



Adopt a Care Home: An Intergenerational Initiative bringing children into care homes

Jo O'Donoghue – Specialist Commissioner, Trafford Council

Introduction

The idea is that the Adopt a Care Home scheme will support our local care homes to link with local schools.

The Adopt a Care Home scheme is to enable people with living in care homes to become more involved in their local community, to feel better about themselves, forge intergenerational links and to raise awareness/break down stigma which might be associated with conditions such as dementia.

Sheffield University recently developed a pilot with one care home and this scheme itself was established by and is run by Sheffield City Council. It has featured on Channel 4 news, BBC Radio Sheffield and in the University of Sheffield's Discover magazine for more information please see the link: <http://www.catch.org.uk/current-project/adopt-care-home/>

Benefits

Children will benefit from relationships with older people they might not otherwise come into contact with and learn about our recent and local history, as well as becoming more open to the idea of health and social care as a career aspiration. Older people will benefit from increased social inclusion and improved health and wellbeing as a result of making new friendships with young people in their community.

Proposal

Martyn Davies, the owner and manager of Urmston Manor Care Home on Church Road Urmston has already applied this process and linked in with the Head Teacher of Urmston Primary school. They started the intergenerational integration in October 2018 and have seen benefits to the children visiting the home and engaging with the residents in such a short period of time.

As such, Trafford Council would like to propose we implement the scheme, linking local homes and schools across Trafford. The logistics of the matching process and the evaluation of proposed outcomes will be established in partnership with schools, residential homes and other key stakeholders, such as public health, via a task and finish group .

Next Steps

Jo O'Donoghue, Specialist Commissioner, Martyn Davies, Director of Urmston Manor and the head teacher of Urmston Primary school Simon Parker have a spotlight at the Trafford Head Teachers Conference on 1st February to showcase the good work already achieved, talk about the benefits to the school and the homes and to answer questions and seek interest of other local schools..

Contacts

Volunteers from the Head Teachers conference can get in touch with the commissioner at Trafford and we can then arrange the task and finish group accordingly.

If you would like to speak independently to the Owner/Manager of Urmston Manor with regards to the benefits of the programme, Martyn's details are below.

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