

Report sponsor: Gurmail Nizzer, Director,  
Integrated Commissioning (CYP)  
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Manager

## **Children in Care Council Update**

### **Purpose**

#### **1.1 Children in Care Council Summary**

There has only been one virtual meeting of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) since the last report. This took place in March 2021:

- I. The Commissioning Manager spoke to the group in the March meeting around the recruitment of the new Participation Officer and encouraged a discussion around which guest speakers the current members would like to see in the future.
- II. There was a discussion held around the Children in Care and Care Leavers consultation and the Commissioning Manager also asked about the health and wellbeing of the group member during the current lockdown.

1.2 The report highlights the work the Children in Care Council (CiCC) have been doing, what is important to them and how they impact on services. It also explains the challenges they face which Corporate Parenting Committee may be able to help with.

1.3 The Participation Officer role is key in keeping Young People involved and therefore the recruitment to this post has been prioritised.

### **Recommendation**

2.1 To consider the content of the report and feedback from CiCC.

### **Reason**

3.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee need to know that the CiCC is being run well. It provides information and evidence that the voices of the children and young people in care are being heard and having a direct influence on services. The report also ensures that the voice of young people is heard at the Corporate Parenting Committee.

## **Supporting information**

- 4.1 The Commissioning Manager spoke to the group about the recruitment of the new Participation Officer and thanked one of the members for joining the recruitment process as their help and input was vital for this role. The Young Person formed part of the interview panel.
- 4.2 Our in-house Childrens Homes are now able to facilitate young people joining virtual meetings, so the new Participation Officer will liaise with the homes once in post, to ensure new members will be present at the next meeting.
- 4.3 The Children in Care and Care Leavers consultation to capture their view during lockdown was distributed during February 2021 to the following groups:
- Internal and External Foster Carers,
  - DCC Childrens Residential Homes,
  - Care Leavers
  - Supported accommodation providers
  - Young People remanded in custody

We had very little take up and has therefore the deadline has now been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Teams have been contacted to ask for their support to encourage young people to complete this survey so we can capture their voice and enable any changes.

### **Care Leavers Update**

- 4.4 No further work on this due to the absence of the Participation Officer due to the redeployment supporting COVID therefore the urgent recruitment to the post was vital.

### **Recruitment**

- 4.5 The interviews from the new Children in Care Participation Officer took place at the end of January and the successful candidate will be starting with the Local Authority from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 As outlined in this report.

### **Other options**

- 6.1 Nothing to note for this period.

### **Financial and value for money issues**

- 7.1 None noted.

### **Legal implications**

8.1 None noted.

### **Climate implications**

9.1 None noted.

### **Other significant implications**

10.1 None noted.

**This report has been approved by the following people:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of sign-off</b>
<b>Legal</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
<b>Service Director(s)</b>		
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Gurmail Nizzer, Director, Integrated Commissioning	24/03/2021
<b>Other(s)</b>	Lisa Melrose, Head of Integrated Commissioning, Children & Young People	24/03/2021

<b>Background papers:</b>	n/a
<b>List of appendices:</b>	n/a