

ISSUE 6 - 2013

BACKCHAT

Website
launch

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

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HELLO...



GET INVOLVED!



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Children in
care council

Young
inspectors

www.backchatonline.org.uk

Have
your say

Make decisions



BACKCHAT

GET INVOLVED!

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

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

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

What have we been involved in since the last issue?

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

Making decisions about services

Choosing the best service to support children and young people is a very important task. Last summer young people were involved in selecting the best agencies to provide a range of housing support services for care leavers and homeless young people and in selecting the best agency to support Camden young carers.

Celebration events for children in care

Children and young people's **achievements** are celebrated at the annual awards event which is always well attended. Care leavers help to host the event and to carry out consultations to get children's views about the event and to help plan future events. The last event was at the British Library and everybody joined in the Duck ride tour on the Thames. This year's event is taking place in October at the London Zoo.



Consultation event for sons and daughters of foster carers (October 2012)

Following the success of the last year's event, this has now become an annual consultation event for **birth children** of foster carers. Young people were involved in organising the consultation. Discussions and fun activities were arranged like ice skating and bowling.

Training social workers and managers

Young people delivered **TOTAL RESPECT** training to social workers, managers and foster carers. Young people decide what activities are included and lead the training. This is a very successful scheme, which is well attended and receives excellent feedback.

Children in Care Council (CiCC)



Over the past year, young people from the CiCC have been involved in: • the **review** of the LAC Academy and support with education for LAC • developing the **BackChat online website** • meeting with councillors at the scrutiny meeting and **giving their views** at the Children's Trust Partnership Board meeting. Representatives of the CiCC attended a meeting for LAC and care leavers with the Children's Minister at Westminster and took part in discussions about kinship care, placements and the staying put scheme.

CiCC
Children in Care Council

Website Launch

www.backchatonline.org.uk

Councillor Angela Mason, Assistant Director Anne Turner, children and young people and foster carers attended the launch of the BackChat online website in March 2013.

The BackChat online website is for children, young people, carers and parents who receive services from Family Services and Social Work.

This includes looked after children and children with disabilities.

Young people from the CiCC were involved in every stage of the website development and made all decisions, from the initial concept to the final content. They also presented the website at the launch.

Young people have an active role in managing the website and are responsible for the young reporters link, the photo gallery, competitions, blogs and CiCC updates.



Visit the website to: Win prizes in the competition 🗨️ Vote for the best photo 🗨️ Take a quick poll 🗨️ Send a photo of your favourite places in Camden 🗨️ Share the blogs 🗨️ Tell us what you think about the service.

Young Inspectors scheme

The Young Inspectors scheme is a very successful programme of involving young people in inspecting services. The Young Inspectors are young people aged 16-19 who inspect and report on the quality of Family Services and Social Work (FSSW) in Camden.

Young Inspectors REPORT 2012

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

Young Inspectors' recommendations and messages are taken seriously by senior managers and result in real changes and improvements to the service.

The last inspection in Summer 2012 involved the children in need and child protection services in Camden.

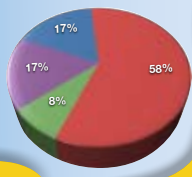
This is what you said about the service:

What is GOOD about having a social worker?

"They tell you what is going on"

Do you feel you can talk to your social worker about concerns you have?

☒ YES
☐ NO
☐ SOMETIMES
☐ NO RESPONSE



(Extracts from the Young Inspectors Report 2012)

This is what Young Inspectors said about being involved in the project:

I have gained skills in team work, listening to people's views and how to approach things positively

JACK

I learnt how to adjust to new surroundings and socialise with people I have not met before

shaquel

It improved my confidence in talking in front of people

Meron

This experience gave me a true sense of leadership skills

Liya

It has given me the insight into how social services work

Ciao

You can see the full report on [BackChat Online – Young Inspectors Reports](#)

MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE



Children in Care Council



Nikki

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 on **BackChat online** or contact Elzbieta Chandrasena: elzbieta.chandrasena@camden.gov.uk

Hi, my name is Nikki, I am 18 years old. I have been involved in developing the **BackChat online** website. Working on the website was fun. I learnt a lot about what to consider and how to design a website. We wanted to make sure that there is information and interesting activities for children of all ages. It has been a new experience for me. The best part of working on the website was seeing all that hard work paying off; presenting the website at the launch and celebrating with a party!

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

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

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

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

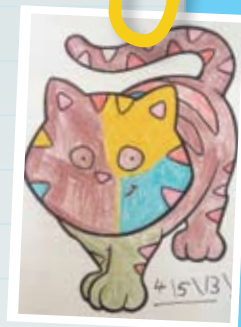
GET INVOLVED!

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

COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to the BackChat online competition winners!

We asked you to send a picture of your favourite animal. Here are the winning pictures. The winners get amazing books about animals and a chance to have their work displayed at the celebration event in October 2013. Enjoy the prizes!



The winners are: Erika, Harika, Garvin, Loreley and Moatasm.

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

Prize winners