

Report sponsor: Gurmail Nizzer, Director,  
Integrated Commissioning (CYP)  
Report author: Patrick Aherne Participation  
Officer

## **Children in Care Council and Engagement of Care Leavers Update**

### **Purpose**

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

There have been three meetings of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) since the last report; November, December and January.

- I. In November's meeting we had a visit from Designated Nurse for Looked after Children who discussed the new health passports and how they had changed from previous with the input of CiCC. There was a discussion around who should receive the new passports first. There was also an update about the Children in Care health website. The planned visit from the Youth Mayor had to be postponed.
- II. December's meeting was a celebration event for all the hard work that the young people had put into helping with consultations, attending Corporate Parenting Committee, and being part of various focus groups. This meeting was held at Megazone.
- III. In January, we had a visit from the Named Nurse Children in Care/Operational Lead. This was to get the CiCC opinions upon the new Health Review Forms that Looked After Children nurses will be now using. There was also a consultation about Public Protection Orders and the issue of dog fouling. The CiCC decided that there would be themes to their meetings that coincide with the themes of the Corporate Parenting Committee and looked at the leaflet given out to promote the CiCC currently.

#### **1.2 Engagement of Care Leavers Summary**

Some Care leavers visited the Peak District over Christmas and a new care Leavers group met for the first time.

- 1.3 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.

## **Recommendation**

- 2.1 To consider the content of the report and feedback from CiCC and engagement with Care leavers.

## **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 At the November meeting the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children asked the young people for their final thoughts on the Passport to Health which is for all Looked After children in Derby. It documents all their health needs and health records. The ideas previously given by CiCC members had been taken on board and included. The CiCC said the new logo was eye catching and colourful. When asked 'Who should receive them first?', they responded that new children coming into care followed by those who might need them, then to phase them in at children and young people's health reviews.
- 4.2 A date was set for the Christmas fun event which would be held at Megazone, and Takeover Day opportunities were discussed and offered to the young people, which were to take place in November and December. Offers were from NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG, Derby County as well as various internal offers.
- 4.3 In December we held a fun meeting at Megazone for all CiCC members. This was as a thank you for all their hard work throughout the year and also in giving up their time in school holidays to attend Corporate Parenting Committee and attending Focus groups. We had 6 young people from CiCC attend and they also had either their social worker or IRO join them. In total 12 people took part in the event; the CiCC members won both games of Laser Tag.
- 4.4 In January's meeting the Named Nurse and Operational lead for Children in Care visited to discuss the new health review forms for children in care, aged 0-11 and 11-18 years. The CiCC members were very positive about the new forms and agreed they were better and young person friendly. The one suggestion was for an emoji that could be used for 'not bothered/indifferent'. There was a question about immunisation and if a young person could consent to immunisations if some had been missed.

- 4.5 There was a consultation about Public Protection Orders, specifically dog fouling. The CiCC were asked:
- How many of you have had problems with dog mess? *The majority have had an issue with this.*
  - Who do you think pays to clean up dog mess? *Council and Government*
  - Who do you think should be responsible for picking up dog mess? *The owners*
  - What do you think we should do to dog owners that fail to pick up dog mess?
    - *A warning followed by fines. If a person is fined three times then the dog should be removed from them.*
    - *Reward people that catch and report owners that don't pick up.*
    - *Not enough dog waste bins, we need more.*
    - *Use fines to provide free dog waste bags and increase bins.*
- 4.6 The CiCC were asked for their views on the leaflet currently used to promote the CiCC. They all agreed it was too long and wordy and would prefer a smaller A5 size, but would still like to keep old one to give to professionals and foster carers as it contained more details.
- 4.7 The CiCC also agreed for future meetings to have themes that match the upcoming Corporate Parenting Committee themes, which would help when attending the meetings of Corporate Parenting Committee and subjects being discussed.
- 4.8 **Regional Leads Network**
- Widening opportunities and best practice for participation with children in care and care leavers was the focus of the recent Regional Leads Network, which included discussions about digitalisation and a Big Conversation.
- 4.9 **Engagement of Care Leavers Summary**
- At Christmas the Leaving Care team arranged a Christmas break in the Peak District, and those that may be isolated at Christmas had somewhere to go and celebrate with. Eight care leavers visited.
- 4.10 In 2020 we intend to facilitate a self-organised Care leavers group, which met in January. A Care leaver is interested in getting this started and we are facilitating a venue (monthly) where care leavers can get together and discuss their own situations/ issues etc. Themes/specific issues identified and raised by the group will be fed into the Care leavers Improvement Board by the Participation Officer, where concerns would be addressed or new ideas put into practice. The Officer will then feed back to the group.
- 4.11 It is recognised, not just in Derby, that a formal Care leavers forum is very challenging to maintain and we really do want ownership to lie with Care leavers themselves.

## **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 This report summarises engagement with children in care on topics that affect them, and provides an overview of engagement with care leavers across the city.

### **Other options**

- 6.1 None noted

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

- 7.1 None Noted

### **Legal implications**

- 8.1 None noted

### **Other significant implications**

- 9.1 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>	Gurmail Nizzer, Service Director, Integrated Commissioning	30/01/2020
<b>Report sponsor</b>		
<b>Other(s)</b>	Lisa Melrose, Head of Commissioning, Children & Young People	30/01/2020
	Antony Mains, Team Manager, Leaving Care	30/01/2020
<b>Background papers:</b>		
none		
<b>List of appendices:</b>		
none		