



## **'Our Promise' Priorities 2015/2016**



Northumberland County Council aim to offer the best possible services and support to children and young people in our care. To help us achieve this we have developed **Our Promise** to you based on the importance of:

- Stable Relationships
- Having a Voice
- High Aspirations

We want to continue to improve the participation and consultation of young people that work with children's services so thank you very much for completing the recent **Promise Priority voting sheet**, with your help we had over **55** responses!

The **Promise Priorities** for 2015/16 are:

1. Improve access for young people to emotional wellbeing and mental health services
2. Maintain placement stability for children in whatever placement they are in
3. Young people should be more involved in decisions about contact
4. Involve looked after children in the recruitment and training of Foster carers

If you have any views or suggestions on ways VMC can work to develop these new priorities please contact [voicesmakingchoices@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:voicesmakingchoices@northumberland.gov.uk) a flyer will be sent to you early next year to keep you up to date on developments.



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VMC have had another busy year, please read about **some** of the things they have been up to below:

We are currently working with Adult Safeguarding on the SAY Project. SAY stands for Safeguarding and You. We were asked by the Adult Safeguarding board to help them redesign their advertising materials so that it is clear that the services are available to anyone aged 17 ½ and above and not just the elderly. The DVD the group produce will also be used in schools across the county to educate students from 14 years old..

We regularly train new foster carers, teachers and other staff. Trained professionals from all over the country at an event in Sunderland University in June 2014 and have been invited back again for another conference in July 2015.

With the help of Sunderland University our training packs will be added to their new on-line Hub. Where social workers, teachers and other professionals can purchase them to help with their continual professional development (CPD). Any money raised will be sent to charity. Our work could now potentially go international!

We researched and developed a project to commemorate Netherton Park Children's homes, which has been open for over 150 years and is due to close this year. We created and photography book and photography exhibition to compare being in care in the 1900's to living in care now.

We regularly meet with senior managers and Councillors to tell them what they really think about their services.

Go to conferences all over the country to meet with other Children in care Councils and share ideas.

Help gain the views of all looked after children to choose and to work on the Promise priorities every year

If you would like to know more or would like to get involved please call or text Robin Craig 07785573426.

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