

SHOW ME THAT I MATTER

YORK'S CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

So what difference have you made?
Have councillors listened to you
and helped improve services for
you? We're using info from 2013
panel meetings to find out!



SMTIM is... *"a place to share
worries and thoughts, to make
being in care better, to talk about
things that need changing and do
something about them"*.

SMTIM is... *"a group where we come
together to share views on foster care"*



YOU SAID

You looked at who you can talk to when you'd like some information/something changing, what their job role is and how to contact them.

When there are guest speakers, you'd only like small bits of information at a time so that it's not boring and easier to remember.

SO...

Guests are invited to meetings to talk about their job role, and this gives you opportunity to talk to people within the council who make decisions.

You wrote some guest guidelines which are emailed to guests before meetings.

YOU SAID

- You'd like to have meetings at West Offices
- More time for preparation on agenda items
- A reminder on the date and agenda of the next meeting
- You'd like a named chairperson

SO...

- After a meeting at West Offices, you decided you'd like all meetings there.
- More time has been made for preparation on agenda items.
- Reminders are sent out by text before panel meetings.
- You agreed to vote for a chair every 6 months.

YOU SAID

- The Pledge could be monitored using a survey.
- The U Matter survey and the Pledge were too long.

SO...

- Nikki and Michelle put together the U Matter survey.
- Changes were made to the survey. The findings of the survey will be used to help rewrite the Pledge.

YOU SAID

There were problems in accessing the free swim & gym membership at Yearsley swimming pool and Energise and that not all young people in care knew about it.

SO...

The Rights and Advocacy Service said they'd do more to promote the leisure offer. It's currently being promoted on the website and in the Rights and Advocacy newsletter.

YOU SAID

Some of you said you didn't know who your IRO was and what their job was.

You said that IROs should spend more time with you before your reviews so they know how you want your meeting to take place and how you'd like to contribute.

SO...

Two IROs went to a panel meeting to explain their job role and to look at how they can improve review meetings for you. Your views were fed back to the IRO manager and they've decided there should be an additional IRO, so that IROs have more time to spend with children and young people.

YOU SAID

You said you wanted to view the SMTIM website and provide feedback.

SO...

You did just that! The website is currently being redeveloped; a new version is planned for April 2014.

YOU SAID

You'd like more help arranging apprenticeships with the City of York Council (CYC).

SO...

Looked after children and care leavers are given priority on CYC Level 2 apprenticeships. The Pathway Team met with Human Resources to discuss more opportunities for looked after children and young people at the council, such as work experience.

YOU SAID

- You've had problems contacting taxis and you discussed whether young people could be involved in training taxi drivers.
- You've had problems with bus travel; your bus pass is only for designated zones which causes problems when you change placements or want to access different parts of the city.

SO...

- This was discussed with taxi companies but was not something that they wanted to take up.
- Councillor Looker has arranged for young people in care to have free bus travel across the city; this will be implemented in April 2014.

YOU SAID

You'd like more choice around placements and better and quicker responses from social workers.

SO...

Principle Social Worker talked to the SMTIM panel about responses from social workers. There are plans to make cards for children and young people, which have on the name and phone number of their social worker (SW) and also the duty SW. The duty SW is another SW within the team who is available to talk to if you can't contact your SW.

Head of Resources in Children's Services and the Fostering Manager will come to a SMTIM panel to talk about placement choices.

YOU SAID

The Charter for Care Leavers was too wordy, not written in words you understand, confusing and not realistic in its statements and promises, so you suggested some changes.

SO...

You wrote your own charter and this was used to help rewrite the Charter for Care Leavers in 2013.

VIOLET CHAMBERS FUND

WHAT IS IT?

The Violet Chambers Fund is a sum of £20,000 left in the will of Violet Chambers to children in care.

It's split into two halves, over 11 and under 11 fund. Over 11s can apply for up to £100 of the fund towards a 'meaningful and memorable' experience.

If you haven't applied for the fund yet, you can contact your social worker or Nikki Wilson for an application pack.

UNDER 11 FUND

The under 11 fund will be used to purchase a day pass for families and carers who have children in care who are under 11. If there are children/young people over 11 in the family or looked after by the same carer, don't worry, when we purchase the day pass we'll make sure everyone in the family is included!

We'll be in contact with carers who have children under 11 to give more details of how the under 11 fund will work, and where we can purchase a day pass for.

SO FAR..

We've had 39 applications and we've approved 31 of these.

Most of the unapproved applications haven't been approved because young people have asked for something the council should already be providing. The unapproved applications have been followed up by Nikki Wilson and Howard Lovelady, and the young people have been able to make a second application.

WHAT'S MEANINGFUL AND MEMORABLE TO YOU?

Applications have included **visits to London to see West End shows, trips to Blackpool, meals with relatives, go-karting, paintballing, rally driving, concert tickets, tours of football stadiums** and many more...

YOU SAID

"The show was really good and it was in London which is the best theatre place ever. I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed the whole experience and I have never seen such a professional show. Can't wait to tell my friends and make them jealous."

YOU SAID

"I really think you should carry on with the Violet Chambers Fund as it brings families together and poorer families will be able to have fun."