

Report sponsor: Gurmail Nizzer, Director,
Integrated Commissioning (CYP)
Report author: Laura Bradley, Participation
Officer

Children in Care Council Update

Purpose

1.1 Children in Care Council Summary

This report provides a summary of participation activities over the last quarter, ensuring Corporate Parenting are sighted on activity and enabling direction to be set where required.

Key activities include:

- I. Children in Care Council Meetings
- II. Budget Consultation
- III. Smoking Consultation
- IV. West Park School Participation Cohorts
- V. East Midlands Regional Participation Leads Group collaborative working
- VI. CiCC Consultation

- 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.

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 Children in Care Council (CiCC) Meetings

There have been three meetings of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) since the last report, October, November, December 2021 - topics discussed as follows:

- **January Meeting** – The Deputy Head of Service for Early Help Services attended to consult the CiCC on CiC 'Missing' and gain feedback from Members.

Key points were:

- It is unfair as classing them as missing if they are for example on their way home with no mobile phone battery.
- They would prefer workers to say that they were just coming to see if they are alright rather than stating it was for a Safe and Sound Check.
- Would like some time to process events before talking to social workers, three days is sometimes too soon to be spoken to after going missing.
- To ring before coming out to visit to check in and ask if they are ready to talk to give a choice or other option.
- social worker to give them the option to have a return interview with someone they are comfortable with such as a teacher.

The Deputy Head of Service for Early Help Services will be invited to a later meeting to feedback 'you said, we did'.

- **February Meeting** – This was a face-to-face activity/consultation at Clip 'N' Climb, Derby which included climbing for members followed by consultation from the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children who attended alongside a Creator/Director of an animation company to discuss and show animations created to inform CYP of Statutory Health Assessments upon entering care. This meeting saw our highest number yet of attendees within the CiCC Meetings along with representation from our UASC community.

Key points were:

- Changing the animal featured in the younger animation
- Limit the amount of emojis used in the older animation
- Including information about being able to provide feedback on their Health Assessment experience
- Information relating to Health Assessments being 'your choice' in terms of what you are happy to happen
- The videos to be used as a refresher for CiC before each Health Assessment and not just for entering care
- CiCC members would like to see the video again in a more developed stage

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children will be invited to a later meeting to feedback 'you said, we did'.

4.2 Budget Consultation

This was a joint consultation with CiCC and the ViA Youth Council taking place at the Museum of Making on Wednesday 5 January 2022. The Participation Officer further consulted with LAC within West Park School which formed as part of the final report.

A presentation was delivered to young people by Director for Early Help and Social Care and CYP Cabinet Member about the different proposals for services within the council regarding Children in Care, Early Help Services and Homelessness/Temporary Accommodation.

Young people were asked to think about which services are most important and vote for their top three.

Table 1. The overall results for all consultation sessions were:	
Order of most important	Service Proposals
1	42 chose Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation
2	37 chose Expand Stay Together Team
3	34 chose More Local Foster Homes for Children
4	25 chose More Foster Care and Less Private Homes
5	13 chose Review of Early Help Services

Full details, including PowerPoint Presentation are in Appendix 1 of this report.

4.3 Smoking/Vaping Research Consultation

Facilitated by the University of Nottingham a Focus Group was arranged to consult with young people about smoking/vaping to undertake some research into increasing the age of smoking to 21. The criteria were young people which have either tried or currently smoke/vape to participate, each would receive a £10 amazon voucher.

This was a collaboration with the ViA Youth Council, however, as no members of ViA Youth Council fit the criteria The CYP Participation Officer contacted a Youth Worker from a MAT Team in area 1 to 5 who identified young people willing to participate alongside the CiCC.

Full details are in Appendix 2 of this report.

4.4 West Park School Participation Cohorts

The Participation Officer facilitated 2 cohorts with CiC at West Park School to promote the CiCC inform them of upcoming meetings and activities. Consultation around the Budget Consultation was also completed within these sessions. This also gave the opportunity for the Participation Officer to meet with CYP and engage with them on a personal level giving them a point of contact and familiarity should they consider joining the Children in Care Council moving forward. The Participation Officer will continue to visit West Park School, this will be 3 times a year.

4.5 East Midlands Regional Participation Leads Group Collaborative Working

Following initial discussion at the The East Midlands Regional Participation Group meeting held in October, the meeting in January finalised agreement to hold a regional CiCC working group to discuss language used in Children's Services, this originally was to be held in April half term. However, this is now to be a residential event in October 2022 in Leicestershire. There will be an opportunity for 5 young people from CiCC's within each LA to attend along with various speakers and take part in consultation time. The Participation Officer will endeavour representation from Derby City within this Regional arena.

4.6 CiCC Consultation

The Participation Officer in collaboration with The Consultation Officer has produced a consultation to go out to Children in Care. This consultation is to ascertain the way in which CiC would like to be consulted with and the methods they find suitable. The Participation Officer will further take this information to plan the CiCC moving forward in order to best meet members needs and ensure inclusivity for all. Findings from this consultation will aid the Participation Officer in planning the CiCC moving forward in order to achieve best practice.

5.1 Care Leavers Update

The Participation Officer is offering support to the Leaving Care Service where possible and required.

Public/stakeholder engagement

6.1 As outlined in this report.

Other options

7.1 Nothing to note for this period.

Financial and value for money issues

8.1 None noted.

Legal implications

9.1 None noted.

Other significant implications

This

10.1 None noted.

report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Gurmail Nizzer, Director, Integrated Commissioning	10/03/22
Other(s)	Alice Sanghera, Acting Head of Integrated Commissioning, Children & Young People	10/03/22

Background papers:	n/a
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Children’s Services Budget Consultation Appendix 2 – Smoking/Vaping Research Consultation

Appendix 1 – Children’s Service Budget Consultation

Notes of Budget Consultation Meeting Derby City Council

January 2022

Who was there?

Voices in Action Members - 28	Children in Care Council Members - 25	Adele Styles – CYP Participation Officer	Laura Bradley – CiC Participation Officer/ Facilitating
Holly Hardgrave - Facilitating	Emma Lees - Facilitating	Abdul - Facilitating	

Guests:

- Suanne Lim – Director of Early Help Services
- Cllr Evonne Williams – Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Skills

What we talked about

1. Budget Consultation – Children’s Services

The following budget consultations were delivered:

- Voices in Action Youth Council and Children in Care Council Budget Consultation Museum of Making
- Children in Care Council Virtual and Face to Face

A presentation was delivered to young people about the different proposals for services within the council regarding Children in Care, Early Help Services and Homelessness/Temporary Accommodation.



21.12.30 Budget Consultation FINAL.ppt

Young people were asked to think about which services are most important and vote for their top three.

Table 1. The overall results for all consultation sessions were:

Order of most important	Service Proposals
1	42 chose Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation
2	37 chose Expand Stay Together Team
3	34 chose More Local Foster Homes for Children

4	25 chose More Foster Care and Less Private Homes
5	13 chose Review of Early Help Services

Table 2. The results for the Museum of Making session were:

Order of most important	Service Proposals
1	26 chose Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation
2	19 chose More Local Foster Homes for Children
3	19 chose Expand Stay Together Team
4	15 chose More Foster Care and Less Private Homes
5	10 chose Review of Early Help Services

Young people were then asked why you think these services are most important?

Key themes were:

- Being homeless can have a big impact on mental health and general wellbeing and it could be failing children in care if they end up homeless.
- It can be hard for young people to relocate so it is important to provide more local foster care.
- Early intervention could help take the pressure of other services further down the line such as foster care.

Please see appendix 1 for full details.

Table 3. The results for the CiC Council Virtual and Face to Face session were:

Order of most important	Service Proposals
1	18 young people voted for Expand Stay Together Team.
2	16 young people voted for Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation
3	15 young people voted for More Local Foster Homes for Children.
4	10 young people voted for More Foster Care and Less Private Homes.
5	3 young people voted for Review of Early Help Services.
*Please note some young people only voted for their top two.	

Young people were then asked why you think these services are most important?

Key themes were:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important for families to stay together as much as they can • Every child needs at least one home to go to • Moving around is difficult, affects mental health being away from where they live <p>Please see appendix 2 for full details.</p>
Action	
5.	AOB
	<p>Adele to email minutes to Finance and Consultation Team</p> <p>For the consultation results to be included in the wider budget consultation findings</p>

Appendix 1 – Budget Consultation cont'd

Why are these services important?	
1. Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation	
Money – could see the benefit of working with approved providers and saving money on housing benefits.	Talked about failing young people in care if they become homeless and how this linked to the early help work.
Talked about the stigma of being homeless and work to help raise awareness of it.	Talked about reusing the savings made to help more people.
Better accommodation is needed so it is more financially sustainable, and it would make it easier and better to work together with Derby Homes.	Derby Homes could invest or build more homes to not impact on the amount of social housing available.
Need some kind of temporary accommodation for the homeless.	Being homeless can have a big impact on your general health and wellbeing including mental health.
It is a basic need for everyone to have a roof over your head.	It can prevent people from being involved with the wrong crowds.
2. Expand Stay Together Team	
Taking pressure off services down the line such as foster/residential homes.	It is important to provide services for more families and help more people.
Need to be flexible in approach of working with families and adapt to their needs.	Helps different groups in need such as victims of domestic violence.
Prevention is beneficial as it would help to save money in the future.	It would reduce the number of 10-15 age going into foster care.
3. More Local Foster Homes for Children	
Important to keep foster homes local as it can avoid young people being taken to an unfamiliar place.	Important for Children and Young people to live local to their area and not have to go to a carer/home out of area.
It would be harder for teenagers to move away than younger children.	Important to prevent long distance movement for children and young people.
Need to spend time recruiting local foster carers so young people are less likely to move away.	Local fostering can allow young people to have a fresh start in a new home in a city/area they are familiar with. However, staying could bring up bad memories for some young people.
Having choice of where to live is important.	Foster care helps so many young people at a young age.
4. More Foster Care and Less Private Homes	
More comfortable for young people being with a family.	Important for all children and young people in a home to receive same opportunities.
Being in a foster home rather than a private home would provide a better sense of familiarity by being with a family rather than workers.	Foster care will help young people in care relate to other young people more by being with a family and may have more of a choice to see other people.

5. Review of Early Help Services	
Concern about losing youth workers.	Early intervention help could prevent services down the line such as foster care.
Early help services are necessary as there have been a lot of incidents in the news recently, so it is important to help prevent situations in the family.	Young people who are NEET would be harder to reach if youth workers are reduced which could lead to more long-term problems.
Early Help service can benefit the whole family rather than just the children and could prevent children going into foster care – could have volunteers such as uni students to help with intervention.	Should be a priority on early help services as it is better to prevent foster care entirely due to its possible mental health damage.
Mother and baby placements important to support parents to learn to parent safely.	
Further Questions and Ideas Raised	
How are potential foster carers targeted and how is the foster care service promoted?	Could talk to young people so that when they are older, they know how to become foster carers.
Have an option to put postcode into the council webpage where the fostering information is so they can receive more detailed information.	Work with local schools to promote what it is to be a foster carer and then young people can promote to adults.
How can young people who need help access the service?	How do we know the Early Help work is successful?
Do we work with schools on all of the areas?	Could have a partnership between Derby City and Nottingham to look into research of prevention into foster care.
Focus on the 10–15-year-old age group and research the reasons and causes of going into foster care – could email surrounding universities to carry out research to reduce costs.	Could have support groups for foster carers to discuss their experiences and this could help make the service better.
More support for children's mental health as children in care often have big life changes such as relocation and need extra support.	More advertising on safe spaces for the homeless and temporary accommodation that is available.

Appendix 2

Why are these services important?	
1. Expand Stay Together Team	
Important for families to stay together as much as they can	
2. Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation	
Every child needs at least one home to go to	

3. More Local Foster Homes for Children

Important as experienced being moved around and found it difficult.

It can really affect a young person's mental health when they are away from where they have lived.

Appendix 2 – Smoking/Vaping Research The University of Nottingham



Raising age of
tobacco_DerbyYP v3.p



PIF FEEDBACK and
Evaluation Form_ND.c