



cornerstone

Virtual Reality Programme

<http://www.thecornerstonepartnership.com>

The Cornerstone Partnership's Virtual Reality Library uses cutting edge technology to put participants in the shoes of children in care - delivering the knowledge, understanding and empathy that can take years to develop in **just 6 minutes**.

This pioneering programme aims to **get children on their best path as quickly as possible** by changing how teachers, carers and legal professionals make decisions, interact and support children in care.

Improving shared understanding of children's emotions, trauma and potential triggers



Emerging research suggests that people remember information better when presented through virtual reality compared to standard desktop-based learning. A 2018 study found that memory recall when using head-mounted virtual reality displays (HMD) was almost 10% higher than desktop-based displays. In a post-activity survey, the researchers found that 95% of participants preferred the HMD and stated that the total immersion allowed them to focus on the specific task resulting in fewer mistakes. 1

1. Krokos, E., Plaisant, C. & Varshney, A. Virtual Reality (2018). <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2F978-1-4939-9846-3>

VR for social workers

*“Very powerful.
People seeing this rather
than reading about it will
feel differently
and hopefully act
differently”*

Social Worker at Foster Carer Recruitment Session

• How can the Cornerstone VR experience benefit the social care sector?

- Providing an improved understanding of children’s behaviour, needs and actions ensuring decisions reflect the best interests of the child
- Increasing empathy and understanding of children who have experienced trauma facilitating more targeted support
- Creating a shared understanding of trauma and attachment between carers and adopters helping to bridge communication barriers
- Potential cost savings due to improved recruitment, placement stability and encouraging more efficient processes
- Improving motivation and resilience of social workers and carers working in challenging environments
- More targeted recruitment and assessment of foster carers and adopters
- Participating in new, cutting edge approaches creates opportunities to contribute to best practice



90% of social workers who participated in a Trauma Awareness session reported that they will do things differently as a result of the session ²



100% of session participants said they would recommend the VR programme to a colleague ³



Cornerstone VR has contributed to many success stories, helping place more children with complex needs and avoid disruptions, with substantial cost saving implications. For example, placing a child age 5 for adoption can **save an LA over £425,000** in fostering costs alone, with wider cost savings as a result of improved life outcomes likely to be even more significant.

^{2,3} Source: Feedback from a Trauma Awareness Session delivered to Local Authority staff

VR for education professionals

“Provided a child’s eye view which was shocking and highlighted the child’s perspective”

Teacher at Trauma Awareness Session

• How can the Cornerstone VR experience benefit schools?

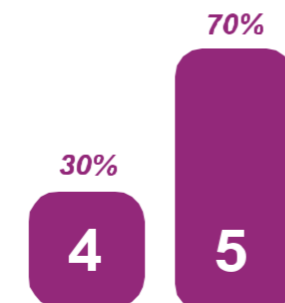
- Providing an improved understanding of children’s behaviour and actions, which can assist with the development of targeted behaviour management strategies
- Increasing empathy for children who have experienced trauma transforming day to day interactions, including developing a better understanding of potential trauma triggers
- Assisting with the identification of support requirements for children in care
- Improving the motivation and resilience of teachers and staff working in challenging environments

91% of education professionals said they will do things differently as a result of the Cornerstone VR session ⁴

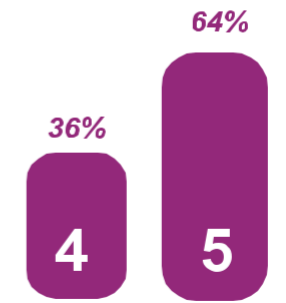
70% of education professionals rated the session with 5 out of 5 ⁵



On a scale from 1-5, how valuable was today in helping you in your role? ⁶



On a scale from 1-5, how impactful was the VR experience? ⁷



^{4,5,6,7} Source: Feedback from a Trauma Awareness Session delivered to teachers

VR for legal professionals

“Following the VR experience, I will ensure things progress as efficiently as possible”

Judge at Trauma Awareness Session

• How can the Cornerstone VR experience benefit the legal system?

- Providing an improved understanding of children’s behaviour, needs and actions ensuring decisions reflect the best interests of children in care
- Highlighting the importance of making quick and good decisions to improve outcomes for children in care and mitigate the potential negative impacts created by unstable placements
- Increasing confidence in decision-making by offering a more complete understanding of trauma
- Participating in new, cutting edge approaches to training creates opportunities to contribute to best practice



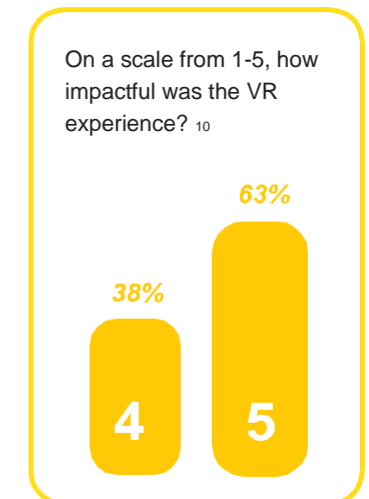
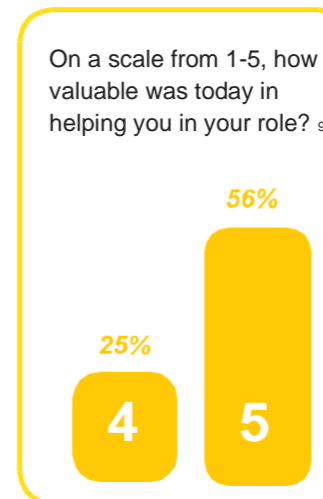
88%

OF DISTRICT JUDGES SAID THEY WILL DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY, AS A RESULT OF THE SESSION ⁸

CHANGES INCLUDED:



- Reflect more on the child’s perspective, as well as their physical and emotional needs
- Ensuring the efficiency of processes
- Improved consideration of the long-term effects of legal decisions
- Enhanced understanding of trauma and how it affects children’s lives



^{8,9,10} Source: Feedback from a Trauma Awareness Session delivered to judges