

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 areas of work include:

- I. Children in Care Council Meetings
- II. CiCC Name Change
- III. Focus on Us Newsletter
- IV. School Participation
- V. Residential Participation

- 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 two meetings of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) since the last report, January and March 2023 - topics discussed as follows:

- **January Meeting** – This meeting was held in collaboration with Plus One at Derby Theatre including consultation time and food. There were 3 new members who attended this get together. The focus of this session was the Budget Consultation followed by a vote on the choice of new name for the CiCC.

Topic areas explored with regard to the Budget Consultation were:

- Residential Homes: deletion of cook, reduction of the use of taxis and agency staff and sleep ins
- Fostering and Permanence: Freeze allowances for Foster Carers, Disband exit from care team
- Libraries and Leisure Services: Less money spent on statutory libraries, cease funding for the 10 community libraries, explore management of external operators for Derby Arena and Springwood Leisure Centres

Members were asked which areas of the proposals they agreed or disagreed with and their thoughts and suggestions around this. Please see Appendix 1 for feedback captured.

In addition to this meeting The Participation Officer also supported with the facilitation of the Budget Consultation ViA Youth Council Event which took place at the Museum of Making on Monday 16 January 2023. A presentation was delivered to young people by the Director for Early Help and Social Care and CYP Cabinet Member about the different proposals for services within the council regarding Early Help Services, Environmental, Regeneration and Economic Growth, Libraries and Leisure and Council Opening Times.

Within the January meeting the group also explored the name change of the CiCC following a Menti-Metre survey completed at a previous meeting a 'Word Cloud' was created which included words members had picked out to express what the CiCC meant to them alongside names of other LA CiCC's.

Using this information members highlighted their favourite word and findings from this activity will be used to put together potential options for a new name for the CiCC for young people to vote on.

- **March Meeting** – Again in collaboration with Plus One we held this meeting at Derby Theatre, this included attendance from those attending the DANCOT workshop as part of their cultural enrichment to attend one of our meetings.

In this meeting we revisited the Children's Guide reviewing progress from the meeting in December from feedback given, members then had the opportunity to design areas and be creative with how they would like to see the future guide presented.

Please see the meeting minutes in Appendix 2 of this report.

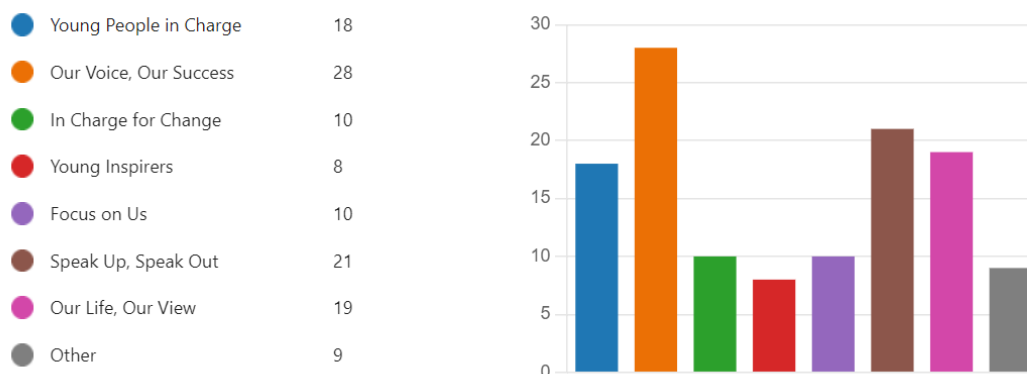
4.2 **What's in a name?**

The Participation Officer led a poll to facilitate the change of the name 'Children in Care Council' this was following feedback from members and CiC alike stating they did not like the name and found it to be labelling. The Participation Officer facilitated a number of sessions to allow young people to give their views and feelings about what should be in the name along with any suggestions.

In January 2023 a poll was created and sent out to all CiC to ensure a wider reach of young people were able to have their say, this poll including 7 potential names configured from findings stated above, these being:

In Charge for change
 Young People In Charge
 Speak up, Speak Out
 Our Voice, Our Success
 Our Life, Our View
 Young Inspirers
 Focus on Us

Using Microsoft Forms a poll was created to give all CiC the opportunity to vote and comment on the name change. This went to Residential Homes, Virtual School, Supported Accommodation, and all Foster Carers along with the CiC Teams for workers to support. Please see findings below.



The winning name chosen by young people is 'Our Voice, Our Success', The Participation Officer would like to seek approval to proceed with using the chosen name for the Children in Care Council on materials moving forward.

4.3 Focus on Us Newsletters

Historically there has been a Newsletter produced informing about the Children in Care Council and what members are involved with. The Participation Officer met with the Marketing Lead and the Communications and Marketing Manager within Policy, Insight and Communications to reintroduce the newsletter. This Newsletter we plan to distribute twice yearly and include up and coming events along with what members have been involved in which they would like to highlight.

This newsletter will give the opportunity to promote the CiCC and the work they do along with giving ownership to members involved, we endeavour to create a 'mini press gang' giving roles such as Editor, Junior Editor, Journalist etc to allow young people to take ownership of the Newsletter. There will be a number of sessions in which the planning for roles along with the creative design of the newsletter will take place supported by the Marketing Lead and the Communications and Marketing Manager.

A historic Focus on us Newsletter is in Appendix 3 of this report

4.4 School Participation

The Participation Officer continues to consult with Derby City Schools with agreed cohorts with CiC at West Park and Woodlands which are termly and will promote the CiCC informing young people of upcoming meetings and activities. Consultations undertaken at meetings are to be completed within these sessions and fed into the larger consultation.

In addition to this the Participation Officer is looking to create a Cluster event/ambassador model in which schools will come together with representation from each to form a group meeting, this gives wider opportunity and formats for young people to engage with participation work. The group will have the opportunity to look at topics covered in CiCC meetings and also school specific

topics. The Participation Officer has reached out to a number of schools and the Headteacher of the Virtual School for Looked after Children for advice and support to facilitate this.

4.5 Residential Participation

The Participation Officer met with the Principal Service Manager for Early Help and Social Care to discuss the current Residential Home Guide which is given to young people upon moving into the home. The Participation Officer sent information regarding the consultation with a request for exploration to start around young people's views on the document to Derby City Council Residential Homes, The Participation Officer will then visit the homes with examples of other work, formats, and information in response to the feedback from young people within the homes.

There are still barriers to engaging with these groups due to complexities and resistance from young people within Residential Homes, but The Participation Officer continues to liaise with colleagues to develop appropriate methods of consultation with a flexible approach.

5.1 Care Leavers Update

The Participation Officer met with the Personal Adviser/Staying Close Lead within the Leaving Care Team following a meeting of the Care Leavers Forum. The Participation Officer was invited to attend the Care Leavers Celebration event on March 8th to meet with Care Leavers to support future consultation. Further to this The Participation Officer has offered to facilitate a Name Change Poll similarly to that of the CiCC's supporting with workshops to identify possible names, create and promote the poll before collating responses.

The Leaving Care Team have a location of new flats for use of Care Leavers which the Personal Adviser/Staying Close Lead informs the Participation Officer will require consultation throughout including naming the area which again will be supported where requested by The Participation Officer offering resources such as surveys and polls through MS Forms and attending forums where invited to do so to gain views of those in attendance ensuring their lived experiences and views form part of the planning and development to improve outcomes and their voice is at the heart of all decision making.

6.1 Public/stakeholder engagement

As outlined in this report

7.1 Other options

Nothing to note for this period.

8.1 Financial and value for money issues

None noted.

9.1 Legal implications

None noted.

10.1 Other significant implications

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	06/03/2023
Other(s)	Lorraine Smith, Commissioning Manager	03/03/2023

Background papers:	n/a
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – CiCC January meeting findings Appendix 2 – CiCC March meeting findings Appendix 3 – Focus on Us Newsletter

Appendix 1

Do you agree or disagree with the proposals for these areas and why?	
1. Residential Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagree - some young people may not like change so removing the cook post may affect this. Especially for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people exiting residential should only be explored if it is appropriate for the young person and they are involved with any planned changes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to keep the cook as young people may not have the same support if care staff will be helping to cook meals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life skills could be gained if there isn't a cook as young people could help cook their own meals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More funding may be needed for food hygiene if the cook post is deleted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree with reducing taxis and agency staff.
2. Fostering and Permanence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagree – Foster carer could drop out if allowances are frozen meaning there could be less carers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagree- Foster carers may struggle with the cost of living if allowances are frozen.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagree- Less foster carers could mean increasing costs for using private foster carers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagree with disbanding exit from care team - Social workers will have extra workload which may mean there isn't as much time for young people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagree- It will put extra pressure on other teams if they disband the exit from care team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
3. Libraries and Leisure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagree – Libraries may have limited books/resources to use if you get rid of the others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be one big library rather than numerous libraries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are the other libraries not statutory? All the statutory libraries are close to the City Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagree – If they change the times then less people will be coming in which means they could shut down.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree – things are more accessible online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries need to be accessible for everyone.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality of the libraries that are already there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure centres – don't want to lose accessibility such as memberships if they are run by outside business but they need to keep the community links.

Appendix 2



CiCC Meeting
Minutes 01.03.23.doc

Appendix 3



CDT19-056 Focus on
Us Newsletter_March