



Hello,

I hope you are all enjoying the beginning of summer. I mentioned last time I wrote to you that some Blue Tits were showing great interest in my nest box in my garden. Well I am pleased to report that they have produced eight chicks and I watch them flying to and fro the nest every day bringing food back for their offspring. Perhaps you have seen garden birds doing the same thing where you live?

You may know that we had a visit from Ofsted inspectors back in March, and the letter describing what they found has just been published. I am very pleased to say that the letter recognised some good work that the staff here in Children's Social Care are doing to support you, and also some good partnership working with police officers, nurses and other people who are all dedicated to keeping young people safe.

Of course we are always wanting to improve and one question the inspectors encouraged us to think about was how do we build upon the excellent work the Children in Care council do with us? To make sure that we listen to young people who have experienced our services in order to keep on making them better. So I will be speaking with the Children in Care Council about this soon.

I was really pleased to see how many of you came to the Pledge writing event at Leighton Buzzard youth club a few weeks ago. You all had some brilliant ideas and I am looking forwards to reading your new Pledge which is being written to take account of all your ideas. We will plan an event in the council chamber so that councillors and officers can sign the pledge in public, reminding ourselves that as your corporate parents we want to support you all we can.

I was also really pleased to hear how well many of you are doing in school, in particular in terms of amazing school attendance. Attendance rates have improved this year, which is good news. We know that the more days you attend school, the better your grades will be.

I have gone back to school myself, in a way. I have started to study at the University of Bedfordshire. I know that some of you work with this university to support the social work courses. It's a long time since I had to complete homework but here I am enjoying sharing what we are doing here in CBC with other students, and working hard to keep my assignment deadlines!

I'd like to say a big thank you to those young people who represented us at The Taking it to the Next Level Corporate Parents and Children in Care Councils project. The project aimed to encourage and support corporate parents and young people to work together, sharing ideas and producing some great resources. These include prompt sheets covering a variety of important topics and some brilliant short animation films. Councillor Goodchild told me how much she enjoyed attending this event and how proud she was of the young people she accompanied.

Regards

Sue

Sue Harrison

Director of Children's Services

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