

Children In Care Council Update - Corporate Parenting Committee meeting **20th September 2016**

Since the last Corporate Parenting Meeting in July the children in care council have met on four occasions.

1. CICC Promotion

Raising the profile of the CICC and encouraging new membership is under constant review. In May 2016 VM approached Plus One to discuss the possibility of creating a promotional film for the CICC. Ideas were discussed and the Summer Holidays were identified as the ideal time to put the plan into action.

On 27th and 28th July, supported by staff and volunteers from VM, 7 members of the children in care council attended the QUAD to create a promotional film to encourage new membership. The young people had the opportunity to share ideas, get creative and learn new skills whilst participating in film making – we hope the end result will be a lasting tribute to the current members of the CICC, evidence of their time, energy and commitment brought together in a short promotional film.



The CICC wish the film to convey their own experience of the CICC :

- You meet other children
- You get to share your opinions
- You get out of the house

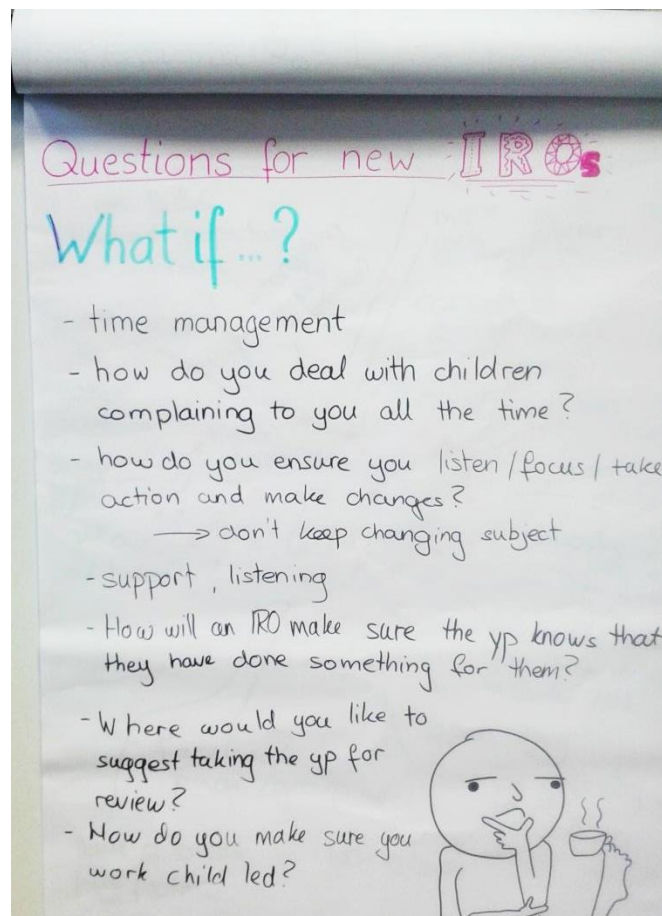
- We have a break and eat food!
 - We win prizes
 - We go to show's together
 - There is nobody nagging at you
- We make life better for other children

2. CICC Consultations

During August, the CICC were asked to consult in two areas

- Questions to be included in the interviews for Independent Reviewing Officer applicants.
- foster carer training by providing their views on “How to be a good foster carer”

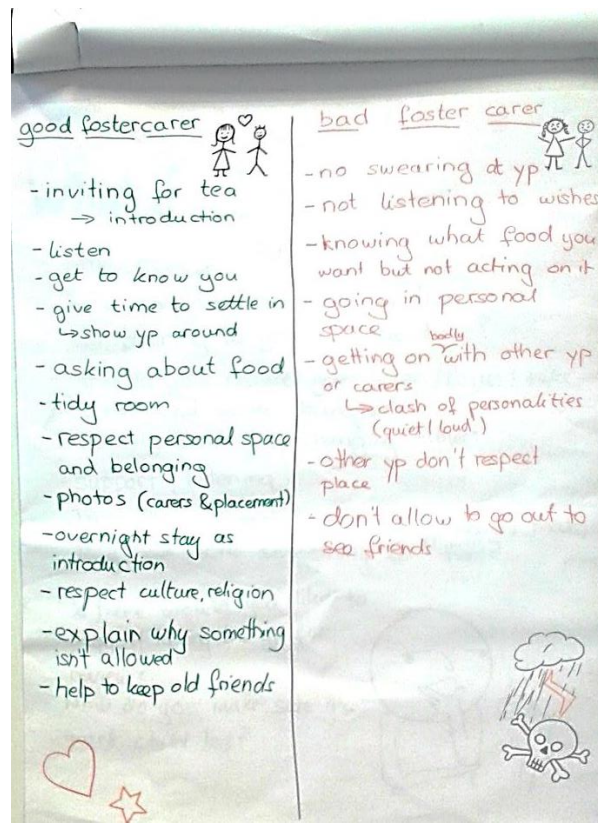
In order to facilitate this, CICC members were invited to attend our office to share their ideas – as a thank you for their hard work and to encourage team work, the young people were treated to lunch at Cosmo!



Five young people attended, one young person volunteered to scribe for the group and took control of the pen and the meeting! A lively discussion was held and lots of ideas were shared – though one young person was very vocal the presence of staff ensured that all voices were heard and recorded. This information was then shared with Pervez Akhtar.

The children in care council have been invited to participate in foster carer training. After careful consideration, it was decided that sharing ideas about what makes a good foster

carer (a Do's and Don'ts list) might be the best way forward. The young people were invited to share their thoughts:



The children in care council members believe these ideas should be presented in a booklet / leaflet to be handed to potential foster carers – we will liaise with the foster care association to discuss the best format.

3. Participation

At the end of July 2016, Volunteering Matters invited young people to participate in an interview panel to recruit a member of staff. A young person joined two senior managers and was instructed about equality and interview techniques. The young person was invited to select the questions he felt most comfortable asking and then joined in competency based scoring of each applicant – three people were interviewed. The young person thoroughly enjoyed the process and asked if he could attend another time, it is an important role carrying a great deal of responsibility.

4. General Meeting

On 7th September the first CICC meeting of the new term was held. The CICC welcomed several guests and one new member.

The Youth Mayor – supported by Adele Styles, Councillor Sara Bolton, Director of People, Andy Smith, Alice Sanghera, Simon Lalonde and Francesca Gilbert.

There were 6 members present – the young people listened politely to the guests and shared ideas when asked to do so. The young people were asked to design a Christmas card and to consider how they could be more involved with the Corporate Parenting committee, how communication could be improved and links strengthened. They were asked to share ideas about a name for the new emotional health and wellbeing service – this sparked a lively debate! Fran Gilbert explained her role as exit from care social worker and was invited to provide a brief article for the next Focus On Us. As the meeting progressed the group grew in confidence and therefore the second half of the meeting proved to be very lively.

The Pledge

Following “The Pledge Revisited” in July, the CICC will be considering at least one point from the Pledge at each meeting. This month they reflected on Pledge 1: Contact with social workers – the young people gave a mixed response:

- The social workers don’t always answer their phones, and when I leave a message they don’t always get back to me. 😞
- When my social worker goes on leave she doesn’t tell me. 😞
- I don’t know how to contact social worker but I never want to anyway
- I can’t contact my social worker because I don’t know her number 😞
- I have his mobile number, I just text and he phones me 😊
- I couldn’t get hold of my old one but my new one is really good 😊

Take Over Day: The young people all expressed an interest to get involved, it is their wish to have the opportunity to experience: The fire service, the armed forces, security guards, child care/nursery, radio, Derby County.

Leisure Cards: The CICC are aware that leisure cards are available for foster carers The CICC would like to see this extended. They believe that the leisure cards should be in the name of the young people themselves rather than the foster carers, that way, all looked after children could benefit from the discount offered.

Children’s Homes – the Mini Bus: Once again, the young people raised this saying they are embarrassed to travel in the mini bus.

In conclusion, the CICC always have a packed and varied agenda to follow, they welcome guests and therefore if any members of the corporate parenting committee would like to attend a meeting or would like to share any thoughts or ideas please email in advance gill.black@volunteeringmatters.org.uk and I will be pleased to advise the members.