

ISSUE 5 - 2012

# BACHCHAT

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VIEWS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
FORUM  
NEWSLETTER  
Camden Children in Care Council



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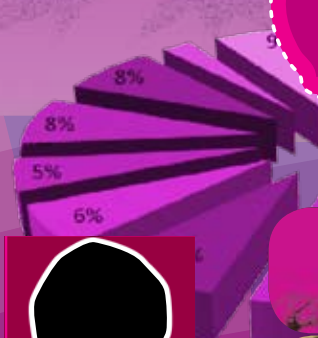
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# Young People's Forum?

The YP's Forum is for any young person who has had support from a Camden social worker and who wants to give their views and make decisions about how to improve social services for young people.

HAVE YOUR SAY  
BE HEARD  
MAKE DECISIONS

## What have we done since the last issue?

Here are some of the things young people have been involved in since the last issue:

- 1** We now have a Camden Pledge for young people in care and care leavers!

Young people have been very busy selecting the most important promises to children in care to be included in the Camden Pledge and in April 2011 they helped to organise an event to celebrate the Camden Pledge launch. The event included a Glee workshop, street dance, graffiti time and T-shirt printing. All young people in care and care leavers should have received a copy of the Camden Pledge. If you don't have one, please ask your social worker.

- 2** Young people have interviewed candidates for important jobs in Camden. They helped to select **Dominic Clout** to be the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Board; **Mike Cook** to be the Chief Executive of Camden Council and **Rebecca Rosalez** to be the manager of the Disabled Children's Team.

- 3** At the celebration event for young people in care at the Tower of London in February 2011, young people were involved in helping to host the event and worked with a professional photographer to take pictures of the day.

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- 4** Young people helped to organise and host the consultation event for sons and

daughters of foster carers. Children of foster carers were invited to Queens bowling and ice skating rink in October 2011 to tell managers about what support they would like from social workers. Managers listened to what the children said and there is now going to be a regular opportunity for them to meet.

- 5** Young people from Camden and Islington helped to select Family Action in November 2011 as the best agency to give help and support to young carers living in Camden and Islington.

- 6** The chair of the Young People's Forum represented Camden's LAC at several meetings with Tim Loughton, the Children's Minister together with young people representing other local authorities. Some of the topics they discussed included looked after children's experience of living with foster carers and their experience of living in residential placements. Young people's views help the government to make the right decisions about making things better for young people in care and care leavers.

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# Young Inspectors

Young inspectors are a group of young people aged 16-19 who are users of the Family Services and Social Work Service. Since the last issue, young inspectors undertook an inspection of the educational support given to LAC.

Young Inspectors interviewed children and young people in care, social workers, officers from the LAC Academy and foster carers. They took into account what everybody said

and made a list of things that needed to be changed to improve the service. The list was presented to senior managers, LAC Academy and the Assistant Director.

The Young Inspectors recommendations were taken very seriously and the managers have started to discuss a plan to make a major change to the support with education for young people in care.

These are some of the things young people said about their involvement in inspecting the FSSW service:



## All about care – by Jessica, 9

Care can be scary because you really don't know what's going to happen next. Oh, by the way my name is Jessica. When I came into care it was so scary because my mum blamed me for getting her into trouble and getting me into care and my brothers.

### Why you are in care.

You can be in care for all sorts of reasons for example: your parents can't cope or they are not allowed to look after you or they are sick or they don't want you.

### What sort of carers you can get.

You can get all sorts of carers like mine. My carers are really cool because they bought me a really nice bike it's dark blue with bits of white. Other carers don't take you out, don't buy you nice things so I think I am pretty lucky.



### What can happen to your mum and dad?

Either your mum or dad fix up (meaning stop the bad behaviour) or you never go back home and your mum or dad take the pain. Maybe they get better and you can go home.

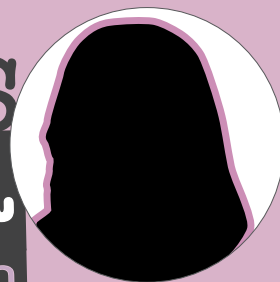
### When you are too old for care –

when you are 18 you have to move out of the foster home and move into a hostel and manage on your own. And you don't get a lot of money so don't smoke.

# MEET THE MEMBERS

## Liya

### Chair of the Young People's Forum



I am a care leaver and I have been involved in many projects organised by the Participation Officer. I am the chair of the Young People's Forum (Children in care Council).

My role involves managing our Forum meetings with young people and making suggestions about improving services. I have been involved in planning Forum meetings and inviting guests, organising consultation events, talking to young people about their views, interviewing candidates for jobs in the Council and presenting young people's views at meetings

with Camden senior managers, the Children Schools and Families Director, Assistant Director and councillors.

Together with chairs of other Children in Care Councils I attend meetings with Tim Loughton, Children's Minister to discuss and give feedback about young people views.

My role as a chair has given me vast opportunities that otherwise I would not have had and many young people of my age don't get.

## Your Views

In the last issue, we asked for your views about what social workers could do to make things better for you?

*"Don't move children about too many times"* **Denise, 10**

*"To have best interests at heart when it comes to my care plan"* **Anon**

*"Social workers should spend more time with young people and do less office work!"* **Allie, 19**

## News

**GET INVOLVED!**

We are creating a website for Camden's young people in care and care leavers. If you would like to be a part of the creative team, please speak to your social worker or email us from the Backchat website email.

**Website for Camden young people in care and care leavers!**



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