

### Update of Actions

Elected local councillors and senior members of staff in children's services will be meeting with the Beyond Limits group four times a year to ensure that young people can influence decisions that are made.

At the last meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 several issues were discussed. These have subsequently been reported in the **Particip8** (Beyond Limits newsletter)

### Placements

Young people were concerned as to the distance between their placements and schools and the difficulties this caused in terms of long journey times and being late for school.

We have agreed to involve young people in the selection of their placements. They will be given detailed information regarding the placement options. If a planned placement young people will be able to visit prior to moving. We want to ensure that young people's wishes and feelings regarding placements are listened to and form part of the placement plan.

We want young people to be placed close to their schools but where that is not possible we would ensure additional funding to assist them with their journey.

### Pocket Money

Young people expressed concern as to the perceived variables in pocket money for looked after children

A pocket money guide is being produced and will be circulated by the end of March.

The level of pocket money for each young person are discussed and agreed at the placement agreement meeting.

The current recommended weekly amounts are

£4 per week for children aged 0 to 11

£6 per week for young people aged 12 to 18

Money for clothing, toiletries and other essential items will also be provided and will be discussed at the Placement Agreement Meeting

For young children foster carers would buy these items. Teenagers may be given the additional money directly but this will depend on the assessment of the young person's capacity to use the funds appropriately

All looked after children in Harrow have £10 per week savings which will be given to them when they reach 18 or leave care.

## Computers

All Looked after Children of school age should have access to a computer and the internet in their placement to assist with their school work. It is expected these will be in communal areas so they can be shared. They should also be able to access computers at school or the local library. Requests for individual laptops will only be considered for young people in year 9 and above. These requests will need to be supported by school or place of study.

Funding for this is available through the birthday and festival allowances given to foster carers and through the pupil premium managed through the Virtual school

This information has been sent to all looked after children through the recent participat8 newsletter.

Peter Tolley

Service Manager Looked After Children and Placements