

## HAVE WE GOT NEWS 4 U

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2007

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### Hello to Sue Carter



**Name:** Sue Carter

**Post Title:** Corporate Parenting Team Manager

**How long have I been in post:** May 2007

**Why am I here?**

I wanted this job because I want to do everything I can to help improve the experiences of children and young people in care.

I know that young people in care sometimes have difficulties with their school work or in their placements. In fact, children and young people in care can face difficulties in many areas of their lives and this can mean that they enter adult life with fewer qualifications or being less healthy and happy than they might otherwise have been.

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**Why do I think I can do this?**

I am very familiar with the reasons why children and young people come into care, the ways in which they come into care and the range of experiences they have in care. This is because for a number of years I was a social worker in a Child Care Operations team in Llanelli, Leicester City and finally Market Harborough. Most recently I was the team manager of the Child Care Operations team in Hinckley for 5 years.

I am used to working with people of all ages, from all walks of life, and from many different professions. This is a good thing because in this job I will be talking to young people, to teachers, to senior managers and to the elected members of Leicestershire County Council, amongst others, about improving things for children in care. I will also be talking to people who work for other organisations that can help us provide more opportunities and experiences for children and young people in care. For example, this week I have been talking to a woman called Parminder Basra, who is trying to arrange day visits to various employers for young people in year 11 who didn't manage to go on work experience. Next week I am going to Twycross Zoo to try to arrange for us to have some reduced rate tickets for children in care to be taken there for days out with their carers or for contact with their families.

I have worked with lots of children and young people in care over the years. There should be quite a few of you reading this who already know me or know of me! Hopefully I will get to know some more of you as well.

## Hello Sue Carter Cont.

### What else have I done?

When I left school I went to university and studied sociology, thinking that I would go on to train as a social worker, but when I left university I decided that I didn't want to be a social worker straight away. I felt that at 22 years old I didn't have enough experience of life to talk to people about how they should parent their children. I'm not quite sure why or how, but I ended up working for a firm of accountants in London for several years instead.

I then worked as a Youth Worker for several years, both in Cardiff and Swansea. I took groups of young people all over the place to try to introduce them to new experiences. I took groups on outward bound weekends in the Welsh mountains, took them to Liverpool to the theatre and to see the Strawberry Fields and to go on the ferry across the Mersey, and took them to midnight ice skating sessions. In the youth club I played darts, pool and board games with them. I also ran all night pool playing events to raise money for Children in Need. It was really exciting when we were all filmed handing over our cheque for the money we had raised. I also arranged for young people who had left school to become involved with the Princes Trust and to take up some evening classes we ran.

Then I gave up work and went back to university at the grand old age of 37 (it's never too late to learn) and qualified as a social worker – the best decision I ever made!

### Have I got children of my own?

I have a daughter and a son, both of whom have grown up now and left home. It's very quiet at home now as not only are they not there any more but I no longer have half a dozen teenagers lined up in sleeping bags on the lounge floor every Saturday night and queuing up for a cooked breakfast every Sunday morning! I also have two step-sons who don't live with me but visit regularly. They are just about to sit their GCSEs and A levels.

### What do I like doing when I'm not at work?

I like swimming. In fact I am sometimes in the pool at 6.30am on the way to work!

I also like cooking, reading, driving and gardening.

I enjoy going to live music events of all kinds but especially opera and also rock concerts by people I have followed for many years, such as Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones and Billy Joel – that shows my age, doesn't it!

My absolutely favourite thing to do, however, apart from simply spending time with my family or friends, is to go on holiday. I go away as often as possible and am always looking for a new destination or experience.

Oh, and I have a secret passion for celebrity 'reality' shows like 'Fame Academy', 'Celebrity B.B' and 'I'm a Celebrity, get me out of here'. I get completely wrapped up in who's doing what and who I like and don't like and always send texts to support my favourite.

## A Level and GCSE Results

Don't forget to  
let us know your results  
on 0116 2658213

## Going Wildly Wicked

Anyone aged between the ages of 11 and 20 is being urged to go “wildly wicked” this summer with a prize winning photography competition.

Leicestershire County Council’s Community Heritage Initiative (CHI) is inviting entries on the theme of answering the question “What matters to you about your natural environment?” Photos can include the area where you live, wildlife, favourite natural place, or a record of our impact on the environment such as climate change, graffiti, pollution and recycling.

Prizes include £100 music store vouchers. Entries can be sent by text, post, or email. The competition runs from June to the end of October 2007.

To find out how you can enter and to get an entry form, email [wildlywicked@leics.gov.uk](mailto:wildlywicked@leics.gov.uk), or go to [www.leics.gov.uk/wildlywicked](http://www.leics.gov.uk/wildlywicked) telephone CHI on 0116 267 1377, or write to CHI, 216 Birstall Road, Leicestershire LE4 4DG.

**Kay Snowdon**  
**Community Heritage Initiative**

## Swimming passes

### FREE SWIMMING ON ITS WAY

The Chief Cultural Services Officers have agreed a unique and amazing offer for children in care in Leicestershire.

The offer is for **FREE SWIMMING** for all children and young people in care, their carers and their carers’ children at all the public swimming pools in Leicester and Leicestershire. Care leavers upto the age of 18 are also included in this offer.



Valid: 1st April 07 - 31st March 08

Yes, **ALL** the pools!

All you have to is show your **Activ8** card.

To apply for an Activ8 card, simply send a passport sized photo (it can be any photo, such as a holiday snap, providing it is the right size), together with your name and address, to:

Katharine Goodacre  
Corporate Parenting Team  
Room 416a  
County Hall  
Glenfield  
Leicester LE3 8RF

If you have any queries, please contact any of the Corporate Parenting Team on 0116 2657518

## The Winter's Tale by the X-press Group

Performed at Child-centred Care Matters, On 31st May 2007

This poem was performed at the Child-centred Care Matters conference by a group of young people in care . The poem was in the form of a modern day fairy tale about Hansel and Gretel, who ran away from the cruelty they experienced at home from their step mother. They met up with a man who pretended to be their friend but who in fact put them at great risk. They children were rescued by Sue the Snow Queen and her hundred social workers.

Sadly the poem was too long to publish in our newsletter but we have printed the second half of it below

**They all went back to Sue's place and resumed the splendid meal**

**The social workers listened to the children's harsh ordeal**

**" We've been wronged," said Gretel " and now we've got things to say."**

**" Ok," said the social workers "tell us. Fire away!"**

**" We need to trust you" Hansel said " We need to feel secure**

**"Please speak in language that isn't too obscure**

**" We 're just human beings; we're not horrid or grotesque**

**" Please respect us– We're more than piles of papers on your desk**

**" We know you're here to help, so this is our request**

**" Please value our opinions; we can help you do what's best"**

**"The social workers then replied " We see your point of view**

**"Thank you for informing us on what matters most to you"**

**Sue than asked the children " Would you like to live with me?**

**"I can keep you safe and sound– what's more I make a great tea!**

**"My tent's not much on the outside but inside it's rather grand**

**"And I promise I'll stay by your side to lend a helping hand."**

**Sue said to the social workers " I'll need your help too**

**"Let's be a team and do the very best that we can do!**

**"These children need our care and it's our duty to provide**

**"So come on team, let's do it. After all we're qualified"**

**And so the banquet ended, and all the guests departed**

**Sue exclaimed triumphantly " Let's get this new house started!"**

**The children settled quickly in their palace on the hill**

**They dreamt about the future; thought up plans they could fulfil**

**This tale began in the winter, when everything was icy**

**Sue kept them safe and warm; she looked after them nicely!**

**But winter slowly turns to spring and soon things start to grow**

**With love and care new life emerges from the seeds we sow**

**The children gradually blossomed and pursued their bold ambitions**

**Sue helped them overcome their fears and beat their inhibitions**

**The years went by so quickly and the children spread their wings**

**They longed to savour all the joy that independence brings!**

Hansel took up football, he was one of the great stars  
He then went back to college and got into making cars  
His business was a great success– he specialised in Minis  
He then moved up to sports cars and sold lots of Lamborghinis!

Gretel meanwhile had a plan and talked it through with Sue  
“ I have a great idea,” she said “ A plan involving you!”  
“ I will choose my favourite dishes– the meals I think are nice  
“Then you can use your magic wand to turn them into ice!

“We’ll open an ice cream shop with the most unusual flavours  
“Like Fish n Chips and Sunday Roast ... imagine... frozen Quavers!

They toiled hard and gradually their plan came to fruition  
Their ice cream was amazing and gained global recognition

Hansel and his sister Gretel brought their own plush flats  
They went to see Sue frequently for cups of tea and chats  
“ Wherever your life takes you and however far you roam  
“ You must remember,” Sue said “ this will always be your home”

This poem was by Shamaila Ahmad, Uzma Ahmad, Ronald Grant, David Mulcahy, Magdalene Chidwick, Hannah Dobbin and Simon Clark

## **Anti– Bullying by Jamie C aged 14**

Bullying is bad  
Bullying makes people sad  
Bullying makes people hide  
Which means they lose their pride  
Bullying is really wrong  
It can affect you all day long  
Bullies only do it because they think they’re big and strong  
But I know that bullying is really wrong  
Being bullied puts you down  
You no longer want to be around  
Bullying sometimes makes you cry  
And sometimes want to wish to die  
Don’t keep your fear inside  
Tell someone and retrieve your pride  
Beat the bullies at their game  
Make them the ones who feels the shame

If any young people have poems,  
letters or stories they would like to  
share then please either let your social  
worker know or write to me at

Julie Evans  
Corporate Parenting Support Worker  
Room 416A  
Leicestershire County Council  
County Hall  
Glenfield  
Leicester  
LE3 8RL  
Or email: [JLEvans@leics.gov.uk](mailto:JLEvans@leics.gov.uk)

## 16+ Service has moved

On 22nd May the Leaving Care Team became the 16+ Service and also moved offices. Hopefully you will have received a newsletter letting you know of the changes and giving you information on the contact details for the offices and location of individual members of the team.

The opportunity for a name change to 16+ Service was taken to coincide with the move but was also made in response to the views of young people, carers and workers in the team.

The team has moved from Bassett Street to two new bases: one at the Hinckley office and the other at Pennine House, Loughborough.

The intention is for the team to continue to work across the county from the two bases. Generally the service remains the same but there have been some changes made to the service which are noted in the newsletter. Hopefully young people will see some of the changes as improvements to the service. One important change to note is a duty service is available at both offices but only on afternoons. Young people should still have their workers mobile telephone number if they need advice and support.

The 16+ Service is very keen to find out what young people think to the changes and whether there is anything else we can do to improve the service. We would like to encourage young people to text their worker if they have any comments or have anything else they would like to say.

We are intending to send out a regular newsletter and would welcome any contributions or suggestions on anything you would like to see in it.

If you haven't received a newsletter and would like to do so please contact Victor Cook on 01509 283555 who will arrange for one to be sent out to you.

**Hinckley Office– 01455 899099**

**Pennine House– 01509 283555**

**Manager– Angie Lymer-Cox**

**Manager –Victor Cook**

**Tracey Thompson**

**Elaine Rowe**

**Lorraine Murray**

**Nicky Lock**

**Nitin Chouhan**

**Amarjit Singh**

**Christine Smith**

**Su Ascough**

**David Thomas**

**Julia Stone**

**Helen Boyles**

**John White**

**Ann Clay**

**Deb Green**

**Linda Williams**

**Dawn Jacob**

**Jo Towers**

# Consumer Helpline

...Did you know....

Consumer Direct offers “**Clear Practical Advice**” on all kinds of consumer issues.

They offer advice on:

## Goods & Services

Making a purchase? Follow our straight-talking advice.

[Clothes and shoes](#)

[Mobile phones](#)

[Electrical goods](#)

## Your Rights

Is a company selling trying to rip you off? Find out how the law protects you.

[Using a guarantee](#)

[Bought something on credit?](#)

[Returning or cancelling orders](#)

[Dealing with disputes](#)

## Consumer Issues

Need some clear consumer info? Try these links on the Consumer Direct Website.

[Scams - how to spot them](#)

[Making a complaint](#)

[Shopping online](#)

[Template Letters](#)

If this advice does not result in a prompt solution for Leicestershire residents, the case is usually passed to our “**Trading Standards Service**” for further, specialist, advice.

**The Consumer Direct number is 08454 04 05 06.** This number can also be used to make consumer complaints or queries.

Extra help for You ...

**Check this out.... if you are in care** within Leicestershire County Council, you **get extra help!!! Here's how...**

**If you ring 0116 265 8000 ( 305 8000 from August 1<sup>st</sup>)** and ask for the “**Young Person's Helpline**” tell them who you are, then the guys at the unit will deal with your queries on your behalf. This usually gets the **fix sorted pronto..** if you're in the rite.... **“thats cool ya!!!”**

# Carers' Summer Party



Leicestershire  
County Council



**Date: 18TH August 2007**

**Time: 12:00– 4.00 P.M.**

Hello Carers,

We are inviting you all to a BBQ at Beacon Hill County Park, so bring along children in your care, your own children and of course yourselves to a fun day at Beacon Hill County Park.



## Highlights

- Face Painting
- Races/ Games
- Treasure Hunts

**Beacon Hill County Park,**

**Off Beacon Road,**

**Woodhouse Eaves,**

**North West Leicestershire,**

**LE12 8SR**

**Contact: Julie Evans:**

**0116 265 8213**

**by the 2nd of July with expected  
numbers**