

## **November 2011**

### **Update on Maisie**

It is now a year since Maisie was formally adopted and life in the Clifford household has moved on considerably.

Maisie has continued to have therapy at Family Futures, as we were successful in achieving the funding for this. The therapy has included two intensive weeks which have helped Maisie to understand her history and realise that what happened to her was not her fault – things happened because of the poor choices made by the adults who were responsible for keeping her safe. Also within the therapy she has achieved an understanding of how her past experiences have affected the way she behaves and this has helped her to modify and change her responses to difficult situations.

When considering, at a recent therapy session, her hopes and dreams for the future, she said that she hopes that people will respect her, that she will not be lonely and that she will have friends. These are now achievable and she can see that she has a future where she can be anything she wants to be.

She is now calmer, happy and fun-loving, confident, popular, able to trust people enough to ask for help and to know that the help they give will be appropriate. She can still, like any 11 year old, get stroppy if she doesn't get her own way, but now her response is to stamp her feet, stomp upstairs and within 5 minutes she will reappear, contrite and apologetic saying 'Sorry, I shouldn't have reacted like that, please can we try that again.' She now has a very close relationship with Sue and is able to talk to her about any problem including all those difficult questions facing pre-teens. Gone is the violence and aggression, replaced by a loving and lovely daughter.

Maisie now enjoys life to the full. She has developed a very close relationship with her siblings and they are often found playing on the wii together or helping each other to tidy their rooms. At school she has moved from a resource for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties to being a regular pupil in a mainstream class with lots of friends. She is very popular and is now able to manage sleepovers and parties.

Maisie now has a chance at a life and her future now looks much promising.