



Young Peoples Engagement Team September 2003

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ChatterBox

Welcome to the Second newsletter from the Young Peoples Engagement Team!!

The first thing that you probably have noticed is that the newsletter now has a name – **ChatterBox**. This was Sent in by Chantelle and she has now received her prize - a £10 voucher for books or C.D's!

Thanks to everyone who sent in their ideas for the name there was loads of good ideas and it was really difficult to choose a winner. We think ChatterBox is a great name for this newsletter as we want you to tell us all your views and “chatter away!” Remember this is your chance to have your say and to show off any of your work!

All you need to do is send your work or ideas to me :

Lee Taylor

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Or by email to ype.newsletter@s-tyneside-mbc.gov.uk

If you want to help put the next newsletter together and **maybe win a £5 pound voucher**, make sure you fill in your details on



Come along to the next Editors group on 4th December

the form included with the newsletter. We will then write to you and invite you to the next **editors group on the 4th December** so that you can give us your ideas there.

You might not know this but if you aren't Looked After but you live with someone who is then you can still send us all your ideas and articles!

Remember everyone who has an article included in the newsletter receives a prize!

Do U Care? The new website for Looked After Children

A special website called Do U Care? has been launched by the Mayor of South Tyneside and the Director of Social Care and Health which is for use by all the people who get this newsletter. The website was produced in partnership with Jonny-longlife.com and has been made by four young people,

Lindsey, Bill, Lee and Lynn, who have all had experience of being Looked After. This means that they have had some of the experiences that you might have had. The website can be found by going on the internet and typing in **www.doucare.co.uk**. Hopefully you will have received some information about the site already and a mouse mat for your computer with the website address on it. We hope you enjoy using the site and find it really useful for finding out about being in care. You can even tell your mates about the site if you want them to know more about being Looked After. The website also has sections for you to write in some of your own experiences of being Looked

After and you can read other people's and find out if anyone else has had the same experiences as you. There

www.doucare.co.uk

are some great games to play (like Pac Man!) and some jokes to read! If you like the website then please let us know by emailing us at **ype.newsletter@s-tyneside-
mbc.gov.uk** and telling us what you think. If you need any help in finding the site on the internet then please give us a ring on 424 4633 and we will try to help.



Director of Social Care and Health and the Mayor.



Introducing..... Janet Campbell — the Looked After Children's Nurse



Janet Campbell

Hi, my name is Janet Campbell and I am the Looked After Children's Nurse in South Tyneside. It's my job to help you with any health worries that you might have. I can also carry out your regular health checks.

If you have any worries relating to health, stress, immunisations, relationships etc. all you need to do is come down to Jarrow Community Hospital or speak to me by telephone on 451 6460 and I can come out and see you.

Book Reviews —

The Young People's Engagement Team love reading books and we know that some of you do as well because you have sent us your reviews of the books that you have read – thanks very much. Make sure you send us your book reviews if have really enjoyed a book!

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by JK Rowling

I started the book on July 10. I think the book is exciting because I couldn't wait until I got up to the part where someone dies. I will not tell you who it is because for those of you who have not read it, it will be spoiled. Harry Potter is my favourite character and Ron

Weasley is my second favourite because he is really good friends with Harry. Younger Kids might find this frightening because the Dementors are back and they're a bit scary. These are creatures who guard the prison of Azkaban and they suck out your soul.

Leam

“These are creatures who guard the prison of Azkaban and they suck out your soul.”

Make sure you send us reviews of any books that you read, films that you watch or music that you listen to!

The Two Princesses Of Bamarre By Gail Carson Levine

I haven't finished reading this book but what I have read is really good. It is about two princesses. One is tough and is called Merly, the other is softer and is called Addie. There is a disease in their country and princess Merly wants to find the cure for it. Although I have only read a couple of chapters so far I want to find

out if she finds the cure or not, and to find out if it works. It is a really good book so far.

Nikki

“One is tough and is called Merly, the other is softer and is called Addie”

Remember that when you send us anything you need to tell us: your first name and your address so that we can contact you and send you your prizes!

Young People's Engagement Team

The Young Peoples Engagement Team send you this newsletter but what else do we do? Read this to find out -

- We make sure that the people who provide services to you e.g. social workers and managers hear about your ideas and suggestions.
- Help you have a say about how the Social Care and Health Department is run.
- Help you understand what rights you have and know how to act on them.
- Make sure that you receive regular information and feedback about what is happening within the department.
- We will try to work with you on activities that you have a say in organising.
- We will make opportunities for managers to be more accessible and for you to speak with them in your own words, and when you want.

“We also realise that when it comes to being looked after – YOU are the experts”

Jokes and Fun

So you think you're funny do you? If you like to tell jokes why not try one of these!

Why did the chicken cross the playground?
To get to the other Slide!

Two TV. aerials got married—the service was good but the reception was terrible!

Why don't blind people skydive ? It scares the heck out of the dog !
Lee

Two Lions walking through ASDA, one Lion says to the other, "It's quiet in here today isn't it!"
Billy

Community Plan Consultation—we need to know what you think about South Tyneside

This is a plan about the future of South Tyneside. It outlines what the most important issues are in South Tyneside based on what local people say. Each year the Council, in partnership with other important agencies, reviews the Community Plan to decide what new projects need to be developed and where public money should be spent in order to make the best improvements.

In the Community Plan the council have 6 main areas. These are the issues they feel are the most important. These are the 6 areas South Tyneside we will be concentrating on over the next five years:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Community Safety (Crime) | Housing and Environment |
| Healthy Living and Care | Learning, Creativity and Culture |
| Employment and Enterprise, | Inclusion |

Hopefully you will have answered some questions about the Community Plan already. So Thanks! The council really need to know what you think about how they can improve the borough for young people - this is your chance to give your opinions about how the borough can be improved and what they can do for you to really make a difference. If you haven't already received a questionnaire about the Community Plan then just give us a ring and we can send one out to you. The phone number is 424 4633.

Fun Factory Activity Day—Calling all under 13's!!

Here is a date for your calendar! **Mon 27th October 12 till : 3:30pm.** What's so special about this date? **The Fun Factory Day at Temple Park Leisure Centre** and everyone under the age of 13 who has the use of a Max card is invited!! Have you got the skill to complete the Sports Challenge? Or are you inter-

ested in making musical instruments out of junk? What about finding out how to draw cartoons? We think this is a great way to kick off your half term holiday! So make sure you don't miss it. There is going to be loads to do and you are guaranteed to have some **FUN!** So write it in your diaries and look

out for more information which is coming soon. If you have any questions about the event you can ring the Young People's Engagement team on 424 4633.

**“Mon 27th
October 12 till :
3: 30 pm”**

The Place

The PLACE is a project that helps foster children get a better education and to learn more in life, like getting good GCSE marks which leads to a better future.

In the PLACE you can do loads of good stuff like, every so often we go out on trips. We go on the computers to play games or draw and you can do loads of other fun stuff.

The PLACE is a bit like a school because it helps people with GCSE's and little kids with stuff like spelling, reading and writing.

In the PLACE there are some really

nice people who work with you such as, Bob he is really funny. Dave he's the same but really daft. Michael he is a good person to talk to because he will sit and listen to what you have to say and he will try and help you the best he can. Christine she is comical and crazy and does anything to make you laugh and Barbara is a bit like Michael.

The PLACE is here to help people in care feel as if they aren't getting pushed aside just because they are fostered and to know it's not just them that's in care there are people all over the country who are the same.

Nikki Age 14

Every Child Matters Consultation -

The Government have sent out a paper asking young people about how Social Care and Health services can be improved across the country.

The paper is called "Every Child Matters" and is about children and young people living in England, and some of the things the Government does to help you. The Government want to make sure things are better, especially for children who are harmed or abused, or who get left out when it comes to jobs and homes when they grow up. This can happen for lots of reasons: being ill a lot or disabled, finding school too difficult, committing crime, or being a parent when you are young.

" We would like to know what you think about the proposals and whether you think they are a good idea "

The Young People's Engagement Team are working together with the other Social Service Departments in Newcastle, Northumberland, Gateshead and Sunderland to find out what all of the Looked After children in these areas think about the Governments proposals. We would like to know what you think about the proposals and whether you think they are a good idea . On the insert sheet that is included with ChatterBox there is a section of questions and information which relates to "Every Child Matters" - please fill this section in when you enter our competition. As we have said before – you are the experts when it comes to knowing about the Looked After System so please use your expertise and tell us what you think.

Contact Centre Consultation Results

You might know already but the Social Care and Health Department is opening a new Contact Centre at Owen Drive. The idea is that any Contact that you have will take place in the new centre.

In case you didn't know Contact is the word used to describe seeing or speaking to members of your family or friends. Well the centre is opening soon but we wanted to ask some of you how the centre should be run and what it should look like. So we have spent the last few months trying to find out what some of you think about this idea. We asked a few questions about the centre and this is what some of you said:

Types of activities you would like to do during contact are:

- Playing computer games
- Cooking a meal
- Playing board games
- Watching TV
- Watching videos
- Drawing pictures /making things
- Basketball hoops
- Reading
- Help with homework
- Talk about things to mam

What should the centre look like?

- At least 6 rooms – red or blue including lounge, poolroom, computer room, kitchen, office and toilet.
- Activity rooms in fun colours.
- Orange and blue rooms.
- Yellow and blue rooms.
- The rooms could be red, purple or blue – big rooms with sofas and sky TV, a place to have snacks and use adventure play stuff for the little ones.
- The rooms should be black and white. kitchen, and games room as well as dressing up room – they should all be bright colours.
- They should be purple and yellow.
- There should be separate rooms for

What would the worst centre ever look like?

- Not open on Saturday or Sunday.
- No games to play
- Dark with nothing to do, overcrowded, nothing to eat, and only open when we are at school.
- No toilets or ones that are busy all the time
- Open at unreasonable times
- No colours
- Only open during the week
- Lots of people all at the same time
- Full of babies
- Lots of little kids running around
- Nowhere to play with friends
- Too many staff hanging around
- Lots of strange people being there
- Too many people

We would like to thank every one who responded and answered the questions—a special congratulations to Tony who was selected to win the final prize. Well Done. Look out for more information about the Contact Centre in the next Newsletter!

**Young Peoples
Engagement Team**

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www.doucare.co.uk

Have you enjoyed reading this newsletter? We hope you have! We also hope that you will get involved in producing it. There are two ways that you can be a part of ChatterBox—send us all your stories, jokes, book reviews or anything else that you would like to see in the newsletter by post just use the stamped addressed envelope that came with the newsletter. Or even better—come along to the next ChatterBox editors group on the 4th of December, 4pm at The Place. You will have the chance to give us all your ideas, create articles, and put the newsletter together, as well as being able to come with us on our special ChatterBox trip to Boldon Cinema! All you have to do is tell us you want to come along on the competition form and we will write to you and invite you!

Now that sounds good!!

ChatterBox Competition

Are you always in a hurry when you're speaking to your mates? If so you'll probably be great at this competition. All you have to do is match the text message with the real meanings and then work out which text message is made up!

Use the insert to tell us which message is made up and post it back to us and you could win a £10 voucher!

Text Messages

| | |
|------------|--------|
| YBS | RUOK |
| PCM | L8RG8R |
| FYEO | ASAP |
| B4 | GR8 |
| KIT | LOL |
| JAM | BTOBS |
| IJW2K | NE |
| G2G | CUL8R |
| B4N | CAB |
| HAND | |

Real Meanings

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| For Your Eyes Only | I Just Want To Know |
| Have A Nice Day | Got To Go |
| Just A Minute | Keep In Touch |
| Are You Okay | See You Later |
| Bye For Now | Great |
| Lots Of Love | Be There Or Be Square |
| As Soon As Possible | Before |
| You'll Be Sorry | Later Gator |
| Please Call Me | Any |