

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER SERVICE

NEWSLETTER 5

JULY 2008

This is the last of our newsletters for this academic year. We hope you have found the newsletters informative and interesting. Please do not hesitate to feed back your comments to us.

PRIMARY TEAM LEADER

In the last newsletter we reported that Holly Taylor our Primary Team Leader will be leaving at the end of term to take up an appointment in a Bristol primary school. Again we want to reiterate our good wishes to Holly and wish her success in the future. We are pleased to say that Mina Patel will be acting as team leader on an interim basis until the end of term two. Mina has been involved with the service for a period of time - taking a lead on the second year of letterbox club. We would like to welcome Mina to the service.

SATs RESULTS

As you will have read in the press SATs results are likely to be later than promised this year and may not even be in schools by the end of the term. We have been asked to construct a report for the Corporate Parenting Panel for the first week in September as elected members are

keen to know of the progress of our children in care. Schools are, as always, being cooperative about giving us this information (once it is available to them!) but if you want to let us know about the achievements of the young people you support, then please contact us using the details at the end of this newsletter.

RECOMMENDED BOOK

The book "Telling the Truth to your Adopted or Foster Child, Making Sense of the Past" by Betsy Keefer and Jayne E Schooler ISBN 0-89789-691-2 has been recommended by an independent member of the fostering panel who is herself a foster carer. The authors offer practical guidelines and tools that can be used in communicating with children, the circumstances of their past. It would be of interest to all adults who support fostered or adopted children.

CAREER BREAK FOR ANGELA

Angela Ryan our Key Stage 4 Learning Mentor will be taking a career break until next March. We are sure that all of the young people that she currently supports will want to join us in wishing her well.

FOSTER CARE EVENT AT UWE

We have been in discussion with the University of the West of England who are keen to offer an event for foster carers on supporting education. Initial discussions look very promising.

Watch this space and Fostering Focus for more details.

NEW PEP FORM

We are in the process of drawing up a new PEP form. Our aim is to make this more child centred and young person friendly than the current format. We are intending to consult with young people and other relevant groups before any implementation takes place. If you attend PEPs and have views on any changes that need to be made please let us know.

STOP PRESS

Under the Care Matters agenda all local authorities must have a Virtual School Head teacher by September 2009. This means creating a 'virtual school' of all of Bristol's children in care, together with children in care to other authorities but being educated in Bristol. While this school would never exist in a real building or in the conventional understanding of what constitutes a school, the idea is that one person needs to have the same level of responsibility as any other head teacher for the pupils in the 'school'.

In Bristol the elected members were keen to have such a post established this year. A paper has recently been agreed at Directorate level to have a Virtual School Head, and consultation is underway on the implementation of this decision. It is likely that some re-modelling of ECLAS will take place.

Hopefully we can give you more information in our first newsletter of the new academic year.

For more information about anything in this newsletter or suggestions for topics in future newsletters please contact Pauline Cole at ECLAS
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