

ISSUE 7 - 2014

BACHCHAT

Information, news and views from children and young people who are from Camden and have a social worker

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NEWS

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www.backchatonline.org.uk



GET INVOLVED! BACKCHAT

Have
your say

Make decisions



Camden makes every effort to ensure children and families get a high quality service.

The views of children, parents and foster carers about our services are very important in making changes and improvements.

There are many opportunities to give your views and be involved.

These are some of the activities and events children have been involved in over the past year:

What have we been involved in since the last issue?



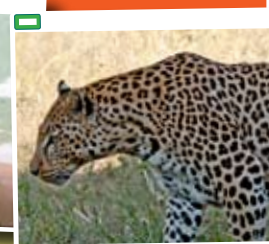
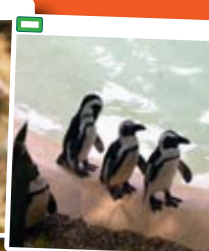
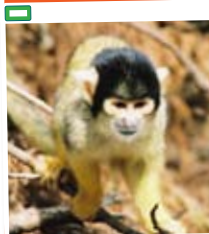
Children in Care Council (CiCC)

Young people who were involved in the Children in Care Council have been making decisions about things such as: developing employability skills workshop for graduate care leavers, updating the Camden Pledge and attending the Corporate Parenting Board meetings. At these meetings young people talk to councillors, the director of children's services and senior managers about how to improve services for young people in care and care leavers. They have also attended meetings at Westminster with Edward Timpson, Children's Minister, and met children in care from different parts of the UK.



Achievement celebration event for children in care

Children and young people's achievements are celebrated at the annual awards event which is always well attended by children and foster carers. The last event was at London Zoo followed by a visit to the Zoo. This year's event will also take place in London Zoo in October 2014.



Disability Awareness training by young people

Young people from the Reactive Forum and from Young People for Inclusion have planned and delivered disability awareness training for Camden staff. The training was attended by 30 professionals from Camden Council and voluntary agencies and it was very successful.

Annual consultation about the children's social work service

Every year, we ask young people and parents to tell us about their experience of the children's social work service. Your views help to make the service for children and families better. Most young people said that having help from a social worker has made a positive change to their situation.

Making decisions about services

Young people were involved in selecting the best people to be in charge of Camden services. This included interviewing candidates for the job of director of children's services, the manager of the looked after children's health team and choosing the best Pathway services providers for young people over 16.

Training social workers, managers and foster carers

Every year young people are involved in training social workers, foster carers and managers. The training programme is called **TOTAL RESPECT** – all about listening to children and young people. This is well attended training receiving excellent feedback.

Website's 1st Birthday

BackChat online



It is one year since we launched the **BackChat online website!**
BackChat online is for **children, young people, carers and parents** who receive services from Camden children's social work service.

This year we are celebrating the **first birthday** and the **work of young people involved in making it such a success!**

The celebration will include a **1st birthday cake** and **awards for young people** at the achievement event on 27 October.

Visit the website to: Win prizes in the competition Vote for the best photo
 Share the blogs with friends Take a quick poll and see views of other young people
 Send a photo for the photo gallery
 Tell us what you think about the service

The Young Inspectors scheme is a very successful programme of involving young people in inspecting services and making recommendations for change in services. Young people aged 16 to 19 inspect and report on the quality of children's social services in Camden.

Young Inspectors programme

Young Inspectors REPORT 2013

This is a very effective way of reviewing the service as it is seen through the eyes of young people who themselves have experience of receiving support from the service.

The last inspection in Summer 2013 focused on the **new MASH service** (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub). The Young Inspectors interviewed managers of services and obtained feedback from teams about the service.

Their recommendations and messages are reported to senior managers and result in real changes and improvements to the service.

What do you think about the information for parents about MASH?

"Information regarding what qualifies as a concern needs to be added." > Paige

"The information needs to be updated when the team moves to King's Cross, as the present information says the MASH team is based in the Crowndale Centre." > Iyesha

"I like that the information is easy to read and careful consideration has gone into not using jargon, which could be unclear to parents." > Allie

"All the relevant information is displayed but I feel there is a lack of detail concerning the permission needed from parents." > Jennifer

This is what some Young Inspectors said about the service:

"I like the fact that the MASH team has been set up, as it speeds up the referral process and gives social workers more time to focus on other roles, for example visiting families." > Allie

"I feel that information is kept protected and confidential within the various agencies that form MASH." > Iyesha

Find out more

You can see the full report on **BackChat Online – Young Inspectors Reports**

MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE



Children in Care Council



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What is the Children in Care Council?

The Children in Care Council is for children and young people who are in care. It provides the **opportunity** for them to give **views** about **services** for children in care and to **make decisions** about how to improve services. CiCC meetings are once a month and we welcome all looked after children and care leavers to be part of the group. If your placement is not in Camden and you would like to give your views, please send a message to the CiCC through BackChat online or elzbieta.chandrasena@camden.gov.uk

Hi, I have been a part of the Children in Care Council for over a year. Throughout that time, I have been involved in many different workshops, meeting councillors from the Camden Corporate Parenting Board and being involved in projects to give a voice to other young people in care.

I was honoured to meet councillors and surprised how friendly they are and easy to talk to. They listen to what we say and encourage young people to discuss with them what can be improved for young people in care. < Tsion

Would you like to be part of the **BackChat** online website group?

Would you like to **get involved** in the Children in Care Council?

Do you have **ideas** about helping children and young people to **give their views** about the social work service?

There are many opportunities for you to give **your views** about the services Camden provides and to be part of making **improvements** to them.

GET INVOLVED!

Please contact Elzbieta Chandrasena, senior development officer for participation: elzbieta.chandrasena@camden.gov.uk; tel 020 7974 1850 or talk to your social worker.

BackChat online photo gallery

Here are some of the most liked photographs in each of the categories!

XMAS



39 likes **LIKE**

WINTER



33 likes **LIKE**

SPORTS



12 likes **LIKE**

ANIMALS AND PETS



28 likes **LIKE**

You can see these photos and more in the photo gallery on **BackChat** online www.backchatonline.org.uk/recent_photos

You can be a winner too! Check the competition page or the photo gallery on **BackChat** online and send the answer or picture with your name and address.

WIN prizes