



Preparing for Adulthood
Health Employment Housing
Community, Friendships & Relationships

MONTHLY UPDATE – JANUARY 2022 ISSUE 24

Happy New year! PFA would like to say a huge thank you for all your support during 2021

Funding for PFA

PFA was established as a two-year proof of concept in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic. It's been quite a journey setting up a new programme, recruiting a team, building networks and thinking of innovative ways to engage and support our young people. Last year we were nominated for a national award and included as good practice in a DHSC safeguarding policy. It is testimony to the hard work and 'going the extra mile' ethos of colleagues that we have secured mainstream funding for the PFA service as part of a proposal to align it with the statutory Transitions Team.

The proposal has been presented to the PFA and Prevention & Early Intervention Boards, relevant Cabinet Members, the local Trade Unions and to colleagues in both the PFA Team and the Transitions Team. We are due to present to the Corporate Trade Unions on 19th January to launch the consultation process with a view to having the new service in place by 01 April 2022. The new service will provide permanent roles which should assist with the retention issue experienced as a result of colleagues being on fixed term contracts. There are also opportunities for colleagues to apply for a number of posts on higher grades which should assist with the recruitment and retention challenges faced by both PFA and the statutory Transitions Team.

Personal Budget Pilot

Following the success of the personal budget pilot last year, we are pleased to announce that we are once again offering the opportunity for young people to apply for a grant to support PFA outcomes: employment, health, housing and friendships/relationships.

Grants were provided in the initial pilot for the following:

- *Bikes to help with health, socialising and accessing employment,
- *Transformation of a shed into an art studio - the young person is now commissioned to undertake work,
- *Training courses to support work aspirations, such as forklift truck driving qualifications,
- *Business courses – one young woman wanted to know how to go about setting up her own company designing clothes for wheelchair users,
- *Gym memberships for health and socialising,
- *Access to courses such as: art, photography and our on-line Jump Start courses,
- *Cameras to enable 2 inspiring photographers to study photography at college – one is now the PFA official photographer,
- *Furniture, such as beds, for care leavers to assist them setting up a home,
- *Clothes to wear to interviews

The total sum available is £10,000 and grants will be allocated for up to £500. For a personal budget application, consent and referral process forms please contact Sarah Kumar: Sarah.Kumar@birmingham.gov.uk



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Engagement with St Giles

Charlotte Fisher, PFA Family Support Broker, has been working with a young person who is involved in county lines. Charlotte engaged St Giles whose county lines prevention worker has lived experience of exploitation and gang affiliation. The St Giles worker has been able to share his experience to help engage with the young person, something which has been a challenge in the past. It felt like a real turning point when the young person recently said 'I want to show the courts that I have changed and I can live by myself and am trying to be better'. With the support of PFA, the young person has applied for internships and apprenticeships. Through his own lived experience, the St Giles worker has been able to explain the court process to the young person due to being arrested for drug offences in 2021 which helped alleviate any stress and anxiety the young person felt during this process. PFA and St Giles have worked in collaboration to help engage the young person into employment options, mental health services, housing and understanding the court and criminal justice system.

Learn to Cook

Plans are underway for PFA to run a healthy cooking course, with the help of Change Kitchen, for 15 young people. The course will consist of 3 sessions in February, followed by a celebration event for family, friends and other health enterprises, where the participants will provide a buffet lunch to showcase their new skills. For the attendees that complete the sessions, PFA will fund them to complete their food hygiene level 2 certificate that will stand them in good stead when looking for employment.

Session dates:

February 21st 10am-1pm

February 22nd 10am-1pm

February 23rd 10am-12pm

Celebration event: February 23rd 1-3pm

To register or for more details contact: sarah.kumar@birmingham.gov.uk

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Co-production

PFA's Sarah Kumar was delighted to be invited to celebrate 4 years of the People for Public Services Forum. The Forum provides a voice for citizens, particularly parents and carers, in the Council's decision making process and is a fine example of co-production in practice. The event was organised by Simon Furze and Amanda Heaney from the Citizen Involvement Team which co-ordinates the Forum. Graeme Betts attended and other senior managers to thank everyone for the work they had done- everyone was awarded a certificate of thanks signed by Graeme Betts and John Williams.

It was great afternoon of tea, cakes and reminiscing. Congratulations to all!



Update from the YES group...

The YES! team this month have continued in helping the University of Warwick, as part of the EXIT study, with research and some interviews about the projects they have been involved in for PFA. They have also been helping The Children's Trust develop a discovery questionnaire with a sharp eye on making the report accessible to young people with a disability in mind. The PFA theme tune words are all but complete – the next step is for them to be recorded into a song- this is being worked through – watch this space! Some of the YES! group are involved in the Neighbourhood Network (NN) Reference group and have been attending monthly meetings with this wider group, the group will be looking at helping to develop connect 2 support web pages for NNs in January and have been asked to decide a name for this working group.

One member of YES! was part of a citizen interview panel for the recruitment of Heads of Service in Adult Social Care.

Some of the YES! group members attended the People for Public Services Forum celebratory event.



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How to contact us

If you would like to make a connection request to the Preparation for Adulthood Service, then please call: 0121 808 0028

For any other queries:

- Email: preparationforadulthood@birmingham.gov.uk
- Website: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/preparation-for-adulthood>