



Hampshire
County Council

Better Outcomes Conference 2014

Care Ambassadors

Conference overview

- The conference was attended by over 140 delegates from a range of professions, including social care, youth offending, education, health and a number of third sector organisations
- The conference was opened by John Coughlan, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Hampshire Children's Services and guest speaker Stephen Hall, Programme Leader for Drama at the University of Winchester
- Workshops were planned and delivered by the Care Ambassadors and focussed on different elements of aspiration either in a presentation or interactive workshop format

Conference Theme “Aspiration”

- Workshop One: **Reach For the Stars**
- Workshop Two: **The Journey From Start To Finish**
- Workshop Three: **From Lost To Great Expectations**
- Workshop Four: **Essential Elements For Education**



Key messages from the day

- Communication with/between social workers and foster carers
- Educational experiences of children in care and care leavers
- Better access to information for young people in care
- Positive messages of the care system in Hampshire



Key actions from the messages

- Stronger links with foster carers with more collaborative working opportunities
- Creation of a DVD resource that supports professionals working in education with children in care
- Launch of children in care and care leaver website 'SPARK'
- Care Ambassador led projects that aim to raise the positive profile of social care in Hampshire



Next steps

- It has been suggested as a way to maximise attendance that the next conference reverts back to a September date, meaning that the next Better Outcomes Conference will be held in September 2015
- This years conference was again a resounding success and a reflection of the skill and enthusiasm of Hampshire's Care Ambassadors. From this positive event further work has been identified which will directly, and positively, impact on the services children and young people receive through improvements and changes to practice



Ofsted Feedback

- 21 young people who have experience of being looked after to act as care ambassadors, and to represent and support Hampshire's looked after children
- The ambassadors are an impressive group of highly-motivated young people. With effective support, they lead the 'virtual' model of the children in care council
- This is part of a sensible and effective approach to the challenge the local authority faces when seeking to capture the views of a high number of looked after children living across a large county and beyond.



Questions