a different dimension of understanding.”

– Foster Parent.



USING VIRTUAL REALITY TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING, AWARENESS AND EMPATHY

Designed to help increase understanding, awareness and empathy surrounding children with adverse experiences, Foster Parents can apply the VR training in their day to day lives with their children.

One Foster Parent added:

“I can apply the training to the children in my care because I have seen an example of what they have actually been through. It has allowed me to see that trauma is built from literally inside the womb.”

Sharon Hausrath said:

“The first VR film I watched was called the ‘Unborn Child’ and having had the experience of a child living in a home that had suffered this kind of trauma, it was very insightful. I have previously read a lot about this subject matter but coming at it with the perspective of the VR headset, touches a different part of your learning. Your emotions are heightened of what it must be like for the child, as the VR headset puts you in the footsteps of the child and it makes you realise and empathize with how traumatic the situations are that children often find themselves in.”

“It really allows you to see the reason that some children behave the way that they do. They are just communicating their trauma, which is different to saying it is because of how they feel.”

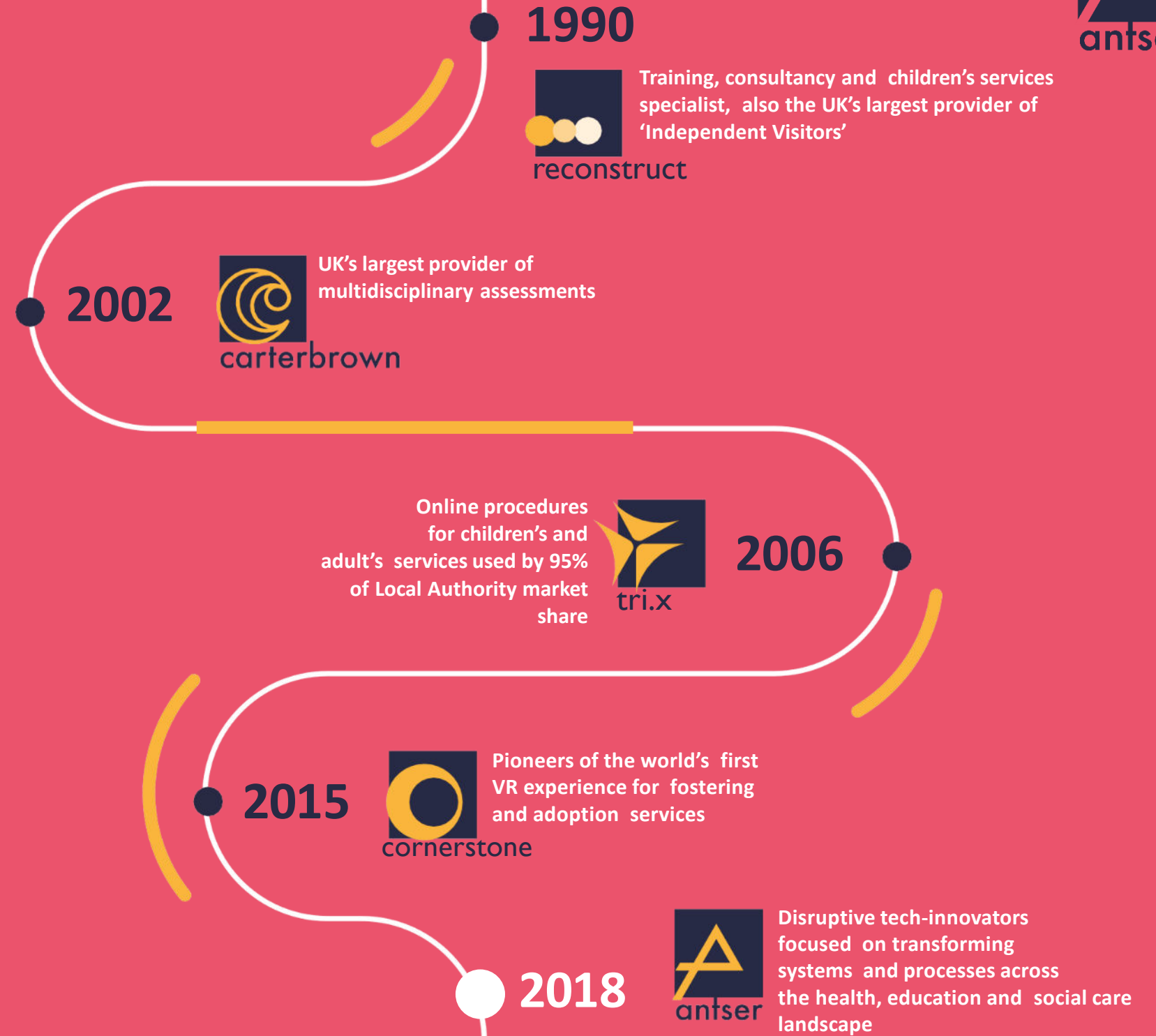
– Foster Parent.

ABOUT ANTSER

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

We deliver end-to-end services to the children and adult's social care sector, in partnership with local authorities 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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