

The Blackburn with Darwen Foyer 'Local Offer'

July 2010

A group of young people who live at the Blackburn with Darwen Foyer met to discuss what they see as their 'local offer' – using the 'sticky wall' the group captured the key areas.

Here are the findings from the session – which has been set out as a menu.



For starters –

- ✿ All young people living at the Foyer receive self contained supported accommodation – which they feel is secure; safe; quiet; offers them shelter.
- ✿ There is a parent and baby unit for young parents – including a crèche and their own lounge etc.
- ✿ Everyone has their own 'support worker' and an 'individual support plan' – they have someone to talk to – and they receive support with key issues – (be healthy; enjoy and achieve; achieve economic wellbeing; making a positive contribution) – they can also get support to access a range specialist services such as Brook; Lifeline; Connexions; Camhs; training providers etc



The main courses –

- ✿ Facilities available to residents include – IT suite; training kitchen; library; health and wellbeing space; daily groups and activities-cooking; life skills; circus jims; table tennis; DVD night; Wii fit; 5 a side; gardening amongst others; access to the health and wellbeing space;

- ✿ The opportunity to have new experiences and challenges – activities; groups; activity week (August) residential trips; playing as a football team; trips; range of projects including Age 2 Age Intergenerational Project; Woven Together Project;
- ✿ Education; training and employment support– in house City & Guilds ‘Learning Power Award’; Connexions drop In; support planning to help access suitable training/ education; library; help to access college and university courses (including help to access financial support through the Foyer Bursary & Residents Fund)

For desert –

- ✿ Resettlement Worker – helps them to learn the skills they need to access their own accommodation and furniture etc – and supports them for up to 6 months when they move out
- ✿ ‘Passport to Housing’ AQA Accredited course that can be used as a reference for a landlord
- ✿ Progression & responsibility
- ✿ Access to help through the ‘Development Fund’ to pay for expensive items such as a passport; driving licence etc
- ✿ The chance to get involved at all levels of the organisation – Resident Reps; residents meetings; Virtual Young Voice; Approved by our customers;
- ✿ Developing as a citizen- ‘Democratic Cookbook’; community projects – Princes Trust; volunteering etc.