



BBC Radio 4 Appeal Script

Sunday 22 February 2009 at 7.55am & 9.26pm & Thursday 26th February 2009 at 3.27pm
BBC Radio 4: 92-95 FM, 198 Long Wave or listen online at www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/appeal

Durham conjures up the idea of a beautiful Cathedral City and it is, but it's not all like that. I'm a Head Teacher of a primary school in County Durham and everyday I see the need for The Place2Be.

The Place2Be is a charity that offers children the chance to talk about their emotions and help them deal with their feelings of fear, anxiety and pain.

Many of my pupils witness daily, cruel brutalities; at home they sleep on the floor and they only eat when they are at school. They can be withdrawn or disruptive, they always find it difficult to learn. These children are desperate and as young as seven they contemplate suicide.

To cope in situations like these children, parents and their teachers need extra resilience and this is where The Place2Be comes in.

The Place2Be is based in primary schools, and the trained volunteer counsellors are as well known as the dinner lady. They have their own room in the school, and they see children everyday, if there's a problem they're on hand and can respond immediately. When there's a crisis The Place2Be is right there.

Now, I'd like to tell you about Ben. Ben is 7 and lives with his mother and two younger brothers. Ben used to work hard in school but every Thursday he tried to do whatever it took to be sent home – he disrupted his class, he acted aggressively, or he soiled himself. When The Place2Be talked to Ben, they found out that on Thursday afternoons he went back home, woke up his Mum and took her to the post office to collect the family's weekly benefit. He then tried to get her to do the weekly shop before she spent the money on alcohol. At the age of seven, he had become the family's carer.

The Place2Be have helped both Ben and his mother and continue to be there for them. Ben is now in school on Thursday afternoons and happy to be there.

The Place2Be is based in 146 schools around the UK, offering support to over 47,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families.
Your donation will allow our children to start thinking about learning and not just about surviving.

You can give now either online via the radio 4 website or by calling 0800 404 8144. That's 0800 404 8144. Or you can write a cheque to The Place2Be and send it to Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal.

That's Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal. Please mark the back of your envelope The Place2Be. Thank you.