



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Committee
3 April 2018**

Report of the Strategic Director of People's
Services

ITEM 5

Children in Care Council - Update April 2018

SUMMARY FOR THE CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

At February's meeting, a Locality Manager, asked young people about their views on social workers and what it is important for social workers to know. The Locality Manager is sharing these important messages with other team managers and staff.

March's meeting looked at the leaflet for when 16/17 year olds become a Child In Care or a Child In Need.

Young people are invited to a regional meeting of Children In Care Councils which the Children's Commissioner will be attending on 1st June.

Members are going to do a telephone audit of young people living out of area.

Members will be recording podcasts for the Derby Safeguarding Children Board.

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Children in Care Council (CICC) give a report to each Corporate Parenting Committee meeting, to help them work together. The Children in Care Council share what they have talked about, been working on and the changes from their work. It also lets the Children in Care Council share any challenges they may have had, which the Corporate Parenting Committee may be able to help with or need to know about.
- 1.2 The report from the CICC describes the issues the CICC have talked about in meetings in the last three months, guests, participation opportunities, numbers of young people attending and the changes made.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider what is written in the report and make appropriate recommendations.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee needs to know the Children in Care Council is being run well, that young people are able to participate, have their voice heard and see changes made in the services they use, and about any difficulties and progress made. The report also gives a voice for the Children in Care Council at the Corporate Parenting Committee.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Since the last report, there have been 2 meetings of the Children In Care Council (February and March).
- 4.2 On 7th February 2018, 8 members went to the Children In Care Council meeting. A Locality Team Manager attended and asked the members what makes a good social worker, what makes a bad social worker, what changes young people want and what it is important for social workers to know about them. The Manager is sharing these important messages with other team managers, including the views in an induction pack for new social workers to the team and is making sure his social workers visit young people more often when they have moved placement (as this was something young people asked for).
Members gave their views on a Keeping Safe online leaflet. Changes were made using these comments and a new copy shown to members at the March meeting.
- 4.3 On 7th March 2018, 8 members went to the Children In Care Council meeting. The members looked at the leaflet for when 16/17 year olds become a Child In Care or a Child In Need. Young people gave their views on the leaflet and this was given to senior managers to use when making changes to the leaflet.

Members gave ideas of what they would like to look at in 2018. This includes inviting the new Senior Practitioner in the Children In Care Team (Charlotte Meikle) and an Independent Reviewing Officer to a meeting. Members would like to go to Cosmos again, take part in Takeover Day and have fun together.

Members talked about ideas for an annual summer event and some members are going to design a logo for the group.

Some members talked about how they are not allowed in school photos, sports team photos or on school websites and some young people feel this is not fair. This has been passed to Deputy Heads of Service and Team Managers.

- 4.4 Young people are invited to a regional meeting of Children In Care Councils which the Children's Commissioner will be attending on 1st June. Members gave ideas of what they would like to talk about in the workshops.
- 4.5 Young people are going to do a telephone audit of young people living at a distance from Derby, with support from the Participation Officer. Ten young people will be contacted. The questions have been agreed by the Children In Care Council members, and this will include young people in residential placements, foster

placements and with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

- 4.6 In April, members will be recording podcasts for the Derby Safeguarding Children Board. These will be voice recordings and will go on the website, to help people understand how to report worries about a child.
- 4.7 There was a meeting of the Residential Homes Champions on 5th March. Champions agreed that staff need to come to a meeting to see how they are run to be able to explain it to young people and feel confident in supporting them to come to a meeting.
- 4.8 The Participation Apprentice, left on Monday 5th March, having found a more suited Apprenticeship. We are waiting for checks to be done for another candidate.
- 4.9 The Mifi is in place to allow young people to link to the meetings by video conferencing. Unfortunately it was not possible for this to be tested at the March meeting, so this is now planned for the April meeting.

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

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 links to the priority 'Protecting vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people'. We work to safeguard our children in care who can be vulnerable and sometimes need higher levels of support. This will involve helping early on if things are starting to feel difficult or unsafe (early intervention) and working to keep things safe and well (prevention) wherever possible.