

THE VOICE OF THE CHILD NEWSLETTER

Our shared vision is that everyone in Children's Services is committed to providing a service that supports children and young people, involving them in decision making and making a difference in their lives, ensuring that outcomes are child focused and met. To achieve this staff and managers need to ensure **that Participation is everyone's business** demonstrating an understanding of their roles and responsibilities



Here are the Child's Journey Improvement Themes taken from the Child's Journey Strategy

A culture that changes things for the child

Working together for the child

Improving the quality of case work and managing risk to the child

Developing good systems that keep children safe



We are our Children's and Young people's champion in making sure their voice is heard, these monthly newsletters are to help us all develop and embed Participation in our everyday practice by providing a way to share information, events and good practice. We will continue to provide you with important information, news and updates about Participation in Harrow from the Young People in Harrow.

BEYOND LIMITS!

You are invited to the Re-launch of Beyond Limits taking place on

Thursday 29th May @6pm

@Pizza Hut in Harrow

So get involved, we need **YOUR** views and **YOUR** opinions about **YOUR** future

If you would like to join us, contact Denise on 07909906866 or email denise.ailara@harrow.gov.uk to confirm your attendance.



This month, I visited Ignite, a fantastic program for Youth to engage with each other, be empowered and be transformed whilst learning some fantastic skills. Ignite hosts a range of programs from music programs to fun after school hang outs. I chatted with young people who were energized and excited about attending Ignite every week.

'It is a source of opportunity and information for young people that want it' Ignite Music program youth worker

There were so many success stories of young people that have learnt about becoming a better person and engaging in positive activities.

Come and be a part of the 'Girls Night Only' if you are aged between 13-19, come join us every Tuesday between 5:00pm-7:30pm for more details contact

[rchamberlain@ignitetrust.](mailto:rchamberlain@ignitetrust.ork.uk)

**ork.uk or call
02088632089**



"We have an inspiring and passionate team of workers and volunteers doing an amazing job, so that we constantly see lives changed for the better" – Dan Burke- Ignite Director

"I LOVE IGNITE BECAUSE I FEEL A PART OF THEIR FAMILY, I FEEL ACCEPTED AND UNDERSTOOD. SOMETIMES WHEN I HAVE TROUBLE AT HOME AND JUST FEEL ALONE, I CAN TALK TO THE YOUTH WORKERS. I THOUGHT THE PEOPLE AT IGNITE WERE GOING TO BE INTIMIDATING BUT THERE NOT AND I'M REALLY GLAD I COME"

IGNITE YOUTH, 15



"I LOVE IT AT IGNITE, I LOOK FORWARD TO COMING EVERY WEEK"
IGNITE YOUTH, 13

"THE YOUTH WORKERS ARE GREAT, REALLY EASY TO TALK TOO"
IGNITE YOUTH, 15

What Young People are Saying!

We asked how Young people felt about their CP conferences and reviews, here's what they said:

"Thank-you for my laptop, it will help with my education' Young person view on their IRO

"Thanks for helping my mum, things are much better" young person view on their social worker

"I feel like you understand my problems and I feel comfortable talking to you' Young Persons view on their social worker

"I enjoyed the one-on-one activity with my social worker" Young Persons View on their Social worker

"You help me loads, thank you" Young Persons View on their social worker



The leaving Care Forum took place on Friday 11th April and had great turn out of 25 Young people.

The theme of this forum was the 'Leaving Care Charter', and facilitated by three excellent care leavers, where there were lively discussions about its content and what it means for care leavers.

A young person questioned the amount of support they receive whilst leaving care and attending university and Melissa Caslake Divisional Director of Targeted Services, said that she would look into this. The young people felt heard, and their opinion had been listened to.

Results from the annual Care leaver's survey also highlighted this as an area that they wanted to address.

Some other feedback on leaving care included:

"I have been in care for three years and I would like to say thank you to all my social workers and foster care, for helping me a lot in 3 years. I get on with my life, have an education, confident.' The first time in my life when I can see the future and have a dream and follow it. I wouldn't do it without your help'

'Getting help with college start new life and get help with my child, look after him"

"I had great support with my education"

What we are Saying!

The Virtual School ran a full programme of co curricular activities during the Easter Holidays.

We began with a 2 day workshop lead by an actress from the RSC who looked at developing resilience and determination. It was lots of fun and culminated in a trip to Matilda at the Cambridge theatre which was amazing.

We also began a series of trips to Universities so young people can get a taster of all the great opportunities. Universities can offer. This Easter we went to SOAS and had a sample Japanese lesson and in the Half term Holiday we are going to Goldsmiths on Tuesday 27th May to focus on performing Arts and Humanities . If you are interested in attending please contact joanne.tortipidis@harrow.gov.uk

And finally we bravely went Camping in Phasels Wood and were blessed with sunny weather. The young people took part in abseiling, archery and climbing and all evaluations demonstrated how much everyone enjoyed taking part.



We at the Firs would like to invite you and your family to our Annual Summer Party on **Friday 30th May 2014** from 11am to 1.30pm. The venue for the party will be The Firs Garden. This is to celebrate the excellent service the Firs provides and also an opportunity for all the families to come together.

Please be punctual as the Mayor arrives at 11.15am, which will be followed, by Mr Marvel (children's entertainer) and refreshments!

In support of Age UK (charity supported by the Firs children/young people) a raffle will be taking place and we also a request of a 50p entrance fee donation.

We would like to remind you that the invite extends to immediate family, and parents need to supervise and stay with their children unless they have day-care planned for that day.

Please support this event; we look forward to seeing you and your family,

Yours sincerely, all at the Firs



BEYOND LIMITS

Date	Venue
29 th May	Re-launch Social – Pizza Hut (spaces are limited)
26 th June	Wealdstone Youth Centre
31 st July	Lets Talk session/ Councillors Stall
21 st August	CLA Fair
27 th September	Wealdstone Youth Centre
30 th October	Wealdstone Youth Centre
25 th November	Wealdstone Youth Centre
11 th December	Christmas Social

YOUNG VOICES- ACTIVITIES YP WANTED TO SEE

Dates	Activity (Subject to Confirmation)
May	Half Term activities with YDT and University trip with Virtual School
June	Sports Afternoon at John Lyons School with Virtual School
July	Lets Talk Session/ Councillors Stall
August	CLA Fair and summer activities with YDT
September	Wealdstone Youth Centre
October	Trip the Cinema
November	Swimming at Harrow leisure Centre
December	Christmas Social

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

EVENT	WHAT	WHEN	AGE	VENUE
Wealdstone Youth Centre	Includes a recording studio, movie nights and drop-in	Tues & Fri 7pm-9pm	13-19 & 25 LDD	WYC
Wealdstone Juniors Youth Club	Youth Club	Mon 5.30-7.30pm	11yrs-14yrs	Wealdstone Methodist Church
Beacon Youth Club	Youth Club	Thurs 7pm-9pm	11-19 & 25 LDD	Beacon Centre
Shaftesbury Youth Club	Youth Club	Mon 7.00pm-9.00pm	13-25	Shaftesbury High School
Exit Path	Building resilience to gang association	Mon 7pm-9pm	13-19	WYC
Saturday Club	Youth Club	Sat 1pm-3pm	13-25	WYC
Inspirational Voices	Guest speakers facilitating inspiring workshops	Various	13-19	Various
No Limits After School Clubs	Monday: Open	4pm-6pm	13-19	WYC
	Tuesday: Harrow Tuition Services	2pm-5.30pm	13-19	WYC
	Wednesday: Young Carers	4pm-6pm	13-19	WYC
	Thursday: Open	4pm-6pm	13-19	WYC
Helix Girls	Building Social Skills	Mon 1pm-2pm	13-16	HTS
FlexGirls	Youth Club for Young Women	Sun 10am-1pm	13-19 & 25 LDD	Wiseworks, Marlborough Hill
On Your Turf	Youth workers on the streets of Harrow	Various	11yrs-19yrs	Various
Harrow Youth Parliament	Direct youth voice to Harrow's decision makers	Wed 6pm-8pm	12yrs-19yrs	Various
Volunteering	V Talent and Social Action Programmes	Contact Ali	13-19 & 25 LDD	Various
	Language Is Not A Barrier (LINAB) Homework Club	Tues & Thur 6pm-9pm	16-24yrs	Gayton Hotel
Harrow Mentoring Project	1:1 tailored engagement and support with trained volunteer mentors	Contact Simon	11yrs-19yrs	Various
X16 - Get Ready	8-Week work experience and job readiness programme	Contact Sarah	16-25	Various
Holidays	Various activity programmes delivered across Harrow	Various	11-19 & 25 LDD	Various

If you would like to get involved with any of these activities please contact Elaine Small elaine.small@harrow.gov.uk

We want to hear from you, if you have any quotes from children or young people about what is going on in Harrow or from their own experiences please contact me.

If there are any young people that want to directly contribute to this newsletter, then let me know

 Star Letter

This is an excerpt from a letter sent into Children's Services

"To My Favorite Foster Mum and Dad, I just wanted to say how much I enjoy living with you both, If it wasn't for you both I wouldn't be where I am now"

CLA letter to Foster Carers

Contact me

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