

Corporate Parenting Board Report – September 2010

Care Leavers' Project – RISE

Business in the Community is running a 2-year pilot programme to support care leavers into employment. This builds on 10 years of supporting homeless people into work, a programme pioneered initially by Marks & Spencer. Nottingham and Bradford are the two pilot areas selected. The draft working title for this is “**RISE**”

The key 4 elements to the programme:

1. Referral of young people
2. Training/preparation of young people,
3. A 2 week placement with a host employer
4. Optional weekly job coaching thereafter with a trained volunteer job coach.

Nottingham City Council is supporting in two of these elements: Referral of young people and acting as a host employer.

Referral Process

We recognise that individual care leavers vary enormously in terms of their employability. We are clear that we do not simply want to ‘cream off’ the brightest and best people, who would most-likely gain employment without our support. We plan to raise the level of employability for care leavers by providing specific training, work placements, one to one support and partnership working with additional education/training providers. We will take referrals from Social workers, Case holders, Fostering Agencies, Local Authority Residential Placements, Privately Funded Residential Placements, Targeted Support Team, other Youth Focused Organisations.

Placement Process

We will be providing two week work placements for these clients from early 2011. These can be in any suitable working environment. At our Board meeting in May, it was agreed in principle that work placements would be offered within the Council. Specific offers were made by Candida Brudenell, Kevin Banfield and Jennifer Dearing. We are now ready to progress these offers and would welcome other interest from Board members.

Paulette is asking Ian Curryer to champion the programme internally. She will also arrange for BITC to attend a forthcoming Heads of Service meeting.

Jamie Shrivastava was appointed in August to run the Nottingham programme. He has a wealth of knowledge in this area having spent the past 10 years working with young people in care of this local authority, and surrounding authorities.

Finally, David Cooke is moving on from Business in the Community at the end of September. We offer Jackie Fuller, BITC's Deputy Regional Director as a replacement on the Corporate parenting Board. Jackie manages all of our community impact programmes in the region including this particular pilot.

David Cooke
8 September 2010