



EDUCATION TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

## PestalozziWorld

EDUCATING CHILDREN FOR A BETTER LIFE

### Assessing the Opportunities to Work Closer Together

Many people still remember, as schoolchildren, their organised support of the "Ladybird Charity" – Pestalozzi. What many do not realise is that under the Pestalozzi name, a number of charitable organisations have grown up around the world since the 1950's, all following Pestalozzi's holistic education principles of Head, Heart and Hands. Historically, educational villages were established by philanthropists to care for post war refugees, firstly in Switzerland then in England and most recently in Africa and India, supported by organised funding from around the world. The English village is based in East Sussex near Hastings and since 1957 has been providing residential scholarships to children from around the world with the aim that these children would return to help others in their home countries to achieve. This model – now called the Circle of Success – proved more and more challenging as the decades moved on and in 1995 the English charity split into two: The Pestalozzi International Village Trust (PIVT) and The Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust (POCT).

PIVT continued to develop the English residential village, reducing the number of children receiving scholarships and focusing their education on the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. In parallel the POCT created villages overseas to educate children in their own countries and established PestalozziWorld as an umbrella for their activities. Through all this the two charities maintained close links and shared their passion for improving children's opportunities through holistic education – creating tomorrow's champions. At present, some 500 children are supported between the two charities and there are plans for considerable growth in the future.



The Circle of Success in Action

The Chairmen of the two charities approached WCoMC in December 2008 asking our help to recommend whether there was a case for the two organisations to work closer together, for example considering options that ranged from sharing support and fundraising expertise to possible merger. We therefore worked at length with the two charities to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the two organisations and the opportunities and threats of closer working.

Our work started in January 2009 and was split into three stages:

- Meetings with the Chairmen and members of the Boards and their senior managers;
- Holding separate and joint workshops with the Boards and senior staff;
- Recommending action plans for the future.

Our work ended in April 2009, giving PIVT and POCT objective insights into their operations and future sustainability. We helped them prioritise their strategic programme and refine their aims. We now expect that their education model will expand further and faster through sharing of knowledge, skills and fundraising abilities.

Our thanks go to Vincent Bryant and Patrick Chapman who together undertook this work for WCoMC.

**November 2009**