

Age 12+

ChatterBox

Issue 5 The Newsletter for Looked After Young People in South Tyneside

What is ChatterBox?

ChatterBox is for Looked After Young People in South Tyneside Aged 12 and over. It is also for young people who live with a Looked After young person for instance if your parents are foster carers.

Young Peoples
Engagement Team

October 04



**Whatever you're into... You can get into
ChatterBox!**

**Don't Forget To Enter The Competition On The Back Pages
To Win More Prizes!**

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ChatterBox Design Group

This group is made up of young People and meets up before every issue is produced and helps to decide what will be going in to it. The Young Peoples Engagement Team also receive loads of stuff from you guys and the editors help to select what we put in.



The design group now meets every month to help put each newsletter together and we also help to design other leaflets and flyers.

Why don't you ring Lee from the Young People's Engagement Team to find out when the next meeting is!

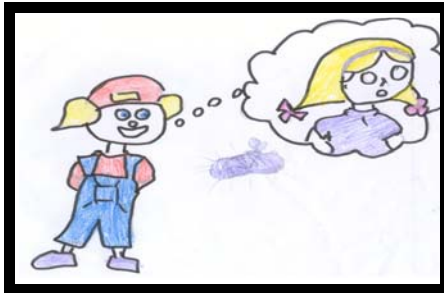
Tel. 0191 424 4633.



Send Us Your Stuff!

If you don't want to come to the editors group (or can't because you live outside of the borough) then you can still be involved by sending us your stuff through the post or by email. We want things like poems, jokes, stories, what you think about being "Looked After", funny things that have happened to you - anything that you want to send in really! And remember that if you have **something printed in the newsletter** then you can win **up to a £5 voucher**. Our address is on the back page so make sure you don't forget!

DO U CARE? WEBSITE—HAVE YOU CHECKED IT OUT?



New Pages Added Soon!



Over the Summer Holidays we ran some Website Focus Groups to give you the chance to tell us your ideas for the site and lot's of you took that chance and came along!



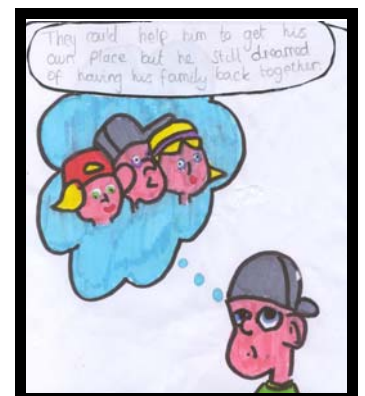
You helped us to create new games, new jokes, a new way of accessing the "information" parts of the site, and you created the next part of the Hilary, Harriet and Henry stories! Here are some examples of what you designed!

Keep an eye out for the changes which are coming soon!



www.doucare.co.uk

The website for all Looked After children and young people in South Tyneside - You need to regularly check this site out as it is being updated all the time!



My Life Story....

One of the young people that we work with sent us her story because she wanted other young people to know that they weren't alone and that while everybody is different sometimes we have similar experiences.

All I can remember of when I was a baby is that everything was all right with my mum and dad, until my mother got in with the wrong crowd and then some bad things used to happen.

Then my mother left my dad and everything went wrong. Me and my dad suffered the most because me and my mother moved around a lot and I grew up without a dad. Different people used to baby sit me, people who I didn't know used to come in and hit me and say to my mother that I was being naughty. So my mother hit me and after that I went into care.

Firstly with some carers who I thought were very nasty people—they used to treat me differently because I wasn't the same as their children. Then secondly I went somewhere else and I felt that I really belonged there and no-one asked me about my past.

After about two years I went to my nana's and grandads and I have never looked back since. To this day my mother is still bothering me and telling me to run away but I have more sense and I want to get on with my life and I love the people that I live with because they have loads of love for me.

Do you have a "Real Life Story" that you would like to share with other young people? If so you can send it to us for inclusion in this newsletter or you can visit the [DoUCare ? Website](#) and use the Real life Experiences section.

Telling your story is powerful and we are interested in hearing yours. Everybody is different and everybody has different backgrounds and "stories" - but sometimes the way that we feel and some of the things that happen to us are the same. It can sometimes be helpful to know that we are not alone. It can also be helpful to see how other people dealt with things differently.

Groups To Get Involved With!

Are you ever stuck at home, bored stiff with nothing to do? Why don't you come along to some of these groups?

Reference Groups

The Reference Groups are a place where Looked After young people can answer back about a whole host of issues that affect them. So if you are young and if you have an opinion then you need to get along to this group! What's even better is you can be rewarded for getting involved—£10 per meeting. We meet once per month on a Tuesday!



Design Groups

The design group meets once per month to design the newsletter and other leaflets. We write articles and poems and also draw pictures. We also help to decide what should go into each newsletter! We play games, think about different subjects and also go on trips! The design group also meets once per month.



Website Focus Group

This is a new group that we are hoping to start. This group will be responsible for thinking about what new things we can add to the DoU-Care website, running competitions, and doing research amongst other Looked After Children and Young People to see what people think about the site. This group will meet once per month.

If you would like to get involved in any of these groups then please tick the boxes on page 13 and we will write to you with the dates of the next meetings!

Lateral Thinking Puzzles

Have a go at trying to work out the answer to some of these puzzles! Watch out they try to trick you!

- 1) What can go up a chimney down but not down a chimney up?
- 2) A farmer had 15 sheep, and all but 8 died. How many are left?
- 3) A father and his son are involved in a car accident, as a result of which the son is rushed to hospital for emergency surgery. The surgeon looks at him and says "I can't operate on him, he's my son". Explain.
- 4) Jason is lying dead, he has an iron bar across his back and some food in front of him. Why did he die?
- 5) Anthony and Cleopatra are lying dead on the floor of a room. Nearby is a broken bowl. There is no mark on either of their bodies and they were not poisoned. How did they die?

Answers on page 10!

What You Have Said To Us...

About this Newsletter

I like it because there is good fun in it
 I liked the poems and stories
 The Just For Us helps me a lot
 It's Fun to read and I show my stuff to my friends
 It's something to read
 Liked peoples stories, the jokes and the competition



About The DoUCare Website

It's good, it could use a little change, I mean the games have been on for a while e.g. tetris or more
 It was a great website to play on-loved games
 Liked it a lot
 It had lots of stories which made me feel good to know that I am not the only one
 Superb, fantastic
 It was great I loved the jokes
 Ok but should have stuff for older people
 Ok but need more pictures
 I liked finding things out

Say Hello to.....

Hi my name is Kathleen

I have just started my new job in South Tyneside - **I am the Children and Young Person Involvement Officer.** I know that sounds like a bit of a mouthful, but what it really means is that, if you are looked after by South Tyneside, it is my job to make sure that you are involved in all the decisions that are made about you. I am very excited about this and will need your help and experience to make this happen. I will also need the help and support of some of the people who are in-

involved in making decisions about you now.

I will be trying to find out about some of the good ways you feel you've been involved and how we might do it better.

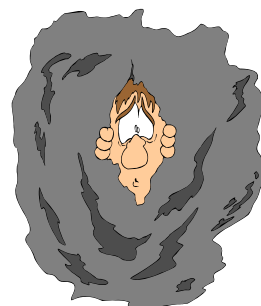


In the next few weeks and months I will be looking at your Review Meetings and how we can help more of you attend and take part. **You can contact me by ringing 424 4777.**

New Complaints Pack for Looked After Children

A few months ago the Young People's Engagement Team talked with young people and carers about what they thought of the Complaints System. The results of this showed that amongst other things Looked After Children wanted their own leaflet which told them about how to complain. So over the last few months the design group have been trying to design a new complaints leaflet. They came up with the idea of using small post-

cards with a series of stickers which children can use to tell us that they are unhappy or angry about something.



This means that children do not have to write loads of information on the card but can keep it simple. Look out for the new pack which should be coming soon!

Jokes Here are some jokes sent in by you guys!!



What's small and cuddly and bright purple?
A Koala bear holding it's breath!

How does a flea get from place to place?
By ITCH hiking!

What's wrong if you keep seeing talking animals?
You're having Disney spells!



What do you give an elephant that is going
to be sick?
Plenty of space!

Making a Complaint

Are you unhappy about something, do you feel no one listens or feel you are being treated unfairly? **Making a complaint could help to sort out your problems.**

Making a complaint is easy. You could talk to someone who could help you such as your Social Worker, a friend or your teacher or you can get in touch with Ros Watters who is the Complaints Officer (see below). **Ros can arrange for an advocate to help you.** An advocate is someone who will work with you, speak up for you (if you wish) and help you express your feelings about why you are unhappy. An advocate will respect your views and support you whilst you are making a complaint.

Contact Ros at the number below, send in a complaints form or ask someone to do this for you. She will then get in touch with you to talk about your problem. You can contact her at:

Complaints Officer, Kelly House, Campbell Park Road, Hebburn,

NE31 2SW or Tel: 0191 424 4679 or you can email her at:

ros.watters@s-tyneside-mbc.gov.uk

Puzzle Page — Thanks for sending in these great puzzles

Rappers Word Search! by Andrew

W	E	O	T	G	F	B	J	I	H	W	B	S	G
V	P	Z	I	K	Y	F	F	N	M	Y	M	X	U
T	U	P	A	C	Y	I	A	X	J	A	M	G	T
T	S	E	W	E	Y	N	A	K	I	I	G	N	E
J	A	I	F	Z	K	K	M	L	S	O	E	Y	M
B	A	Y	U	Q	X	R	L	S	D	C	D	L	I
F	K	Y	A	X	P	I	Y	P	Y	L	N	L	N
B	W	W	Z	J	W	E	O	T	U	N	O	E	E
I	T	F	V	L	L	O	F	A	R	A	Y	N	M
J	C	L	E	L	N	I	P	O	Z	T	Y	T	G
G	F	R	I	S	F	N	Z	F	N	E	W	M	O
L	A	O	P	D	A	I	C	I	K	D	F	L	V
F	T	T	H	E	D	K	S	A	U	O	F	Q	O
N	Z	M	S	S	M	M	K	Z	R	G	X	Z	V

TUPAC

SNOOPDOGG

SEANPAUL

NELLY

JAYZ

NATEDOG

DIZ

FARELWILLIAMS

KANYEWEST

FIFTYCENT

EMINEM

MISSYELLIOT

Wordy Word Search! By Ryan

M	V	O	D	R	Z	O	T	D	A	Q	N	H	L	S	G	F
N	A	E	H	Y	M	A	D	P	G	W	E	E	S	D	S	V
I	A	I	T	Y	E	S	P	T	U	C	B	C	W	R	O	O
T	L	E	L	D	P	L	E	G	N	A	R	O	A	A	Y	P
X	K	D	L	T	Y	H	L	H	B	R	O	T	G	I	O	N
Q	E	L	S	E	Y	V	R	O	G	W	E	T	A	B	Y	V
N	E	B	S	P	R	C	W	R	W	F	P	H	W	Q	O	T
T	E	N	D	E	R	W	P	D	R	U	W	N	B	T	U	A
T	O	W	I	N	T	L	U	E	F	E	D	E	L	K	A	M
J	Y	N	E	P	X	X	R	L	P	E	P	T	U	C	I	S
I	E	E	S	S	I	D	P	D	B	I	D	A	E	A	L	N
P	R	I	Y	N	A	Z	L	B	L	I	N	K	P	L	L	R
G	N	S	D	E	N	I	E	Y	E	L	L	K	Y	B	E	F
K	S	I	N	A	Y	R	D	E	N	I	L	E	A	R	B	N
W	G	I	B	U	D	O	G	B	O	X	P	E	U	V	N	O
O	O	V	X	Y	P	E	N	C	I	L	E	F	I	F	C	S
I	P	T	R	J	L	O	J	D	B	L	T	W	F	E	M	E

BAT BED BELL BET BIN BLACK BLINK BLUE BOX CAR DOG EAR
 EAT EYE GREEN INDIGO LED LIAM LINE MAT NED NET NOSE
 ORANGE PAPER PEN PENCIL PET PINE PINK PURPLE RATE RED
 RYAN SAID SAT SINK SIX TELL VET YELL YELLOW YES YOYO

Young Peoples Engagement Team

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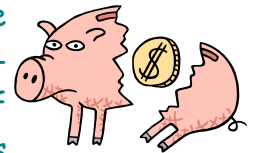
Email: ype.newsletter@s-tyneside-abc.gov.uk



www.doucare.co.uk



There were wide differences in the amounts of pocket money paid to young people within the Looked After System. The effect of this was that many young people felt the process was unfair as it means that young people of the same age receive different amounts—in some cases younger children had more pocket money than older young people.



Young people who are the same age and live in a children's home receive the same amount of money e.g. all 14 year olds living in a children's home receive £4.75. However these rates were often less than the rates paid to young people in foster placements!

One of the recommendations of the report is for the department to set new pocket money levels. *This would mean that if the recommendations were adopted* - young people living in a children's home would receive an increase in their pocket money and young people in foster placements would be able to negotiate their current pocket money levels with their carers according to the new guidelines.

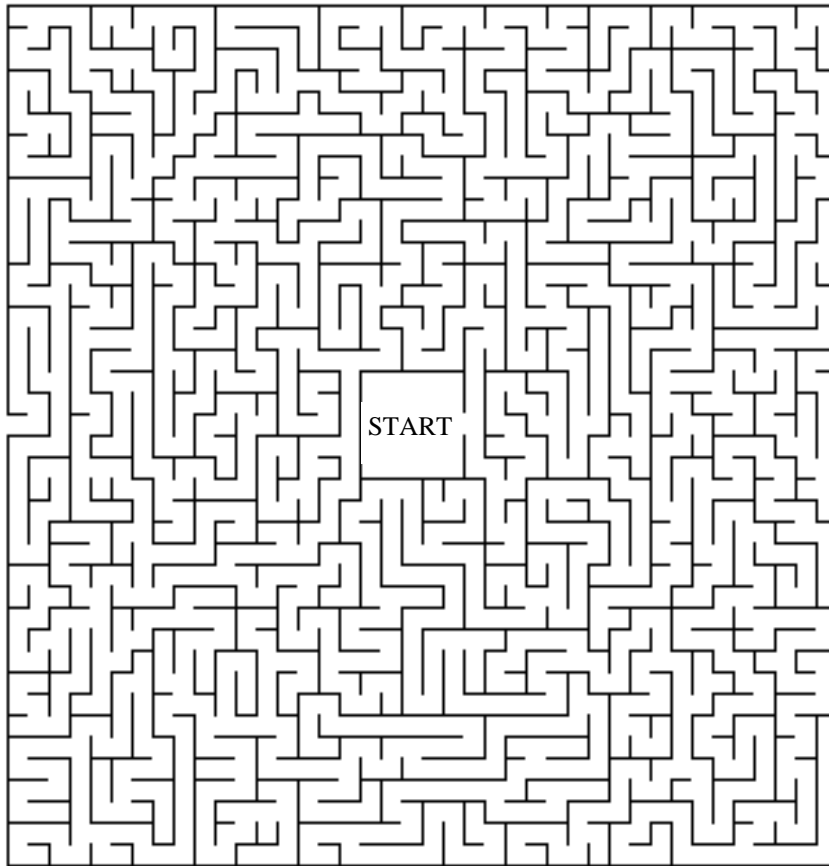
Details of the report will be produced after the contents have been agreed by the Scrutiny Committee.

For more information about this subject please speak to Lee Taylor on 424 4633.



Competition

Can you escape from the maze? If you can you could win £10!



FINISH HERE!

START



Check out www.doucare.co.uk if you get stuck - there are some more clues!

Answers to Lateral Thinking Puzzles on Page 6:

- 1) An Umbrella!
- 2) There were 8 left!
- 3) The surgeon is the boys mother!
- 4) Jason is a mouse
- 5) Anthony and Cleopatra are goldfish!

Remember you can win £10!





COMPETITION ENTRY

To help us make this newsletter as good as we can please answer these quick questions before you send us your competition entry.

Did you like this newsletter?

Yes No

Why?

Would you like to get involved in -

Young People's Reference Groups?

Yes No

Young People's Design Groups?

Yes No

Young People's Website Focus Groups?

Yes No

Have you ever been to your Looked After Review? Yes No

If Yes, what did you think about it? If No, what stopped you from going?

What can we do to help you come along to your reviews and help you to take part?

Name _____ Tel _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Post this sheet in the **FREEPOST** envelope provided before **1st December 2004** to enter the competition.

