

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

1 February 2016

CHANGE COUNCIL UPDATE

1. **Change Council revamp:** we are working with communications team and CREO to develop a new logo and identity for the change council. The group have given their ideas to CREO and she is going to mock up some designs and bring them to the February meeting.
2. **Pledge:** all of the young people matched to a pledge have either met with their buddies or have one scheduled in to meet with them.
3. **£3 Challenge:** at our regional meeting we have agreed to take part in the £3 challenge. We have worked with other young people in the region and the average care leaver on benefits is left with £21 a week for food after bills etc. To raise awareness and promote more support for care leavers the Regional Children in Care Council are running a challenge to Senior Managers to prepare a recipe for under £3. These will be taken to young people to be assessed and rated before feeding back to managers. Recipes that pass the test will be put in a regional cook book for care leavers.
4. **Letters to MP's:** The Who Cares? Trust is running a project to connect children in care with their MP. The government is their corporate parent and any good parent would know what's important to their children. The who cares trust is there to increase awareness of the issues and bring about improvements in the lives of children in care in 2016. All the young people in change council have completed a letter and it has also been sent out to team managers and children's homes to give other young people the opportunity to do one.
5. **Inspiring Voices Consultation Café:** we attended a consultation café at Sunderland University with other young people from different regions. There was lots of conversation starters to choose from and a range of activities including making your own placard, a graffiti wall and sharing our views using emojis.
6. **Conference for looked after children:** we are looking to hold a conference for all children in care in early spring. We are currently in the process of deciding what our theme is going to be but one of the ideas was around mental health of young people in care.
7. **Recruitment:** we want more young people to join so we have sent a letter to all young people in care or leaving care who are 11+, we have also sent an email to all staff working with young people, residential homes and leaving care accommodation. An article will also be put in the foster carers newsletter.

8. **Inspection of accommodation:** we were given the opportunity to go and look at some of the leaving care accommodation that Sunderland has to offer. We visited Chester Road, Burlington, the YMCA and Centrepoint. They were all very different. We have shared our views with the Head of LAC Martin Birch.
9. **Campaign:** as a group we have decided we would like to look at challenging the stigma of children and young people in care, this came about after Kieran shared a story with the group about a couple of women who were talking about fostering as they stood in a queue in a shop to get served. One woman had said she would like to foster while the other replied that she should not do that as they are all naughty children.
10. **Fostering recruitment:** to help with point 9 we are going to get involved with the recruitment of foster carers, we are going to work with communications to help challenge the stigma and also help deliver training to foster carers.