

Appendix 3

Feedback from offers and events

Tickets:

Triathlon

"Thank you so much for organising the tickets for the grandstand at the Triathlon event. My young person and I had a brilliant time and it was really special to have such a fantastic grandstand view. My young person doesn't have the longest attention span in the world (!) and I wasn't sure whether or not it would suit him, however keen he was to go! But he was engrossed from start to finish and he got really involved in following the races, especially the progress of the Brownlee brothers." **Foster carer**

"It was our first outing together, under the 'independent visitor' scheme and the live sport was a great ice breaker and really sparked T's imagination. It was especially inspiring to see how well the local triathletes competed against world class competition. Thanks to this experience our next visit is going to be a parkrun!" **Independent Visitor**

World Cup Cricket at Headingley

"Whilst at the event young people are away from their normal environment and comfort zone, they soon realise that they have to behave in certain manner in regards to being mindful of their language, and have to display a friendly disposition as the crowd are diverse which include the elderly, families with young children. Young people also have to abide by the rules of the grounds and be respectful at all times." **KB, Youth Justice Worker 3**

"Can I take this opportunity to thank you once again for the great day we had at the Pakistan and Afghanistan match. It was our first time at a cricket game and thoroughly enjoyed the game. I thought my respite boy with additional needs would lose interest in the match fairly quickly but how wrong was I! He loved it! Jumping up, shouting '6' every time they hit the ball and he danced to the music played by both sets of supporters. The seats were in a prime location and the sun was shining.

A great day was had by myself, a friend and my respite child. We enjoyed the experience so much that I sent an e mail asking if they had been any cancellations for the next game. Must have been our lucky day because we got tickets again. I must say the seats were in a prime location – the word 'amazing' springs to mind. Once again a great day was had. Thank you ever so much for giving us both the opportunity to experience our first cricket matches - I'm a converted cricket fan now! Before I experienced the games, I thought that there must be nothing so boring than watching a game of cricket and once again I was gladly proved wrong. I can't say thank you enough." **Foster Carer (respite) who attended both games on Saturday 29 June and 6 July**

"I just wanted to thank you again for the tickets to the cricket match. My young people absolutely loved the day! It was a very close match. They were so appreciative and although Afghanistan lost, it was truly an enjoyable and memorable day. A once in a lifetime opportunity for my young people." **Principal Social Worker, Hammersmith and Fulham Council who took six Afghan newly arrived refugee young people who attended on Sat 29 June**

Total Warrior (Junior Warrior)

"It was a fabulous morning - the children loved it and it was fantastic to see some of them participating in an event they said 'wasn't for them' but when they finished wanted to sign up for next year. The group support for all the young people was lovely to see and also two new children to the hub came to support the other children and had a fab time too. They have asked me to watch out for tickets for next year too." **Foster Carer who is part of Mockingbird Hub, set up to provide support/respite/babysitting between foster families**

*"J*** thoroughly enjoyed the actual challenge, and although he did a bit of training before, he freely admits that he could have done more. Every obstacle seemed to have an element of mud involved which only served to make the experience much more enjoyable!"*

Tickets for Lemn Sissay at Bradford Literary Festival

"One of the things we discussed was how the young people felt that it would have been good for professionals to attend, they felt that it would have been helpful for them to have a better understanding of how it feels to be in care. He spoke a lot about how you are not hugged in care and how sometimes we all need a hug to reassure us that it's all ok, they really picked up on that and all really identified with the feeling of not knowing how to show physical affection. It was a really beautiful conversation, sad but beautiful." Libby

C – *"I had a really good time and Lemn really inspired me. I came away feeling like he understood the journey through the care system and made me realise that there are creative way of coping with my experiences in care.*

Rhinos v Catalan game

"I went with my fostered young person to the Leeds Rhino event. My young person is an unaccompanied asylum-seeker from a part of the world where he has not experienced anything like a rugby sports tournament so it was a completely new experience for him. The weather was not ideal, there were downpours of rain but it abated. The thing about sport is that we can all unite with the feeling of a game, it's a happy feeling. The rugby game was not difficult to follow and to see our local heroes thrash the opponents Catalans Dragons was a huge boost to my young person's sense of where he belonged in Leeds. He was beaming with pride, having not just watched a match but seen our team win. So, thank you for this experience - I cheered and screamed too!" Foster carer

The boys have never experienced anything like this before and took them a while to get into the match and the atmosphere, but about half way through the first half, they were completely smitten, singing along and celebrating the try's and conversions. They became so passionate about the game, my 8 year old son is still talking about the player who cut his head and if he is alright, and is still exasperated by player number 5 from the Catalan side. In his words how mean he was against the Leeds players."

CFL Live

"This event was the best I've been to for children. Organised. Not overcrowded. The staff were all friendly and I felt it was a safe place for children to enjoy themselves. We could do and see everything. Mr Bloom was a big hit and E won a potato for doing some good jumping while he was singing. It is well worth the £5 per person they were charging. I also saw some families from where we live who had paid and they had only good things to say about the event. Well done to everyone involved!" Foster carer

"I took twins age 3 - they loved it! One of the favourite things was the dinosaur! The shows on the stage were great and the little Mayor of Leeds was a star! Ticket collection was simple and straightforward, the queue to go in moved quickly and once inside it didn't feel packed out! Plenty of things to look at and do! Only disappointment was the ice cream van wasn't manned! A lovely afternoon - thank you very much!" **Foster carer**

BARC Harewood Hill Climb

"The boys absolutely loved the day, and as a family it was a great day out. I have told a lot of people about the hill climb and how good it was for kids that like fast noisy cars. Even though it wasn't my kind of thing, I still had a fantastic day and enjoyed it much more than I thought I would.

The crews were fantastic, very welcoming and friendly and talked to the kids about the cars for ages and they got to sit in a lot of cars too. The loved seeing and hearing all the different cars and stood on the paddock road side and constantly gave the next set of drivers thumbs up and wishing them good luck. Being able to be as close to the track side as they could was amazing and they were so excited every time a car went passed and regularly watched the track times to see how fast they were. They must have gone round the paddock at least 4 times!

The Lotus team were the boy's favourite, and they really got them involved in the day and made it extra special for them. One of the crew ran the boys down the hill to the start line, and explained a lot of things to them, and about other drivers and their cars. They then took them to go get their race times, and even shared their cake with them. As soon as the driver had done the race the boys couldn't wait to get back up the hill to tell them well done and see what time they did and if they beat their last track time and if they had won.

Without these sponsors and your team, these kids wouldn't necessarily get these opportunities for such days out and it boosts their confidence and their own sense of self-respect and trusting adults enormously, and helps heal their wounds. **Foster Carer**

Projects:

Outward Bound Trust

"I thought it would be challenging, but never expected to be as tough as it was. I felt that as I had completed the NCS and am fairly active, I would be okay, but the leader really pushed us physically. It was nice to be able to rely on each other as a team, most of the time.

I learnt that on some occasions, like putting up the tent, that you can't rely on some people and have to just get on with things and do it yourself rather than argue about who is doing what.

My confidence has gone up. I look people in the eye when speaking and am not afraid to ask questions to find things out. Taking part in this course, helps you become more mature, able to discuss things and tackle challenges as part of a team.

I'm glad that I saw the course through to the end and didn't give up!" **Participant (care experienced young person)**

Water Sports Scout Day

*"T**** really enjoyed her day with you guys. She was very excited to tell us what she had done and how amazing it all was. Thank you so much for having her and giving her some great experiences.*

Foster carer

Beaver Day

*"Was going to contact you to say thank you sooo much. L**** had a fantastic time, bless him he's been wearing the scout tie all the time never wanting to take it off!! Even took it to school today to show all his school mates. It's all he can talk about. If there's any way you could help me to get him a beaver place I would be soooo grateful."* **Foster carer**

Green Guardians

"Unhappy to get out of the minibus because of my hair, but glad I did - woods was my favourite, Janet Foss was like the Amazon. Had a really good time."

"50/50 in the beginning and better now and loved it and thought waterfall was romantic and favourite part was taking photos."

"Not bad - was nice and I have been here two times. Made new friends. Nice day :) would like to go somewhere new."

Skelton Grange SEND

*"Wow! What a great day we had at Skelton Grange, cannot thank you enough. So wonderful to see our children outdoors & having fun. Building dens & pond dipping were M*****'s favourite & all the children were so excited to find the frog! M***** usually struggles to engage with new activities even though he enjoys the outdoors, but it was well planned & the leaders were excellent in giving instruction & explanation, very calm & kind. We have loved looking at the pictures from the day! Massive thanks again!"* **Foster carer**

Play in a Day:

*"K** absolutely loved it. He is a very a hyperactive child usually and because of this can struggle to 'fit in'. He usually comes back and says that so and so did this and I usually get feedback that he has fallen out with another young person, but not this time. He was buzzing about it all night."* **Kinship carer**

"I loved the performance. I thought it was brilliant."

The carer has given the young person lots of praise since, as the young person originally said that he did not know why she was coming to watch it as they would not be performing. The carer asked if the young person would do it again and he said he would love too. **Foster carer & young person**