

Children in Care Council - Update October 2017

SUMMARY

- 1.1 A regular update report from the Children in Care Council has been agreed as a standard item on the Corporate Parenting Committee programme since 2015/16. This is to enhance and facilitate the existing working relationship between the Corporate Parenting Committee and the Children in Care Council. Furthermore it provides an opportunity for the Children in Care Council to share what they have discussed, progressed and the impact 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, numbers of young people engaging and impact made.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider content of report and make appropriate recommendations.

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 During this period there have been 3 meetings of the Children In Care Council (July, August summer event, September) and a Pledge event.
- 4.2 On 5th July, 6 members attended the Children In Care Council meeting. The meeting focussed on Education. Unfortunately one speaker was unable to attend to discuss Apprenticeships and post 16 education. The Virtual School Head attended the

meeting and spoke with the members about the services the Virtual School provide, and the schemes that have been developed and amended. The members discussed with the VSH what Pupil Premium can be used towards.

The VSH gave an update on the new book scheme and the 100 day challenge. Members thought that this scheme sounded good and were glad it was being extended to secondary age children.

The group discussed Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings and what information a young person would want to know about the meetings beforehand. This could then be included in a leaflet within the information pack for young people arriving into care. Members said they thought there should be more support moving from school to college.

Members discussed ideas of what should be included in a welcome/ information pack for children and young people when they first become looked after, to answer some of the questions they may have. This was then been passed to relevant managers to proceed with developing the pack in line with these suggestions. This idea will be progressed by the Participation Officer with members of the Children In Care Council.

Members gave their views on a new Child Protection Conference leaflet for children and young people which had been designed and another idea suggested by the Participation Apprentice. The young people felt there were some key elements to take from the suggested idea and amendments to be made. These have been passed to the design team and changes have been made in consultation with the lead Child Protection Manager. The amended design has been back to the CICC members and they approved this final design.

4.3 On 11th July a Pledge event took place at the Council House and 7 members attended. The members gave a presentation to the Officers and Councillors present, reporting on their views of the Pledges that have been made for the year ahead. Officers gave young people an update on their pledges and how these will be delivered over the coming year. Members felt the Pledge remains current and would like to see the Council continue to aim to deliver these elements. An addition to the Pledge was to include work experience and apprenticeships. This has been updated within The Pledge and circulated.

4.4 On 2nd August 2017 a summer event took place at Chester Green Community Centre. The event was a chance for new children and young people to come along and find out more about the Children In Care Council. There were a number of activities available including baking, lots of arts and crafts, clay modelling and games.

An officer from the Virtual School attended to consult around what should be included on an ePEP (Personal Education Plan)/ Virtual School leaflet for young people when they first become looked after. Young people were asked what they would want to be included on the leaflet.

The Virtual School will produce a leaflet using the comments from the young people along with other information about the Virtual School, PEPs, PP+ (Pupil Premium Plus), etc. When a draft copy has been put together, the Virtual School will take it to

the Children in Care Council to see whether anything has been missed out or needs changing before it is published.

- 4.5 On 6th September, 8 members attended the Children In Care Council meeting.
- 4.6 A Focus On Us newsletter has been designed and will be distributed to all children in care in October. This first edition will go out as a printed newsletter, with a view to future newsletters being emailed to carers and residential staff.
- 4.7 The Participation Officer has continued to encourage new children and young people across Derby city and surrounding areas to join the Children In Care Council through attending team meetings and promotional and recruitment activities. This has resulted in a number of new members attending meetings and joining activities.

There is a leaflet to introduce young people and the adults supporting them to the Children In Care Council, designed in consultation with the members, which is now being circulated to social workers and carers as appropriate.

- 4.8 The Participation Officer is working closely with the champion from the Children's Residential homes to encourage attendance by residents. This continues to be an area of challenge to ensure young people and their views are represented on the Children In Care Council. A meeting took place with the Head of Service responsible for children's residential homes to discuss ways forward to improve representation.
- 4.9 A Clinical Psychologist from The Keep, attended the meeting and spoke with the members about the services provided at The Keep and how these can be accessed. The psychologist sought members' views on the leaflet designed for children and young people to inform them about The Keep. The Psychologist will bring the leaflet to the Children In Care Council again to get their views on changes.

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children attended the meeting and spoke to members about the role of the Looked After Nurse team in helping Children In Care. The Designated Nurse consulted with members about the content of an information leaflet to be designed about the looked after nurses. Heather spoke with members about health assessments and members gave their views on the process and venue used.

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children discussed a booklet for Care Leavers that is being developed, containing young people's health information from when they were in care. The members felt this would be good. The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children will send the CICC the current booklet to look at.

Members were consulted on leaflets designed by SOVA, for the Children In Care Council and Child Protection Conferences. Their views were passed to the responsible designers for consideration. The Child Protection poster and Children In Care Council leaflet are now agreed.

- 4.10 There are now a group of 5 Champions who support the Children In Care Council on a regular basis, and assist with circulating key messages to their teams.
- 4.11 Members of the Children In Care Council will be designing a Christmas card for Councillor Sara Bolton.
- 4.12 Takeover Challenge is a national event organised by The Office of The Children's Commissioner for England. Last year's Takeover Challenge was a real success, with young people being given some great opportunities to get involved in. This year the Takeover Challenge will take place from Monday 20th to Friday 24th November 2017. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop transferrable skills by working with others, problem solving, communicating with a range of people and making decisions. The day gives young people a chance to better understand how important decisions are made about issues that affect their community. It is also an opportunity to gain an insight into the world of work.

Departments throughout the Council are being asked to consider what opportunities they could offer to young people for a day. As Corporate Parents we want to encourage our children and young people, inspire them, introduce them to new experiences and support them to achieve.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Claire Hurst Participation Officer 01332 640269 Claire.Hurst@derby.gov.uk None None

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.