

it's all about

US

EDITION 2

Welcome to the winter edition of 'It's all about US' newsletter, created especially for children looked after by Wandsworth Council.

To all our readers, hope you had a fab Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Check these out!

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Activity sessions

Aged 10-13 and live away from home? Fancy coming along and joining in at our Kidz club?

T-shirt making, games, pizza making, having fun, food and drinks

Everybody welcome!

- 14 January
- 11 February
- 10 March
- 12 May
- 9 June
- 14 July

All activity sessions take place at Alma Road TRC, second Monday of every month, from 4pm-6pm. If you'd like to join in, contact the Participation Officer on 020 8871 8274 for more details. Transport can be arranged



## Did you know?

Every child or young person who is looked after by Wandsworth should have a red file. Your red file is where you can keep all your important info like health records, review minutes, photo's, school certificates etc. If you haven't seen your red file, speak to your social worker or carer who can find out where it is.

## Brain teasers

What demands an answer but asks no questions?

- Telephone

What is yours but is used by others? - Your name

(Charis, 15)

# WINTER WORDSEARCH



In our last edition, Daniel (13) won our Shrek competition and won £20 HMV gift vouchers.

We are giving you the chance to win £20 cinema vouchers by entering our Winter Wordsearch competition

c	v	k	n	s	d	o	e	m	i
f	a	m	a	a	z	i	i	k	l
h	t	n	f	i	m	s	e	x	a
i	t	i	d	q	t	w	j	a	w
a	p	i	n	l	h	r	o	r	i
s	t	n	e	s	e	r	p	n	d
i	p	t	x	q	e	s	s	b	s
a	o	r	u	d	o	l	p	h	z
e	y	a	e	g	o	o	r	c	s
t	u	r	k	e	y	l	l	o	h

candles

mistletoe

scrooge

diwali

presents

snowman

eid

rudolph

tinsel

holly

santa

turkey

Send entries with your name and address to:

Winter Wordword Competition

FREEPOST RRLA-YKXY-ZCTX

CYP Participation

Welbeck House

43-51 Wandsworth High Street

London SW18 2PT

Closing date 23  
February 2008

# There's always hope!

**“There's always hope!” That was the message Chase made everyone think about at the annual Keith Bridgman Achievement Awards for education on 10th December at the Town Hall.**

And there were over 30 young people present who could show that being Looked After didn't mean that you couldn't make the effort, take your chances and succeed. For some, like Eddie and Perry, it was maybe a first step, but for others, like Shamaila and Rodney, it meant the top achievement of a successful degree at university.

The evening was a real mix of the formal and the surprising. The mayor was there, introduced by Rekik (who had somehow discovered his fancy for Scottish country dancing) but the real stars were all the young people who were prepared to stand up and speak from the heart.

That takes real courage in front of an audience. Young people were able to talk about who had helped and supported them, but they could also talk about their own efforts, and what it takes to stand up for yourself and make your ambitions become real.

There's always hope, said Chase. But there's also guts and determination, and having pride in yourself.

**Plenty of proud young people that night!  
And let's hope even more next year!**



# Champions for Children in Care

You might remember that during September, we asked young people for their views on setting up champions for children in care.

Thanks to all those who returned their questionnaire - as you can see the results were surprisingly close, with model 3 – the Children in Care Council winning!

## Model 1 Children's Champion at a distance

a person would be matched to young person looked after and would champion their needs at a distance, they would never meet! They'd ask questions on the young persons behalf, so would ask social workers, managers and carers how the young person is doing at school, home, hobbies etc.

## Model 2 Children's Champion as a Befreinder

a person would be matched to a young person looked after in a befriending role. They'd be in direct contact with the young person by email, phone or visit and would find out how they are doing and would offer their support.

## Model 3 Children in care Council

Young people would set up a 'Children in Care Council' where theirs and other young people's views would be collected and passed directly to the Director of Children's Service. They'd meet regularly and raise issues that were important to them with senior managers.

**If you'd like to find out more about the Children in Care Council or would like to be involved in setting it up please contact Natasha on 020 8871 8274. You'll be rewarded for your time.**

# JOKE SPOT

Why did the skeleton  
climb up the tree?

Cause the dog wanted  
a bone!

Stacey (17)



## Next steps

We wanted to find out how we could take this idea forward so on Saturday December the 15th, six young people met to discuss how they thought a Children in Care Council might work.



**This is what one young person had to say....**

"I think a Care Council is a good idea because you get the information first hand and its not like Chinese whispers, it doesn't get interpreted wrongly. The Council can say what it wants to say and cause its run by young people, we know what we want and can address the things which are important to us – we'll know better than adults!"

**Merlain (17)**

"Have it in young people's environment - ask young people beforehand"

"We should talk about the experience of young people who are in care - how we can make it better"

"There needs to be rules and guidance for the Council"

"FEEDBACK - we are kept informed throughout"

"Under 11's have a right to give their views"



# Sticky fingers



Kelly-Ann 11



Midane 10



F Sanni 10



Kyla 6



# Get in touch!

This is a newsletter for you and thanks to all those who have sent in their stuff already!

Send us your stories, ideas, reviews, pictures and you could see your article in the next edition. £10 gift voucher if it makes it to print in the newsletter or website!

Send to the FREEPOST address below, no stamp needed.

## Happy Birthday to you all!

### DECEMBER

Maurice 11	Kerry Ann 12	Laura 16	Ellie 16
Jamie 11	Exra 14	Christopher 15	Stephen 17
Gerald 11	Holly 14	Perry 15	Dominic 17
Kehron 11	Tian 15	Tishana 15	Kamilah 17
Bobbi 12	Christina 15	Ashley 16	

### JANUARY

Nathan 11	Yasmin 16	Selorm 16	Shakir 17
Danielle 14	Rhea 16	Menbere 17	Billy 17
Sarah 15	Sohail 16	Amaat 17	Alison 18
Natasha 15	Charis 16	Filamon 17	

### FEBRUARY

Jammy 14	Gavin 18	Marcia 11	Oliver 12
Akulani 11	Sharnough 13	Nichola 12	Mohsin 16
Keishema 17	Bria 13	Malcolm 17	Yacine 17
Jade 12	Thomas 14	Lilith 18	

May this day bring to you all things that make you smile.

**FREEPOST RRLA-YKXY-ZCTX**  
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43-51 Wandsworth High Street  
London SW18 2PT  
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If any of the things featured in this newsletter sound of interest to you or you would like to join our mailing list, please call **020 8871 8274** or write to us either by email or post.



# BIRTHDAYS