

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
10 MARCH 2005**

FUN DAY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of a recent 'Fun Day' for Children Looked After.

BACKGROUND

2. The Children Looked After Social Work Team was established to improve services to children looked after. The team is keen to engage with young people in a variety of ways and arranged a Fun Day to start this process. A report on the day is attached at Appendix 1.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

3. Not applicable to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That Corporate Parenting Board is asked to advise the Executive to note the contents of this report.

REASONS

5. The Council is responsible for ensuring that children and young people in their care are enabled to participate in a range of activities.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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Appendix 1

FUN DAY

With the introduction of the LAC Team and the desire from team members to explore the possibility of forming some groups that would increase young peoples involvement in planning and reviews, it was decided that we would organise "Fun Days" over the next year. In addition to the LAC Team, LAC Education and Health along with Fostering and Permanence were all included in the planning.

It was initially thought that we would plan two days, the first for 5 to 10 years olds and a subsequent event for 11-to16 year olds. However, it was later decided to raise the younger age group to include 11 year olds. The purpose of the day was two fold; one for the young people to have fun and secondly, to share the redesigned LAC consultations document.

The day was held on 16 February 2005 at the Holy Trinity Centre. A total of 22 children attended the event. To assist in the activities 'Percy', a project that provide art and craft items were employed. The activity workers made dream catcher's with all the children. Both children and adults alike enjoyed this activity.

It had been envisaged that additional activities and equipment would have been provided but it would seem that there had being some confusion at the organisational stage, which resulted in quick thinking by the team to arrange alternative activities.

Fortunately this did not impact on the young peoples' enjoyment. Icing cakes and biscuits with lots of goodies was a popular activity as was the end game with a parachute.

The plan to share the LAC document was felt inappropriate as the children were enjoying themselves. Nevertheless, a number of the children gave their views in the form of smiley faces. Those asked said they would be happier to complete them.

What did we learn from the day? On reflection we should have maintained our original plan and next time we will not be swayed and would draw upon the skills within the team to facilitate activities. On a positive note, the team felt the day had been a success and the immediate feedback from the children was positive and they had enjoyed the day. It was good to meet and put faces to the names of the young people and for them to see the team in a different light.

Debbie Youmans
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