

## **Corporate Parenting Special Advisory Group - 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

### **‘Make a Noise’ Consultation Feedback (20<sup>th</sup> February 2019)**

9 teams within Children’s Services and 6 partners worked together to deliver the Make a Noise consultation fun day for children open to social care on 20<sup>th</sup> February at Darwen Vale High School.

45 children and young people across the age range, 23 parent/carers and invited guests enjoyed a wide range of hands-on participation activities across 17 stalls. The majority of activities were designed to capture the views of children and young people to find out what is important to them and what they would like their corporate parents to get better at and prioritise.

Facilitators enjoyed offering face painting, messy play, badge making, arts and crafts, photo booth, dance and a penalty shootout which was especially enjoyed by the older boys and supervised by a Care Leaver. Despite the cold and wet weather, the climbing wall supplied by Young Peoples Services attracted a number of eager young people. 2BR Radio used the event to ask children and young people about their ambitions for the future and the recordings will feature in future Fostering Recruitment radio campaigns.

*Children’s Services teams supporting:* Leaving Care, Early Years, Family Support, Family Group Conferencing, Fostering, Adolescent Support Unit, Appletrees Hub, Strategy Policy & Performance & Young Peoples Services.

*Partners supporting:* 2BR Radio, CAMHS, Looked After Children’s Nurse (NHS), Blackburn College, Making Rooms & Health Watch

### **What are Children & Young People Saying?**

Below is the feedback captured on the day which covers themes including free time & hobbies; interaction with professionals & carers; views on being in care; what I want more of and what I don’t like. This work is in addition to the detailed discussions with children and young people throughout the year, particularly their engagement as part of the Investing in Children accreditation process which is held by 25 services across the borough.

#### **Activity 1) Body Mapping – What matters to you?**

- Love & friends
- Fun
- Love
- Loving animals
- Caring for the environment, climate and making sure people are safe
- Living
- My family x 3
- That I have really good parents
- That I have a good family and I focus really hard to have a good future
- My real family and my foster family
- Fortnite, football, family

## **Activity 2) Your Voice is Important to us**

- Lytham Road helps me have time away from my parents
- I like all the toys where I live. My favourite is Doc McStuffin (age 4)
- Free scooter parts
- Really kind foster carers
- I like doing IT
- I like going to Junction 4 skatepark in Darwen
- I'd like to see my social worker more (age 13)
- I get more support in hard situations
- I like my tablet, family and outdoors
- Going on holiday
- My meetings are boring
- Spending time with my carers – they listen to me (age 14)
- Playing
- I like reading and spelling at school
- I love segways, but I hate people that think what's best for me when it isn't
- I like to dance every day
- It's safe in placement
- I don't like the review booklet and I need some help filling it in (age 12)
- I like that there is a lot of support if I need it (age 13)
- I would like more days out with YPS
- When people be mean I need support
- I would like to get better facilities at my school

## **Activity 3) What do you want more of?**

- Sleepovers
- Trips out
- Going to my friends
- More days out with my family
- ASU not cancelling
- More group work (ASU)
- "I love ASU"
- Competitions

## **Activity 4) What do you want that you don't have?**

- Phone
- Going to college
- Nintendo Switch
- Less crime
- Everything to be mine
- To get better at Maths
- To focus on the things I love



### **Activity 5) What do you want to change about the help you receive?**

- ASU is the best place ever
- Amanda is the best ASU worker (and Melissa)!
- Sometimes the social worker doesn't listen to things I have to say (we should all have a say)
- Meetings – because they are boring and I feel like I have nothing to lose because I am fed up with having them
- Social worker changes all the time

### **Activity 6) Parent/Carers feedback**

- Social Worker to listen to what I say
- More fun activities at the ASU
- Seeing young people I used to care for
- I love my job

### **Activity 7 ) Leaving Care Team Wall - What is 'bad' to you, what do you not like?**

- Live close to a bad area
- Many burglaries where I live
- Signing yourself out at 16 with no safety net
- Need more help from social workers
- Lots of rules
- Social Worker puts too many rules in place
- When you don't get to see your friends as much
- I don't get to see my family
- When social workers are late
- Not enough help for care leavers – though staff are really good
- Feeling alone and getting into fights
- When people tell me what I can and cannot do
- Going to college
- Not living with parents
- I don't get to see Mum and Dad often
- Not enough support for care leavers in uni
- Personal Advisors prioritise those care leavers with chaotic lives over those who SEEM settled!
- Having to go home
- My adoptive sister might not want to share my toys
- I have to be in really early
- Missing mummy
- Cancelled sleepovers at ASU
- Resources are getting scarce

### **Activity 8) Leaving Care Team Wall - What is 'good' to you, what do you like?**

- I am treated well by carers
- Carers spoilt us rotten
- No trouble at home and I feel safe
- To live in a nice area
- Support with bills
- To live with no trouble
- Watching my young "L" grow into a confident young man
- Like going to the caravan
- Love going to Blackburn Rovers
- Going to new places and learning new skills
- Meeting new people
- When I'm with my mates
- Having a mum
- Being at home
- Hugging Nana
- ASU
- Being with my family
- Better living conditions
- We have a trampoline
- Leaving at 16
- Having lots of toys
- To be happy
- Football
- Having a brother
- Good people to help you
- I get to live with good people
- Being safe
- Having a family life
- Having a better life chance
- We have fab foster carers
- Really caring staff who are always there for our young people
- Learning new hobbies
- Making friends

### **Activity 9) Pants & Tops (carers and children & young people)**

#### **Tops - Positives**

- People genuinely care
- Meeting new young people (ASU staff)
- Excellent health advice
- LAC nurse needed
- The young people in care are a credit despite what they have been through
- ASU staff are amazing, like a second family and will do anything for everyone
- Becky is the best Leaving Care PA (like a second mother)
- ASU is very supportive and never give up on you and your dreams

- Lots of support when I need it
- Brilliant support network
- Enjoy watching the young people growing and improving all the time
- I have learnt about the human body today
- Today has been good to see how interested adults and services are in children in care
- Stroking the cat every morning
- I am grateful for the activities that I do
- Activities at ASU
- Support from agencies with fantastic knowledge to help with problems that may arise
- Days out with my foster carers
- Staff are great
- Watching the children grow and develop
- I enjoyed the teeth cleaning demo
- I have learned about blood pressure and healthy ranges

### **Pants - Negatives**

- YPS should be able to mentor or volunteer at the ASU
- Need more funding for our young people
- Constant change of workers and placements
- Not enough funding in care
- Not enough funding in Leaving Care
- Leaving Care split into age is ridiculous
- Too many rules
- Contact backchatting
- Change in social workers
- Having too many social workers
- Contact arrangements
- Not enough low cost activities for kids available

### **Activity 10) Dear Younger Me – Postcard to my younger self**

- Have a dream and focus on something you love
- Follow your dreams and do what you want – not what your friends/family want you to do. Life is short – enjoy every minute of it
- Take more risks. Most things are not worth worrying about
- I never know what I wanted to do when I was a young person. I liked babies and thought I might work as a midwife. However I feel I have helped to make a difference as a social worker.
- Don't think the world is against you. Do school to get my GCSEs. Have fun and don't take life too seriously.
- Listen to others, do better at school, ask for help. Education is a positive, not a chore.
- Worry less. So many things are not worth worrying about. Enjoy the ride.
- Don't worry so much about everything. Think positive and believe in yourself

- Do things you want to do. Go 4 your goals. Speak up if you have to – respect the other person as well. Have as much fun as you can and try things you might be unsure of.
- Wish I had less arguments and fall outs with my friends
- Enjoy every day. Sit still in a classroom.
- Remember, decisions you make now all affect your future.
- Never give up. Always try new things. Keep playing football.
- Don't be a stroppy teenager.
- Don't worry about what other think! Be yourself.
- Don't' give up hope and follow your dreams. Keep telling yourself that you can do it. Do not wat too many chocolates.
- Focus and don't get kicked out of school.
- Go back to Morris Dancing
- Not to fall through a glass door
- Keep yourself happy and concentrate at school
- Believe in yourself
- Accept complements. Don't be put off by criticism. Believe you can and will.
- Teachers, family (older) know what they are talking about. Education is important. Don't let other put you down.
- Not to be stupid. Don't think everyone is against you. Value those that help you.
- I wish I would have spent more time at home with my parents. Marry for money.
- Be yourself. Set your goals high and don't settle for second best.
- Hello. Don't fight with your siblings.
- Believe in yourself.
- Believe in yourself. Reach for the stars and touch the moon.
- Love life. Smile more.
- Learn to say no!
- I wish I was gooder when I was 5.
- Get a proper education! You need it to move on in life.
- Don't kick and punch. Don't be naughty.
- Don't worry too much. Just turn up and do your best.
- I would listen more. I would try harder in education. I would be more myself instead of following others.
- Milk the system. Get Maths and English. You cannot look after yourself at 16. Don't leave care until you have to!
- You are not judged by what you look like – don't fall for that.
- Not to upset my parents as I did. They still love me though.
- To behave and not fight with other students. Carry on doing motocross and kickboxing.
- Do better in high school. Do better in my GCSEs.
- Listen to advice. Pay more attention. Try hard in class.
- Don't doubt yourself when it comes to music. You might think you are not good at it but you will be.
- Carry on playing basketball.
- Be kinder. Don't smash things. Don't take drugs. Don't drink a lot.

### ***What Now?***

From this event the views of the young people will support the development of a new and updated corporate parenting strategy which evidences the voice of the child.

We recognise that we also need to reach out to more young people across our service in different settings. It is therefore proposed that a new and refreshed 'Children in our Care' website is developed so that communication is ongoing and that burning issues can be listened to and responded to.

The Make a Noise event also needs to be considered as a model for any future corporate parenting requirements.

Your views are most welcome.

***Janette Clarke – Head of Permanence, Children's Services***