



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Committee
26 July 2016**

ITEM 8

Report of the Strategic Director of Peoples
Services

Children in Care Council - Update July 2016

SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of the 2016/17 Corporate Parenting Committee programme it was agreed that an update report from the Children In Care Council should be a standard agenda item. This is to enhance and facilitate the existing working relationship between the Corporate Parenting Committee and the Children In Care Council . Furthermore it will provide an opportunity for the Children in Care Council to share what they have discussed and progressed as part 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 and numbers of young people engaging.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To be received by the Corporate Parenting Committee

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 There have been three formal meetings during the last quarter, ranging between 4 – 7 young people in attendance at each. We are delighted to report we have welcomed four new members to the team. Forums have been lively, incentivised and functional, increasing awareness of the rights, opportunities and services available to all looked after children
- 4.2 Young people take turns to Chair their meetings – supported by the facilitator to ensure the opportunity is accessible to all. To maximise engagement of young people other roles have been developed, for example, supporting with refreshments, preparing the meeting room, a buddy system to welcome new members.
- 4.3 Democratic decision has been adopted to ensure fair process and to aid the development of positive communication and negotiation. An example is where the young people decide which country to feature when considering the UN Convention on the Rights of the child, the young people debate who should take the souvenir flag home and why (thus far 6 countries have featured). In the same way, the members consider which guests they would like to invite to their meetings
- 4.4 This quarter there have been 8 guests from 6 different departments/organisations: Plus One, Write Minds, Connections, Children's Homes, Independent Reviewing Officers and Su Lim. The members discuss local issues impacting on looked after children with guests where relevant. Guests have been tasked with action points pertinent to discussions held during, these points are reviewed at the following meetings. As a result of guests in attendance, stronger links have been developed with IRO, Connections, Voices in Action and the Leaving Care Forum. Minutes are shared with all members, virtual members and the Corporate Parenting Lead.
- 4.5 Participation opportunities: 13 young people have engaged in opportunities this quarter: Foster care training, Pledge Mystery Shop, Voices in Action – Housing for care leavers, Interview Panel @ Volunteering Matters, Pledge update at the Council Chamber.
- 4.6 After much discussion with the young people and liaising with the foster care association, it was decided that to enable all young people to participate in this it should be included as a feature in Focus On Us – inviting young people to share their tips for new foster carers;
- 4.7 Two young people attended the office during half term holidays and telephoned 20 different numbers selected at random – the purpose was to ascertain the awareness of the new Pledge across the local authority. The young people were impressed with the knowledge of most but felt that further work could be done – for example, compulsory e-learning ensuring that all staff are Pledge Aware.
- 4.8 Six young people attended the Council Chamber in July to meet with service Directors and Councillor Bolton. The young people were positively received and were made to feel welcome enjoying the experiencing and were able to ask questions freely of service directors, challenging them on their progress thus far in relation to the pledges that they made..

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None Applicable

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	 Pervez Akhtar – Corporate Parenting Lead
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Pervez Akhtar 01332 XXXXXX Pervez.Akhtar@derby.gov.uk None 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 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.