

STRENGTHENING THE COUNCIL'S ROLE AS A CORPORATE PARENT – WRITTEN SUBMISSION

Name: Howard Griffin
Role: Sports Development Manager

SERVICE THAT IS PROVIDED TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN / CARE LEAVERS

The service provides discounted admission at leisure centres to Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Foster Carers as part of the Council's LeisureLink Concession scheme. This provides reduced entry fees for activities including swimming, fitness classes and courses at the same level of discount as that offered to other concessionary groups including disabled residents and those receiving state-related benefits.

The Sports Development Team has also supported events for Looked After Children by providing sports taster sessions that are connected to regular opportunities to participate in community-based sports activities. Officers have periodically attended the Step-Up group to obtain direct feedback with young people in care.

A scheme has also been introduced to encourage residents at the Hayes YMCA and Jupiter House to make use of the facilities at Botwell Green Leisure Centre. Managed by the Senior Youth Worker, the scheme provides the residential units with a number of memberships that any young resident at Jupiter House or The Tumbler can access providing they complete an initial induction at the centre. The induction is provided free within the terms of the membership after which the young person can then access one of the membership cards from the Senior Youth Worker in return for a reduced fee.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS IN SERVICE

Getting information to young people about activities available can be a challenge. It is hoped that through increased use of social media, attendance at the Step-up group and better use of services that work directly with young people in care that we can improve the information available to young people.