

Committee:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>23 January 2007</b>
Title of Report:	<b>Young People and Corporate Parents – Working Together</b>
By:	<b>Director of Children’s Services</b>
Purpose of Report:	<b>To inform the Panel of progress in relation to the presentation by young people in care supported by Xpress Advocacy Service to the Corporate Parenting Panel.</b>

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**Recommendation:**

**The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to consider the proposals to improve communication**

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**1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 There are no additional costs arising from this report.

**2. Background Information**

2.1 On 21 July 2006, two young people gave a presentation to the Corporate Parenting Panel on behalf of looked after young people entitled ‘How can the Panel establish and maintain links with children and young people who are looked after: Young People and Corporate Parents - working together’. The presentation put forward a number of suggestions about how looked after young people could be more involved with the Corporate Parenting Panel, and how active communication between young people and Panel members could be improved.

2.2 It was agreed that the proposals from the presentation would be taken forward initially by the Head of Service for Looked After Children, the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Manager of Xpress Advocacy Service.

**3. Supporting Information**

3.1 It has been agreed that more contact and communication with young people from Xpress Advocacy Service and the Corporate Parenting Panel should be the primary focus.

**3.2 Proposals**

- ‘Xpress Yourself’ - a magazine written by young people will be distributed to Corporate Parenting Panel members four times a year.
- The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Lead Member for Children’s Services may initially write an article in ‘Xpress Yourself’.
- Representatives from the Corporate Parenting Panel may wish to meet with a group of young people on a bi-yearly or annual basis to discuss issues with them.
- A dedicated email address could be established by which young people are able to communicate directly with Corporate Parenting Panel members.

#### **4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

4.1 If Corporate Parenting Panel members are in agreement with the above proposals, these will be taken forward with looked after young people represented by Xpress Advocacy Service.

MATT DUNKLEY  
Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

Background documents:  
None.