# DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A PRESENTATION BY YOURS TRULY

#### THE BRIEF

were to replace the current Director of Children's Services, what would I immediately change?



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

- This is subjective.
- It's a rough idea.
- Please don't be offended. (That means you Roxanne)
  - Questions at the end.

PART ONE - CHILDREN IN CARE

- Committing to achieving the lowest amount of placement moves on record in the next two years, and building on this year in year out.
- A complete focus on keeping families together. Maintaining good relationships with carers.
- Care Mentors older children in care/care leavers volunteer to support new YP in care.
- Finding a solution in regards to hard to reach children maintaining Article 12.
- Young Inspectors style Reg 22 Visits to care homes.

PARTTWO - CARE LEAVERS

- Make support for Care Leavers up to 25 an opt-out system as opposed to opt-in.
- Recruitment of Care Leavers into LCC through Apprenticeships, Workstart. Wider support in EST.
- Reg 22 visits to Semi-Independent Living.
- Further rollout of Care Leavers Forum, and try to gain more members.

PART THREE – HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- All Social Workers, PA's and support staff to attend training on Mental Health, including services to ligise with.
- Social Workers and PA's to attend mandatory training on supporting Young People with day to day responsibilities, I.E. Benefits Claims, Budgeting. This can be supported by LINX.
- A real focus on reducing crime by children in our care/care leavers, more support.

PART FOUR – EDUCATION AND WORK

- Pupil Premium spending review.
- How can we keep our YP in education and further education.
- How can we improve the statistical average grades for YP in our care.
- More resources for apprenticeships and work opportunities through schemes such as workstart.

PART FIVE – INTERNAL CHANGES

- All Children's Services have a State of the Union Address in the form of staff conference.
- A drive to recruit passionate social workers, and actually retaining them
- Young People to deliver training for PA's and Social Workers
- Boots on the ground approach, SLT to go on visits, shadow social workers
- Creation of staff feedback that goes direct to SLT for quarterly review

PART FIVE POINT TWO – INTERNAL CHANGES

- A policy change so we can formally inspect private care homes and private semi-independent living providers
- A review of our complaints procedure
- More open communication about care file requests
- Push for foster carers willing to take in older YP and also support Staying Put
- Campaign around Staying Put currently argued money is issue

#### **ASSORTED MUSINGS**

- A Corporate Parenting Conference.
- Networking with other Corporate Parenting Boards
- Arrange for LINX to become accredited in social worker training, as it is time we provided back to those young people who make an effort to speak up for themselves and for others without them change wouldn't happen.

#### **ANY QUESTIONS?**

HOW CAN WE ACT ON THESE SUGGESTIONS?

WHAT CAN WE DO TO BE BETTER CORPORATE PARENTS?