

Corporate Parenting Challenge 13th August 2015

Background:

For the past four years Looked After Young People have worked with members of the Corporate Parenting Forum on themes as diverse as Health, Education and setting work plan priorities.

Topics have either been generated by the Corporate Parenting Forum (CPF) if there is a particular interest or area that needed to be consulted on or alternatively areas of interest for service development; this year the challenge focused on Young People setting the areas that they wanted the Council to look at which had the greatest impact on their lives.

With the assistance of Chris Sivers, on the first day, a group of looked after children and young people, spent a week together developing their service priorities. This helped to crystalize their thinking and culminated in nine questions which the Young People wanted to put to the members of the CPF on the day of the challenge itself.

The below action plan was formulated from the responses at the Corporate Parenting Challenge Day.

QUESTION You said...	RESPONSES We Said.....	<i>What we will do by March 2016?</i>	<i>Who will do this?</i>
1. How do you keep Children Safe?	<p>Swansea City Council has a Corporate Safeguarding Board and key people in every department who have responsibility for safeguarding.</p> <p>Under the UNCRC all children and young people have a right to be safe and staff are trained in safeguarding to make sure this is the case.</p> <p>2. We want children and young people to be happy and safe but we have to balance this with your needs.</p>	<p>1. We will ask the Corporate Safeguarding Board to give you an explanation about what they do and what training staff have.</p> <p>2. We want to know more about what you mean when you ask this question so we will meet with the #IAMME group to see what else we might need to do to.</p>	<p>1. Mike Holding</p> <p>2. Tom Jones</p>

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<p>2. Why are we not allowed to have sleepovers and our own independence?</p> <p><i>Young people felt they missed out on sleepovers and other activities that their peers are able to do.</i></p>	<p>We want you to be able to do the same things as other young people provided you are safe doing it. If there is a reason why you cannot stay over with someone we will explain why in an open and honest way.</p> <p>We will make sure that foster carers and social workers tell you that you can have sleepovers and we will speed up the delays caused because consent forms have to be signed.</p>	<p>1. We will make sure that all staff, and any carers that look after our children and young people know about the 'delegated authority' policy relating to overnight stays and trips.</p> <p>2. We will give you an explanation about what 'delegated authority' means in a way that you can understand and make sure you know what to do if something goes wrong.</p> <p>3. We will make sure that your IRO checks that delegated authority is in place for you.</p>	<p>Julie Thomas</p>
<p>3. Why don't I have the freedom to say 'this is not what I want?'</p>	<p>We know we are not your parents but we want you to enjoy the same things as any other child or young person.</p>	<p>1. We are committed to finding different ways to listen to you and what you want to</p>	<p>Sue Evans</p>

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	<p>We want to know what you think and feel and that includes knowing what you don't want.</p> <p>We need to balance your safety with meeting your needs and you having fun. We want to make sure we listen to your voice and that your views are taken into account.</p> <p>You should be aware of advocacy services and how to access an advocate.</p>	<p>happen.</p> <p>2. We will give you information about the different ways you, as a Looked After Child or Young Person, can be more involved in the decisions that are important to you and other LAC and young people.</p> <p>3. We will make sure are given information about the Advocacy Service called 'Leo' when you become Looked After or at any point that you or anyone else thinks this service might help you..</p>	
<p>4. How do you support parents and carers when we aren't with them?</p>	<p>We always have a good reason for you not be looked after by your family.</p>	<p>1. We will make sure that you have an explanation about</p>	<p>Nichola Rogers</p>

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	<p>We work with families to get them the support they need</p> <p>We always try to put regular safe contact arrangements in place.</p> <p>Schools try to make sure parents attend parents evenings and get a school report on how well you are doing.</p> <p>We use Signs Of Safety as a way to help us understand what you want.</p>	<p>what has happened in your family for you to become Looked After in a way that you can understand.</p> <p>We will do this with your parent/s as much as we possibly can.</p> <p>We will do this as soon as we can after you become Looked After.</p> <p>This might be through a words and pictures account.</p>	
<p>5. Can we have a voice in the recruitment and training of Foster Carers and Social Worker?</p> <p>How can young people be involved in assessment of Foster Carers (in terms of</p>	<p>This is a good idea. We have asked the person who is responsible for looking into the recruitment and training of foster carers, respite carers and social workers and she will look into how you can be involved.</p> <p>You also said that you would like us to look at how you can contribute to getting the right placement for you, for example you said you want to meet foster carers beforehand if possible and that you need to know that you will be safe and have a positive relationship with them.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will work with you to find the best way that you can help us to recruit foster carers. 2. We will meet with you to find out how to make the experience of being looked after in foster or residential 	<p>Karen Benjamin</p>

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<p>placement and suitability to foster)</p>	<p>You also said that your foster Carer should ‘know some things about you, but not everything’ Some of this is quite complicated and we need to look into it before we can give you an answer.</p>	<p>care easier for you.</p>	
<p>6. Should Young People make decisions for themselves?</p>	<p>We think it’s very important for you to be supported to make decisions for yourselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You could chair your review or have support to do so. • You invite who you want to be there and decide where it is. • If you can’t be there we will give you all the information you need in a way that’s easy to understand. <p>Do you want Children in Care Council to give a voice for your main issues so that we have a say of responding to them on a regular basis. A place where you can hold us to account. What do you think? We need to find ways of meeting with you regularly so that it can champion your cause.</p> <p>Young people to be listened to and have the why’s and how’s explained fully for all decisions that affect them.</p>	<p>1. Your social worker will talk to you about who you would like to come to your review meeting, where you would like it to be held and when.</p> <p>2. Your IRO will meet you before your first LAC Review and also in between review meetings. This is to get to know you and also to help you think about how you want the meeting to look.</p> <p>3. Your IRO will explain his or her particular role, and give you their contact details so that you</p>	<p>Haydn Nelson/Sue Evans</p>

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		<p>can speak to them if you have any worries.</p> <p>4. Your IRO will give you feedback from your review in a way that you can understand.</p>	
<p>7. How should young people be properly looked after? And why? <i>* Young people thought a better name for Corporate Parents was 'Councillors who look out for you '</i></p>	<p>You should be loved, cared for, safe, listened to, live with people who you feel safe with and where you feel wanted and respected.</p> <p>We should ensure that you have the right education and support to be the best you can and to help you to be healthy and happy and to always ask if this were my child – would this be good enough and if not then we should be looking for ways to improve.</p> <p>You can help us to do this by becoming involved with the Children in Care Council that we want to set up where you will be able to meet the key people who have responsibility for making sure that your experience in care is good and that when the time comes for you to leave you are fully prepared and supported to do so.</p>	<p>1. We want to put a structure in place so that the Corporate Parenting Forum regularly listens to your views and wishes, acts on them and tells you what it can do to help and support you.</p> <p>2. We will do this through the Participation and Engagement Framework. We will give you information about what this means and how you can be involved.</p>	<p>Jane Harris</p>

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		This might be through Children in Care Council.	
<p>8. Please explain why everybody's contact is different?</p>	<p>Everybody's circumstances are different and this is why contact arrangements are different. You should be told if and why contact is cancelled and this should be done in an open and honest way by your social worker.</p> <p>Children and young people need to have the right information, at the right time to be able to make an informed decision about matters that affect them.</p> <p>Contact and issues around contact are monitored in your LAC Review.</p>	<p>1. Your social worker will help you understand what he or she and others have decided about who you can see and how often.</p> <p>2. When changes are made to contact you will have an explanation from your social worker in a way that you can understand.</p>	<p>Nichola Rogers</p>