

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel
9th September 2010

Update from the Corporate Parenting Group

The Corporate Parenting Group meet 6 times a year as a formal group to consider issues and priorities for children & young people in care to Plymouth City Council.

Four times a year the Corporate Parenting Group meet with children & young people to hear directly about their views and experiences.

Over the coming year two events will be planned so that members of the Corporate Parenting Group can meet and talk to younger children with their foster carers in an informal setting.

The Corporate Parenting Group is made up of 9 Elected Members, 2 Foster Carers, Head of Service for Children & Young People in Care and the Participation Officer. This group reports to the Lead Member for Services for Children & Young People and the Director of Services for Children & Young People.

The terms of reference are:

- I. Within the Council to lead on corporate parenting issues and advise on how members can take forward their responsibilities to children and young people in care by ensuring that the profile of the Corporate Parenting agenda is incorporated into key plans, policies and strategies throughout the council.
- II. To explore new ways for the Council to make a real difference to young people's existing lives, and their future life chances.
- III. To establish an environment whereby members and young people work together to address the needs and aspirations of Plymouth children and young people in care.
- IV. To empower children and young people to be involved in decision making with adults.
- V. To support the involvement of children and young people in the development and evaluation of services, and in care planning processes, and to ensure their views are heard.
- VI. To oversee, with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the implementation of best practice principles in all aspects of service delivery, with the aim of producing positive outcomes for children and young people in care.
- VII. To support the work of foster carers in making a difference to the care and support they provide to children and young people in care.

The attached work programme has been agreed for 2010/11. Since April 2010 there have been two meetings to consider fostering recruitment, private

fostering, contact between children & their birth parents and youth homelessness.

The group receives regular reports about the work of the Listen & Care Council and from the Foster Carer Forum at each meeting.

Mary Brimson
Head of Service
Children & Young People in Care