

it's all about

US

autumn 2007

EDITION 1

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

Browse through and see what some of our young people have been up to and find out what's happening in Wandsworth Children's Services.

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Riding high!

On Wednesday 22nd August, 7 young people travelled to Thorpe Park to meet the Children's Rights Director for England to give him their views on Bullying.



All enjoying the day out at Thorpe Park.

As a reward for their time and thoughts, the young people gained free access to the park as well as £5 worth of magic money...not bad for one hours work!

Travelling the dizzy heights of Stealth and thundering around the steel tracks of Colossus our seven little adrenalin junkies were not put off by the wind and rain, and delighted in the ultimate feat of the gravity defying rides. Impressive some might say!



Just one of the many rides we went on!

FYI - It is the job of the Children's Rights Director to report the messages young people who live away from home give him to government so that things can be made better for them. Check out www.rights4me.org

Thanks!!

I came into the country unsure and a bit confused and I wasn't sure dealing with my past was something I was ready to do!

Confronting all my demons isn't easy for me but that's what I need to do in order to achieve.

Expressing my feelings and dealing with my pain. We've all had troubled pasts and in some way can relate. Learning to overcome and eventually move on. What hasn't yet killed me has only made me strong

Over the last few days I've grown and come a long way. Its time for me to make a change and stop living in yesterday.

I wanna be a better person and accomplish some of my dreams. I wanna make a difference and be the best person I can be!

Kerrie
(care leaver, 19)



If you're a Shrek enthusiast, then you could be in with a chance of winning a £20 HMV voucher. Write your answers with your name on a piece of paper and send to us by Oct 31st.

Good Luck!

1. **When was the first Shrek movie released?**
a) 2007 b) 2001 c) 1998
2. **What does the word Shrek mean?**
a) Hello b) Fear or terror c) Big green ogre
3. **Who provides the voice for Princess Fiona?**
a) Cameron Diaz b) Jennifer Lopez c) Rhianna
4. **Who is the ruler of the Kingdom of Duloc?**
a) Lord Wellington b) Lord Farquaad c) Lord Salisbury
5. **Who is Shrek's sidekick?**
a) Horse b) Unicorn c) Donkey
6. **What is the title of the third Shrek film?**
a) Shrek 3 b) Shrek the Third c) Shrek the Return
7. **Who is Shrek's frogger in law?**
a) King Charles b) King Lloyd c) King Harold
8. **Where does Shrek live?**
a) Far far away b) Neverland c) The moon
9. **Who is the son of the Fairy Godmother?**
a) Donkey b) Puss In Boots c) Prince Charming
10. **Who is the 'Ogre Assassin' in Shrek 2?**
a) Donkey b) Dragon c) Puss In Boots



Participation activity days

Are you aged between 10-17?

Do you have a social worker and live away from your family?

Some young people who have been working with the Participation Officer have developed a group, which meets regularly. The group hasn't got a name yet, but they talk, have fun, and go places like Nando's, Thorpe Park, Pizza Hut.

If this sounds like something you'd like to get involved in, call Natasha, Participation Officer 020 8871 8274.

Don't be shy, everybody's welcome and we're all really friendly! Look out for your invitations in the post!



JAR inspection

In October, we are being inspected by a team of people from an organisation called OFSTED.

They will check to see that we are providing good services for children and young people who live, work, study in Wandsworth and are looked after by Wandsworth.

Would you like to be involved in perhaps speaking to the Inspectors in October?

Let us know before Oct 13th by contacting the Participation Officer.

NOTICEBOARD

Ever come across Teenage Health Freak?

Check it out, get the answers to zillions of health questions.
www.teenagehealthfreak.org

Congratulations to

Anthony (16 years) who came 2nd in his swimming race at the London Youth Games.

Launching the new website

It's all about us!



It's here!

A brand new website which has been built just for children and young people who are looked after by Wandsworth. At a request of young people themselves, the website is packed with useful information on being looked after, through to useful tips and suggestions about health, education and much, much more.

It's in its beginning phase and we'd love to hear from young people and what they think of it. Get involved and have your say by emailing into scscomment@wandsworth.gov.uk



Check out
www.itsallaboutus.info

Congratulations to Rekik, who won our competition to think of a name for the website. Well done!

JOKE SPOT

What do you call a
three-legged donkey?
A wonky!

Andy (13)



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to you all!

SEPTEMBER

Rekik 18	Samantha 14
Natasha 18	Jason 13
Samuel 17	Ezekiel 12
Hazel 16	Alice 11
Thomas 16	Amal 10
Zarah 15	Cherelle 10
Essayas 14	

OCTOBER

Asmit 18	Kehinde 15
Grant 17	Mohyuddin 14
Charlie 17	Lee 14
Kyle 17	Aunise 14
Daniella 16	Taylor 14
Taiwo Joy 15	Cristine 13
Randy Eugene 16	Osagyefo Izaak 11

NOVEMBER

Helen 18	Michael 12
Merlain	China 12
Danny 16	Kelly-Ann 12
Nadigah 16	Ronnie 10
Rochelle 16	Ricky Junior 10
Anthony 14	Romel Louis 10

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

Talk to me about....

Hi everyone,
I'm Tasha and I'm
here to help you
have your say about
the support you
receive and to help
you get involved in
making decisions
about how it could
be better for you
and others.



Children's Participation Officer

You might receive invitations from me from
time to time, asking if you want to take part
in activities, events, questionnaires, hopefully
you'll find some of the stuff fun and you'll
come along.

If you want to find out how you can get
involved, call me on **020 8871 8274** or
email nrego@wandsworth.gov.uk

WANTED!

Young people for staff interview panels

- ◆ Do you have what it takes...?
- ◆ Are you good at asking questions?
- ◆ Are you fair?
- ◆ Do you feel it's important that young people are involved in interviewing new social workers and managers?
- ◆ Are you keen to earn some extra money?

Interested? Phone **Natasha**
Participation Officer

Sticky fingers

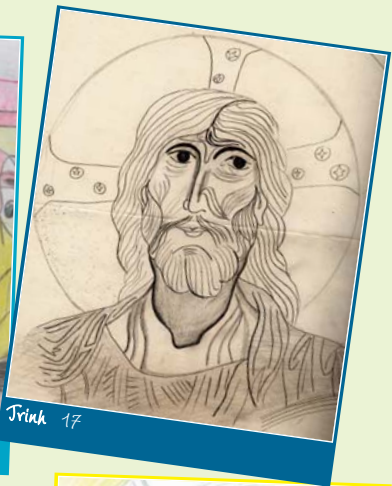
Send us your drawings and if featured in our newsletter, we'll send you a £10 gift voucher!



Trink 17



Kahlil 12



Trink 17



Mia 9



Sayib 14



Dalanute 9



Sayib 14



Perry 13

Your feedback!

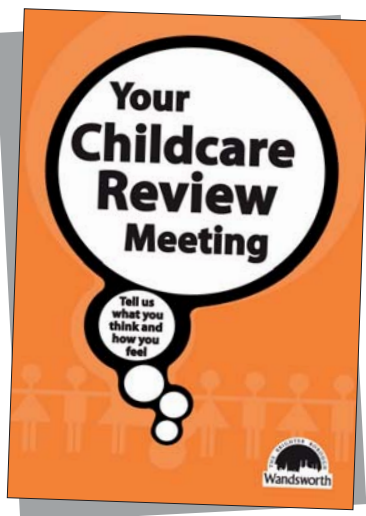
On Tuesday 19th June, 10 young people came together to help us design a new leaflet for young people to use in their reviews.

You may remember the old form, its orange and as our young people have told us, pretty rubbish, out of date and boring. So rising to the challenge, young people worked with a designer, giving him suggestions as to what a new form should look like.

Some of their suggestions

- ◆ don't use orange or yellow – they are depressing colours
- ◆ different questions for different ages
- ◆ small boxes/ tick box questions
- ◆ scoring and rating scales are good – more of these
- ◆ space for signature of young person
- ◆ photo's, graphic, illustrations

To thank them for all their hard work we headed off for a meal at Nando's where the competition was to see who could eat the hottest chicken. Think Merlain won that one who had extra extra hot sauce and didn't even break into a sweat!



Look out for the new review forms, which will be with you shortly!

Get in touch!

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

We want to hear from you so feel free to send any of your jokes, stories, memories, puzzles, poems, pictures to

Natasha Rego Children's Participation Officer.

Send to the FREEPOST address below, no stamp needed.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

- **CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER**
Have your Say
- **ANNUAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**
Coming shortly

FREEPOST RRLA-YKXY-ZCTX
CYP Participation Welbeck House
43-51 Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PT
email nrego@wandsworth.gov.uk

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.