

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
17TH APRIL 2008**

**WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE
PEER RESEARCH FINDINGS**

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CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING**

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CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Corporate Parenting Board with the feedback that the Pathway Team received on its contribution to the 'What Makes the Difference' (WMTD) Peer Research Project (Appendix 1), a summary of the findings of the peer research (Appendix 2) and to show the Board the associated DVD.

BACKGROUND

2. The 'What Makes the Difference' (WMTD) Project ended in March 2008. The project worked across four themes – Preparation and Planning, Empowerment, Education, and Training and Employment Opportunity. The overall aim of the project was to ask 250 young people from across the country, "What made the difference?" and "What could have made the difference?" for them while they were in, and leaving, care.
3. Care experienced young people were trained to carry out research interviews with young people to ascertain their views, opinions and experiences. This information has been used to develop a range of resources to support local authorities in their work with young people in, and leaving, care. Two young people from Middlesbrough were among the 33 people from 25 local authorities who were trained to carry out the research. With support from the Pathway Team, they carried out a total of 16 interviews with young people from Middlesbrough.

OPTIONAL APPRAISAL

4. Not applicable to this piece of work.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no immediate financial or legal implications arising from this report. There are no specific ward implications as services for children looked after cover the whole of Middlesbrough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. That the Corporate Parenting Board advises the Executive to:
 - a. note the positive feedback received by care leavers from Middlesbrough, and the Pathway Team, for their contribution to the 'What Makes the Difference' Peer Research Project'.
 - b. note the findings of the research project.

REASON

7. It is important that elected Members recognise the hard work and achievements of care leavers in Middlesbrough in keeping with their role as Corporate Parents to children looked after and those receiving Leaving Care Services.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Peer Research Report , What Makes the Difference

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APPENDIX 1