



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Committee
25 July 2017**

Report of the Strategic Director of Peoples
Services

ITEM 5

Children in Care Council - Update July 2017

SUMMARY

- 1.1 A regular update report from the Children in Care Council has been agreed as standard item on the Corporate Parenting Committee programme since 2015/16. This is to enhance and facilitate the existing working relationship between the Corporate Parenting Committee and the Children in Care Council. Furthermore it provides an opportunity for the Children in Care Council to share what they have discussed, progressed and the impact of their work. It is also an opportunity to share any challenges that the Children in Care Council may have encountered where the Corporate Parenting Committee may be able to assist or need to be made aware of.
- 1.2 The report from the CICC highlights any issues discussed by the CICC during meetings in the previous quarter, guests, participation opportunities, numbers of young people engaging and impact made.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider content of report and make appropriate recommendations

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 As part of the remit of Corporate Parenting Committee it needs to be assured on the effectiveness of the Children in Care Council, any challenges and progress made. The report also provides a direct voice for the Children in Care Council at the Corporate Parenting Committee.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The contract with Volunteering Matters ended on 31st March 2017 and a new Participation Officer commenced in post on 21st March 2017, responsible for facilitating the Children In Care Council and encouraging participation of looked after children. This has therefore been a period of transition for the Children In Care Council.

- 4.2 During this period there have been two meetings of the Children In Care Council and an additional Easter event where young people had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor, Councillor Bolton and the Director of Specialist Services.
- 4.3 On 3rd May 2017 the members of the Children In Care Council met in the Council Chambers and 7 members were in attendance. This was an opportunity for the members to meet the new Participation Officer and everyone to get to know one another. New ground rules for the group were agreed upon, as well as ways of working for the group going forward. Members voted on the topics they would like to discuss over the year, which were:
- Online Safety & Safety in the community
 - Privacy and confidentiality
 - Bullying
 - How placement moves happen
 - Support in school and moving school.

Young people selected a new venue to meet at and decided upon the Nottingham Road Fire Station Community Room in Chaddesden.

A number of young people stated they would like to be involved in recruitment and training of professionals working with looked after children and young people.

- 4.4 On 7th June 2017 the members of the Children In Care Council met at Nottingham Road Fire Station Community Room and two members were in attendance. A further two members were seen individually outside of the meeting, due to their prior commitments. Heather Greenan (Head of Performance and Intelligence) and Alison Birch (Business Intelligence Team Leader) provided an update on:
- The number of times that young people are moved between placements.
 - How Derby looked after children compare to neighbouring authorities i.e. Nottinghamshire, Leicester and Derbyshire in terms of educational achievement.
- A review of consultation forms for Looked After Reviews was led by Jane Preston, Independent Reviewing Officer and young people provided their views on the consultation forms and participation in reviews and suggested changes to improve the engagement of children and young people with expressing their views. These views will be incorporated in the design of new forms. The drafts of these which will be presented to the Children In Care Council for further comment.
- A discussion also took place regarding the information packs given to children and young people on first becoming looked after; and further views will be gathered around this to enable a comprehensive and accessible information pack to be developed.
- 4.5 The Participation Officer has continued to encourage new members to join the Children In Care Council through attending team meetings, sending electronic and written communications and promoting the forum with social work teams (Locality and Children In Care), Fostering workers, MAT teams, IFAs and residential homes. There is a leaflet to introduce young people to the Participation Officer and the Children In Care Council members are currently involved in designing a poster and leaflet for young people about the forum.

- 4.6 The Children In Care Council will be giving a presentation at The Pledge Event on 11th July where Senior Managers will also update young people on progress on the pledges made to looked after children and young people.
- 4.8 Promotion and recruitment activities continue to increase access of the Children In Care Council by children and young people across Derby City Council with two new young people expected to attend the July 2017 meeting, with more introductory and information sharing meetings taking place with looked after children during June and July.
- 4.8 The recruitment process continues for a Business and Administration Apprentice to assist with the administration associated with the Children In Care Council.
- 4.9 Recruitment of Champions to support the Children In Care Council (from within CYP) has resulted in three new workers supporting the group, with more looking to assist in the future.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Claire Hurst Participation Officer 01332 640269 Claire.Hurst@derby.gov.uk Appendix 1 - Implications None

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None arising from this report.

Legal

2.1 None arising from this report.

Personnel

3.1 None arising from this report.

IT

4.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

5.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

6.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management

9.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The content of this report underpins the priority commitment, Protecting vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people. Making sure that we take action to safeguard vulnerable adults and children that require higher levels of support including; our looked after children and vulnerable adults with learning disabilities. This will involve early intervention and prevention wherever possible.