

**COUNCIL  
4 DECEMBER 2002**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMPION**

At last!!! Members and Officers please do not be under any false assumption that I do not take my position as the Children and Young People's Champion exceedingly seriously and as a great privilege.

My remit covers all ages, to and from 0 – 24 years and to say that I have been on a learning curve is putting it very mildly. The aim, which I set myself, was to understand the needs of the children and young people who come under the Bracknell Forest Borough Council Corporate Parenting umbrella.

Better communication, increased understanding of the core area of expertise and to make us even more accessible to the vulnerable children and young people.

We must keep in mind that the children and the young people come first and foremost, and their involvement is paramount so that they can initiate choices for their own future.

Please remember this is evolution, not revolution, and reflects the key values of professionalism and quality of care, all of which represents an investment in our role as corporate parents within the community.

My role as the Children and Young Peoples' Champion encompasses all areas of the young in the Borough of Bracknell Forest. We certainly have some exceedingly talented children and Young People, who are a great credit to all concerned.

Prevention is always better than cure however, and it is imperative that we work in partnership with the voluntary sector and across departments as many of our looked after children are involved with Health, Social Services and Housing, YOT, Education, Leisure and the Environment Department.

We must provide a safety net, so that we do not 'set up' our young vulnerable people to fail.

Some of the projects in which I have been involved are:

- Corporate Parenting Group
- Books for Babies
- Groups for Young People aged 10 – 14
- Providing computers for looked after children

- Support to the care leavers group
- Free access to the BFBC Leisure facilities for looked after children and their carers
- Work placements within the local authority
- Health Forum
- Dialogue Group
- Recognition of 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and a special gift at 18 years for the looked after young person
- Fostering Panel
- Adoption Panel

There are many other areas such as teenage pregnancy, supporting young people care leavers with their individual problems etc.

There are many fantastic new, innovative projects already in the supporting area with tremendous involvement and success with our children and young people. At this point, I would like to congratulate all those involved, the staff, voluntary workers, and most importantly, the young people themselves.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Councillor Miss Anne Haydon  
Children and Young People's Champion