

Blackpool Young Inspectors



What is a Young Inspector

- A Young Inspector is a volunteer aged 16 plus who has experienced living in supported accommodation and has been or is one of our children.
- Young Inspectors support the quality monitoring of accommodation by visiting the homes where our children live , speaking to young people living there and assessing how safe and how well cared for our children are.
- They get a feel for how welcoming and homely the homes are and used their own experiences to help them assess the quality.

How do young people get involved and how are they trained ?

- Kirsty and Alicia are always on the look at for future Young Inspectors and recruitment is always at the forefront of their minds as they take part in the various groups and forums. At the moment recruitment is targeted but as the programme gets more well known, young people will hopefully volunteer and be excited to get involved.
- Young Inspectors are fully trained in consultation skills, questioning skills , confidentiality and basic safeguarding. Quality Monitoring officers in the Commissioning team also support by providing an insight into the processes involved in their job.

What's good about being a Young Inspector?

- Improved confidence and self esteem.
- Learning new skills around communication, problem solving, information gathering and presentations.
- Make a positive difference for our children in accommodation
- Training/development programme.
- Reward for the work in form of vouchers
- Work experience helpful for job finding and education opportunities

Why did we start our scheme?

- Being happy, feeling safe and cared for in the home you live in are some of the most important factors for us all : even more so for our children who don't live with their own families.
- For many years this topic has been central to a lot of discussions and consultations with our children
- Blackpool is involved in a Nationally funded pilot scheme around all aspects of supported accommodation and this brought resource to kick-start our scheme as some of the outcomes are the same .

Activity to date

- 4 x Young Inspectors currently 'live'
- 2 x new recruits waiting to get started
- 4 / 10 providers visited ??
- Young Inspectors have undertaken ??? inspections
- 3 x Quality Standards workshops have taken place to co – produce the new Quality Standards with our care experienced young people.

How is it going so far ?

Impact and feedback from Our Young Inspectors
Presented by Charlotte and Tia

Any Questions?



Future plans

- Team Leader post – programme run by young people for young people
- National Children’s Commissioning Conference – workshop presentation by our Young Inspectors.
- Extension of activity to include residential children’s homes and inspection of Children Services internal provisions.
- Joint working with Commissioning to embed the programme in to the Quality Monitoring Processes of all accommodation based services for young people
- Young Inspectors to be involved with any tendering for accommodation in the future
- Formalise the Young Inspector Training so it can be easily accessible by new recruits ongoing.

Future Plans contd

- Launch the new Quality Standards
- New Quality Standards to be used to measure during the inspections to ensure that home is meeting up to the standards set by our young people.
- Young Inspector to be financially rewarded for their time and expertise by becoming casual employees.