



## **Corporate Parenting Board – 21 March 2011**

### **Responses to Concerns raised by Change Council**

#### **Proposed Closure of Children's Homes**

*Care Plans for young people will 'go to pot' If Children's homes get shut*

- Young people's care plans will be carefully considered and there will be a different plan in place for each young person. The home will not close until all the plans for the young people can be properly put in place

*Being a carer shouldn't be about money and nor should be shutting the homes*

- The decision to close a children's home is not taken lightly, and is not just about money. It is also about making sure that each young person is offered the right placement for him or her, and about placement choice

*Foster care does not suit all young people*

- We know that foster care doesn't suit everyone, and there will always be Children's Homes for those young people who need them

*Foster care should be for all ages, instead of just young children*

- Foster care is for children and young people of all ages, not just young children. Lots of teenagers live in foster care

*Some foster carers are "mint", but some carers are awful and treat young people badly*

- As in all walks of life, people are different. If any young person feels he or she is being treated badly they need to tell their social worker, or Alyson, or someone else they trust, so that this can be looked into. We do not want any young person to be badly treated

*You should match Young Persons to Foster Carers so they have something in common; for example if a young person like football, they should be placed with a foster family that like the same things*

- As far as possible we do try to match young people with carers on the basis of mutual interests, but this is not always possible

*Homes should not "be closed off" or "out of the way" – young people need to learn to be part of a community, they can't do that if they are isolated*

- We all agree that children's homes need to be part of the community.

#### **Leaving Care / Housing**

*If young people are capable, they should be able to go straight in to their own flat instead of supported accommodation*

- Sometimes young people can be supported to move into their own accommodation direct from care, but we find that for most young people a gradual transition to independence through supported accommodation works best

*There needs to be more 'types' of supported accommodation*

- We would like there to be more choices of accommodation for young people leaving care, and actively try to extend the range of available options

*There should be better on-going support for people in care and foster care when they leave care*

- The Leaving Care Service will continue to support young people when they leave care – this support is now being extended to age 25 for young people in full-time education.

## **EMA / Pocket Money**

*EMA :- different treatment in different homes*

- EMA is now coming to an end. We are looking into how EMA is currently treated in the different homes to make sure that this is fair across the homes.

## **Miscellaneous**

*Rules are not clear or fair – different homes have different rules, then rules are different again if you are in Foster care*

- Rules are never exactly the same in 2 foster homes, or even in children's homes, but they should be fair. If young people feel they are not being treated fairly they need to talk to their social worker, or Aly, or someone else they trust

## **Schools**

*Some schools are still embarrassing young people ...."your home is here for you"!*

- We have passed on to the Virtual School the concern about schools embarrassing young people – but they need to know which school said this so that we can talk to the school about it.