

**What Makes The Difference?  
GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE**

**This example of good practice relates to criteria 1.2 of the National Leaving Care Standards contributing to ECM outcomes:**

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

**Name(s) and region of agency/organisation in which this piece of work was developed**

**Warwickshire County Council**

**Target group(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled young people  | <input type="checkbox"/> Young people 19+ years       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people with mental health needs                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Girls only                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Boys only                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people from black and minority ethnic groups               | <input type="checkbox"/> Young people as trainers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people not in education, training and employment (NEET)    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senior management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Older looked after children 15+                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Young people leaving care    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster carers  | <input type="checkbox"/> Researchers/evaluators       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girls and boys   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trainers                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people involved as researchers                             |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service managers                                      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive and lead members/councillors                |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lead professionals (social workers/personal advisors) |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other support/care workers                            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth workers  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information workers  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people in custody  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young parents  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people 16+   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Young people involved in services(SUI)                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify)  |   |

**Purpose and intended outcomes of this work**

To develop a corporate parenting policy and strategy with the involvement of young people, staff, members and councillors.

**Description of what was carried out in this piece of work (the intervention/s)**

A workshop to involve young people in the development of the policy, chaired by the chief executive and leader of the council, was held at Shire Hall in July 2006. All the county councillors took part. The mood was set by two young people who had worked with the leaving care coordinator and the 'Sez-U' theatre company director for 6 weeks previously to polish up their presentation of rap (about placement moves) and poetry.

The young presenters walked slowly down the stairs into the chamber doing their stuff. By the time they finished many councillors were quite affected. There were 22 looked after young people in the audience, who then joined officers and about 20 councillors (out of 60+) in working groups to discuss what should be in the council's policy and strategy on corporate parenting. This was followed by a question and answer session for the young people.

A similar workshop was held for foster carers.

Notes from flip charts from the workshops with young people and foster carers were distributed and used by a multi-agency group of practitioners and officers to develop a draft CP policy and strategy. Four young people and the Director of Children's Services presented young people's recommendations to the whole council after being endorsed by the cabinet, after which the young people were invited to join council members at their Christmas lunch.

The Young People's Forum is now involved in implementing the strategy by helping to develop the council's pledge to children and young people in care, using pledge development tools produced by the What Makes the Difference? Project (available on this website).

**Service structures and processes that were set up (e.g. posts, partnership groups etc)**

Young Peoples Forum  
Service User Involvement worker

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Type of agency/organisation in which this work was developed</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - unitary<br><input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - metropolitan<br><input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - borough council<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - county (shire) council<br><input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - city council<br><input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - London borough<br><input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary organisation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Multi-agency (please specify agencies involved)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Health agency (e.g. PCT, NHS Trust)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Education agency<br><input type="checkbox"/> Youth justice agency<br><input type="checkbox"/> Youth service<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <b>Region where work was developed</b>                              | <input type="checkbox"/> National (please specify UK nation i.e. England, Scotland, Wales, N. Ireland)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> NW England<br><input type="checkbox"/> NE England<br><input type="checkbox"/> SW England<br><input type="checkbox"/> SE England<br><input type="checkbox"/> London<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> East Midlands<br><input type="checkbox"/> West Midlands  |
| <b>Name(s) of tools/resources developed as part of this work</b>    | Warwickshire Corporate Parenting Policy, Strategy and Action Plan 2006- 2009  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>In what sense is this 'good practice'? The evidence</b>           |   |
| <b>Underlying evidence used to develop the interventions in this</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> None - new exploratory/developmental<br><input type="checkbox"/> Not known<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practitioner knowledge/experience only |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>piece of work</b></p>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Published research evidence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local research / evaluation</p>   |
| <p><b>Source of evidence available to show the <i>impact</i> of the interventions used in this work</b></p> <p><b>What this evidence/information suggests</b></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Independent evaluation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Internal / self-evaluation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anecdotal / impressions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not known</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive impact (if any)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Negative impact (if any)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other impact</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not known</p> |
| <p><b>Type of evidence about the 'process' of delivering the interventions used in this work</b></p>  | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive impact (if any)</p> <p>Young people were happy to be involved in the process of policy development.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Negative impact (if any)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other impact</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not known</p>   |
| <p><b>Feedback/evaluation report available on this site?</b></p>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, <a href="#">click here</a> to view</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>   |
| <p><b>Contact details for further information about this piece of work and the evidence of its</b></p>  | <p>Name: Rob Dunster<br/>Development Manager Leaving Care</p> <p>Address:<br/>Warwickshire County Council</p>   |

**impact**

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