



LET'S TAKE ACTION NEWSLETTER

Mayor's Award



Due to their hard work and drive over the last 12 months the Let's Take Action group have been crowned joint winners of the Mayor's Service to the Community Groups and Organisations Award.

Hannah one of the group members also scooped the Young Person of the Year Mayor's award, for her dedication to shaping the services on a local and regional level.

Virtual Children in Care Council

While in lockdown members of the LTA have continued to participate in sessions via Virtual Children in Care Council sessions. These have allowed the group to keep in contact with each other and share opinions on a variety of topics

Engaging with the group this way has proved a valuable tool so far, and has confirmed the stability of the group for all those involved. In time we hope running Virtual Children in Care Council sessions can reach more children in care and offer a platform for those who are isolated, anxious and who want to get their voices heard. I will provide a further update at a later date as this progresses.

Protecting the MINDs of the future

Keep your MIND healthy and sharp by joining me in the virtual Route 66 challenge.



Route 66 is one of the most iconic highways in the world starting in Chicago and ending in Santa Monica, with a total distance of 2,248 miles.

I am calling on any Children in Care we support to help me meet this challenge by any mode of travel, example of these are: walking, cycling, running, skipping, hopping and climbing the stairs. Get creative, as long as the distance is logged it all counts.

Last year our Children in Care Council decided to spend 12 months supporting Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind, as they identified that mental health challenges are something Children in Care regularly deal with. Due to COVID-19, local charities are suffering a little with regular donations, so I thought those involved could raise money for MIND if they wanted to.

I have set up the following Just Giving page for any donations:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stocktonvirtualchallenge>

Any questions please drop me a line on 07824 529643

LTA LET'S TAKE ACTION NEWSLETTER

REDUCED COST TRANSPORT SCHEME FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

We are offering reduced cost weekly bus passes for 16-25 year olds which can be used on either Arriva or Stagecoach buses. The passes can be used any time of the day in the Stockton, Thornaby and Billingham areas. (Orange zone indicated on the map)

The Weekly pass will cost you £7.50 which is 66% cheaper than full price.

It's as simple as completing a short application form, meeting the basic criteria (being involved in positive activities such as a sports club, volunteering, work placement, training /college or special circumstances) and collecting your pass from Youth Direction.



Any applications need to be endorsed by either the social worker or PA. For any information and/or an application form please drop me a line on the details below. Jamie.wassell@stockton.gov.uk



Carer's view

Jamie came to our house to talk to both N and ourselves as carers about the Lets Take Action group that is held on a Monday evening. He explained all about it and N thought it sounded like the kind of group that she would like to be part of.

Sixteen months down the line and she is not just going to and from the sessions independently, but she is taking an active role in planning and delivering speeches at cooperate events as well as speaking at the foster carers awards.

We are so proud of her and how far she has come over the last 16 months. Her confidence and self-esteem has grown so much. Jamie has encouraged her to take part in all aspects of the group including going on day trips to theme parks, helping out with the younger children, as well as going on a residential to Pete Rigg. *(Carer with a young person aged 17).*

Independent Living Course

Despite the lockdown the 6 week Independent Living course for care leavers is in full flow but in a more creative way.

80% of those signed up are still very much wanting to be involved.

It is very important to continue and engage with the care leavers, so it's has been arranged with Learning and Skills for weekly worksheets to be created reflecting the course content. The care leavers involved have now received 3 weekly worksheets and will continue to receive them until we are able to get them back to taught sessions. There are 2 spaces available, drop me a line for further information.

Projects and Activities

Prior to the lockdown the group were also supporting the Helping Hand Scheme, a research project with Durham University, doing advocacy research and planning their next fundraising activity for Mind. We were also discussing a key fund application and a mentoring ASDAN course, and for the older members to support the members of a Junior LTA group for 11-14 year olds.

For more information on joining the LTA or to further chat about any other projects please contact Jamie on 07824529643.