

Corporate Parenting Display

Summary

The Corporate Parenting Display is for Councillors to raise their profile and acknowledge the achievements of Children Looked After, Beyond Limits – Children in Care Council and Young Voices. The stall displays information and accomplishments of Children Looked After in the past year. Councillors have the opportunity to meet and greet members from Beyond Limits and Young Voices while enjoying some light refreshments. Previously the display has been well received by Councillors.

Introduction

The display was held on Thursday 14th November between 6.30pm – 7.30pm outside the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre, Harrow Council. The aim was for Councillors to stop by the display and meet the young people before attending the Council meeting that evening. Seven children from Beyond Limits and Young Voices attended to meet and greet the Councillors. Four young people were placed at the Gayton Hotel an accommodation for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and three young people were placed in foster care.

Background

The Corporate Parenting Display was reflected by various events and activities from August 2012 - November 2013 and information from Children and Families Service.

The following was on display that evening:

- Information and leaflets - Harrow Pledge, Children and Families Plan, Complaints Procedure, Beyond Limits, Young Voices etc.
- Healthy Minds Session – pictures
- Young Voices Bowling – pictures
- Ministerial Visit – pictures and report
- Previous Corporate Parenting Display pictures
- Thorpe Park trip – report and pictures

There were 62 Councillors who stopped to appreciate the display and also talk to the children and young people. The Mayor also spent some time at the display and with the young people. Councillors, Directors, members of the public and the media also stopped to view the display.

A big thank you to Councillor Christine Bednell and Councillor Mitzi Green who supported the display and the children/young people's efforts by ensuring that all Councillors attending the Council meeting, entering the Council Chamber, had an opportunity to look at the display and talk to the young people. Due to this many Councillors now understand their role as a Corporate Parent. Councillors were very keen on learning more about Children and Families Services.

Discussion

Most of the feedback from the evening was very positive and all the Councillors speaking to Beyond Limits and Young Voices gave positive feedback.

Here is some feedback from the Councillors:



Here is some feedback and summary of what conversations took place between the Councillors and young people.

A Councillor spoke to the children and young people about school, their favourite subjects and their aspirations. One child answered 'I just like being there (placement)' and 'they're like my real family'.

Some Councillors asked whether any of them had problems or difficulties. Some children and young people answered no whilst other young people informed Councillors of the difficulties they had. The unaccompanied asylum seeking young people informed the Councillors that they were not happy where they lived and they wanted to move. The issues the young people raised were:

- They would like friends to stay later than 11.30pm, for some the reason was that they are 18 or over and they wished for friends to stay over
- The young people would like a barbeque but they were not allowed to have a barbeque at the residence
- They would like to move from where they are living

This was subsequently followed up quickly by the Service Manager for Children Looked After.

Conclusion

Overall the evening went well and thank you to the Councillors for being very supportive. There was some useful feedback and the Participation Coordinator – Zabeen Jamadar has suggested the following recommendations:

- In 2014 ensure the display is held on time – usually July, as the benefits of having the display and young people present was very beneficial

Finally, the event was very useful to both the Councillors and young people, the aim was for councillors to acknowledge the achievements of Children Looked After, Beyond Limits – Children in Care Council and Young Voices, this was achieved by the young people and the display showing various activities and events children and young people took part in. The display was also an opportunity for Councillors to understand their role better as a corporate parent; this was achieved as the councillors studied the display and conversed with the children and young people.

I would like to thank the councillors and the children and young people for making this event a success.

