

14 April 2009

## Solihull Metropolitan Borough:

### *Allowing 'Looked After Children to chair their own Statutory Reviews*

#### Summary of policy/project

Improving the involvement of Looked After Children through chairing their own statutory reviews—helping to develop a sense of self worth.

#### What is the cost of implementation?

Little - just the costs involved in providing support and training

#### What problems does the policy/project solve?

Looked After Children can find Statutory Reviews intimidating and often feel that they are outsiders in discussions that impact on their welfare and progress. By enabling them to chair their own reviews they are in the driving seat and feel empowered. They are not pressurised into participating in the project but encouraged to give it a try with training and support. It is extremely successful with a growing number involved across an age range from a young as eight years. The project makes a real difference, gives increased confidence and has helped to motivate several young people who have had particular difficulties. Feedback has been extremely positive from both the young people and the adults involved in this new approach to reviews. Combined with the 'Get it Sorted' programme as part of our Corporate Parenting approach the project provides real involvement for Looked After Children in issues affecting their lives.

#### What is the evidence of success?

More Looked After Children wanting to participate and encouraging others to engage. Increased confidence, improved understanding and engagement. Develops a sense of self-worth.

#### Would this work in other Councils?

There is no reason why not.

#### What advice would you give any Councils wishing to adopt this idea?

Go for it!

#### For more information

Contact Ken Meeson, Leader of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

To find out more about the work of Localis or to discuss possible membership opportunities, please visit our website at [www.localis.org.uk](http://www.localis.org.uk) or phone 0207 340 2660

#### What were the difficulties of implementation?

Some initial scepticism but now embraced with enthusiasm.

Localis is constantly looking for good new ideas to showcase. If you would like to make a submission to Localis' Big Ideas—please contact Tom Shakespeare via email on [tom@localis.org.uk](mailto:tom@localis.org.uk) or phone 0207 340 2660

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**all politics is local**