



Young People in Care Changing Lives

Report to Corporate Parenting Board

27 October 2009

1 Purpose of Report

To provide the Board with an update on the work of the Change Council since last Corporate Parenting Board meeting in July 2009

2 Change Council newsletter

The next issue of Change News is being prepared. We have lots of material for the next issue and hope to have this out in the next month.

3 Young people delivering training for staff and other professionals

- The next Total Respect Course is to take place during the October Half term
- Some of our young people took part in delivering a training course at Leechmere for staff looking at sexual health needs
- Some of us will also be delivering training to professionals outside Sunderland. We will be doing some training for the Fostering Network in November this year and February 2010. These courses will be on Saturdays so no young person will need to miss any school or college time to do this.
- We have also been asked to do some training again for the Family Justice Council. The last time we did this it went down very well and we have been invited to play a bigger role in their conference next March

4 Regional young people's meetings

We are continuing to work with young people from other councils to see how we can develop more regional links. There was a good turnout at the meeting this month in Newcastle, but some councils don't have their Children in Care Councils set up properly yet and were not really represented.

We would all like a big regional event, but it looks like this will take time so maybe next year, when perhaps other councils are set up, we can do this properly

5 Visitors / guests

Kathryn Rutherford came to the July meeting, and some of us volunteered to take part in making a training/recruitment video she was making for foster carers.

Shirley Gounder also came in July to talk about Ofsted inspections, and several of us volunteered to be on a list of people who Ofsted can speak to when they visit.

The Director cannot make the September meeting so is coming to a special meeting we have arranged in October.

Interviews:

October is going to be a busy month:

- Four members of Change Council joined up with other young people from Young Carers and Sunderland Youth Parliament to form young people's interview panels for the Head of Service and Assistant Head of Service posts. The same group hopes to be involved in the interviews again in October for the post which is still vacant.
- Representatives from Change are also involved in shortlisting and interviewing a new Independent Reviewing Officer, and hope to be involved in other staff interviews in October

Change Day.

Last Summer we held a Change Fun-Day, for young people and their carers in order to encourage young people (and their carers) to come together to give their ideas and views about being in care and to make sure that as many as possible knew about the Change Council. The turnout was good, but we decided we might get a better turnout when fewer people were on holiday, so this year we are holding it on Saturday 28 November. There will be a range of fun activities, but the main point of the day will be to use lots of different ways of helping young people to give their views about the service and about what the Change Council should be concentrating on. We also want to use the day to help young people and their carers to know what sorts of help and support is available, so we have invited different services to come along and set up information stalls or help with activities. The people we have invited include the LACE Team, Fostering, the Independent Advocacy Service, the Youth Development Group Music project and YDAP.