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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 activities include:

- I. Children in Care Council Meetings
- II. Internal Residential Homes Consultation
- III. Allestree Park Rewilding
- IV. School Participation
- V. Foster Carer Training
- VI. Childrens Accommodation Strategy

- 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, April & June 2022 - topics discussed as follows:

- **April Meeting** – A Senior Practitioner for the Children in Care Service attended to consult the CiCC on the revised Pocket Money and Savings Policy and gain feedback from Members.

Key points were:

- Happy with savings to be inaccessible until CYP turn 18.
- Unfair that those in Foster or Residential Placements receive pocket money until they are 18 but those in Supported Accommodation do not.
- Agree that savings should be made into only a Child's Trust Fund or ISA to ensure continuity and money to travel with them should they move.

The Senior Practitioner, Children in Care Service will be invited to a later meeting to feedback 'you said, we did'. Further consultation on this topic was carried out with Internal Residential Homes and West Park School to ensure a wider reach to capture the collective voice.

- **June Meeting** – This was a face-to-face activity/consultation at Megazone, Derby which included laser tag for members followed by consultation from a Lifestory Practitioner who attended to share the Lifestory work Policy and gain views on what CiCC felt important information to be recorded through their journey alongside discussion around the Heritage Pledge.

Key points were:

- Young people state to have been given wrong information about their family background and do not feel supported with their primary language.
- Another member believed that this experience would depend on who you are and where you live.
- One CiCC member said that having social worker continuity would help as they would be more likely to know the background.
- Felt it important for their journey to be logged in varying methods dependent of their wishes at different stages in their lives.

The Life story Practitioner will be invited to a later meeting to feedback 'you said, we did'.

Within this meeting young people were also informed by the Participation Officer about an exciting opportunity to meet with a reporter for BBC Radio Derby to give their views on how their voices are heard and how platforms such as the Children In Care Council are a positive for Children in Care and the positive impact this has

on them. The Participation Officer will arrange and facilitate a meeting between the reporter and CiCC members.

## 4.2 Internal Residential Homes Consultation

A consultation facilitated by the Participation took place with within Derby City Council Internal Residential Homes requested by the Change Manager. This consultation was to understand how our Residential Homes currently meet the needs of our CiC and what those who live in them feel about their homes.

Young people were asked:

- How involved are you in home decisions and domestic life including?
- Decorating your room, do you get to choose what it is like and paint it?
- Food, do you make your own meals or help with the cooking? Choose the meals you eat? Order or do the food shopping?
- What do you feel is good about your home/what do you like about it?
- Does it feel like home? If not why?
- What could we do to improve it or do better? What would you like the home to be like?

We were able to consult with 3 of the 4 homes and young people were asked to think about their time in their home and their views on the above.

| Table 1. Key Points relating to their experiences were:   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allowed to have posters but not able to decorate. Would like to be able to paint my own room.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Able to choose new dinner menu for the house - They have a several printed pictures of health food choices for them to show what food, fruits, vegetables they like. They pointed several different fruits such as watermelon, bananas, kiwi and said that would like to eat veg burgers and veggie egg fried rice, coconut rice and salad.</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Would like a smaller house and I don't like having a huge garden.</li></ul>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff are not consistent they just move around.</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sometimes it feels like home, but I see it more as an "open prison".</li></ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Would like it to be a more homely environment as in reality the size of this house is not normal and doesn't reflect real life.</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meals are made for us so don't get much choice on meals.</li></ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Would like to have actual doors rather than fire doors as normal homes don't have them in their rooms.</li></ul>  |

Full details, including are in Appendix 1 of this report.

#### 4.3 **Allestree Park Rewilding**

In collaboration with the Voices in Action Youth Council the CiCC were invited to take part in a focus group regarding the Allestree Rewilding Project. This included a site visit where young people were given a tour of the area and information on proposed plans and were given opportunity to give feedback on proposals throughout.

Young people were specifically asked:

##### **1. What are your thoughts and suggestions about the rewilding of Allestree Park?**

Key Themes were:

- A combination of rewilding and adding attractions to the park such as sports area, natural play, walk and cycle track, dog agility, seating and a café.
- Maintaining habitats and planting new ones.
- Meeting needs of young people with disabilities such as signage to include BSL, sensory garden, wheelchair access

Full details are in Appendix 2 of this report.

#### 4.4 **School Participation**

The Participation Officer facilitated cohorts with CiC at West Park School in May to again promote the CiCC and inform them of upcoming meetings and activities. Consultation of Pocket Money and Savings was also completed within these sessions and fed into the larger consultation. As always these sessions give opportunity for the Participation Officer to meet with CYP and engage with them on a personal level giving them a point of contact and familiarity should they consider joining the Children in Care Council moving forward. The Participation Officer will continue to visit West Park School, this will be 3 times a year.

The Participation Officer continues to liaise with additional Secondary Schools within Derby City to develop an appropriate method of consultation with CiC in those schools and overcome barriers to this.

#### 4.5 **Foster Carer Training**

The Participation Officer in collaboration with the Training and Education Officer arranged a training session for Foster Carers in relation to Participation. The first cohort ran on June 6<sup>th</sup> with an additional session on June 21<sup>st</sup>. This gave opportunity for the Participation Officer to ensure understanding of Participation and highlight the importance of this and how Derby City facilitate this including the CiCC. This session was created to also raise awareness of the CiCC to support the growth and ensure all were aware of the opportunities available.

#### **4.6 Children's Accommodation Strategy**

Alongside the Strategic Director for People's Services, Director for Early Help and Social Care, Director for Integrated CYP Commissioning, Cabinet Member for CYP, Commissioning Manager, Change Manager, Leaving Care Team Manager the Participation Officer attended a meeting regarding the Children's Accommodation Strategy with a member of the CiCC who also, being 18 is a Care Leaver. Prior to the meeting the Participation Officer co-produced a survey to capture views of Care Leavers, Residential CYP and members of the CiCC on their experiences being in care and impacts this has on them to ensure their views are embedding in the strategy and experiences form part of the planning and delivery to improve outcomes. This information was fed into a PowerPoint Presentation which the Participation Officer presented to the group.

Please see Appendix 3 for the full PowerPoint with reference to slides 8-14 relating to the work outlined above

#### **5.1 Care Leavers Update**

The Participation Officer attended the Leaving Care Team meeting in May to discuss the Children's Accommodation Strategy and how Care Leavers may be involved with this. The survey outlined in 4.6 of this report was rolled out to Care Leavers by PA's in the Leaving Care Team. The Participation Officer will attend the next Care Leavers Forum to introduce herself to those in attendance and start to form relationships to allow further engagement in participation work. Alongside this, Care Leavers will be consulted with throughout the duration of the Children's Accommodation Strategy journey to ensure their lived experiences form part of the planning and development to improve outcomes and their voice is at the heart of all decision making.

## **Public/stakeholder engagement**

6.1 As outlined in this report.

## **Other options**

7.1 Nothing to note for this period.

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

8.1 None noted.

## **Legal implications**

9.1 None noted.

## **Other significant implications**

10.1 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> |  |                         |
| <b>Report sponsor</b>      | Gurmail Nizzer, Director, Integrated Commissioning             | 30/06/2022              |
| <b>Other(s)</b>            | Lorraine Smith, Commissioning Manager, Children & Young People | 30/06/2022              |

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Background papers:</b>  | n/a  |
| <b>List of appendices:</b> | Appendix 1 – Internal Residential Home Consultation<br>Appendix 2 – Allestree Park Rewilding<br>Appendix 3 – Children's Accommodation Strategy |

## Appendix 1 – Internal Residential Home Consultation

### Notes of Residential Consultation – Children in Care Council Derby City Council

March 2022

#### Who was there?

|   |   |                            |                         |
|---|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rosewood young people - 2                 | Blossom House young people - 1                    | The Shine young people – 3 | Limestone young person- |
| Laura Bradley – CiC Participation Officer | Holly Hardgrave – Commissioning Support Assistant |                            |                         |

#### What we talked about

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | <b>CiC Residential Home Consultation</b>   |
|    | <p>Laura and Holly visited Rosewood and Limestone residential homes in Derby to meet with young people and ask some questions about living in a residential home. Laura then sent the questions asked to home managers to engage with more young people in the home and get their views.</p> <p>Young people were asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How involved are you in home decisions and domestic life including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Decorating your room, do you get to choose what it is like and paint it?</li><li>- Food, do you make your own meals or help with the cooking? Choose the meals you eat? Order or do the food shopping?</li></ul></li><li>• What do you feel is good about your home/what do you like about it?</li><li>• Does it feel like home? If not why?</li><li>• What could we do to improve it or do better? What would you like the home to be like?</li></ul> |

| Rosewood  |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allowed to have posters but not able to decorate. Would like to be able to paint my own room.</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't get to choose meals or do the food shopping. Doesn't want to help with the cooking.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doesn't think of it as homely.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like to have actual doors rather than fire doors as normal homes don't have them in their rooms.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Furniture not chosen by us.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The size of the home is alright.</li> </ul>  |
| Blossom   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to decorate and paint own room but don't have a say on the decoration of the rest of the house.</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meals are made for us so don't get much choice on meals.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can choose to help with cooking if I want to but choose not to.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to go shopping sometimes to pick up some food.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sometimes it feels like home, but I see it more as an "open prison".</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are not consistent they just move around.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like it to be a more homely environment as in reality the size of this house is not normal and doesn't reflect real life.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like a smaller house and I don't like having a huge garden.</li> </ul>   |
| Shine   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I like my room, the lounge, the playground, and the garden.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like to watch TV and more dvd's.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go out once a week to buy own snacks or what I like to eat.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to choose new dinner menu for the house - They have a several printed pictures of health food choices for them to show what food, fruits, vegetables they like. They pointed several different fruits such as watermelon, bananas, kiwi and said that would like to eat veg burgers and veggie egg fried rice, coconut rice and salad.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like my room and the swing outside.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helped to decorate my room – chose Peppa Pig theme. Bedding, stickers, and decorating pillows.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Going once a week to shop with staff so he can choose what he wants to buy to eat at Shine.</li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I like the house; my favourite room is my room and the lounge.</li> </ul>  |





|   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young person was asked about what if he likes to change his room. I had printed some option for YP to choose some new furniture for his room. He chose a desk and said that he would like to have a laptop to put on the table. He also chooses a wood box to keep his toys. Also, he chose a new chair that he will use to watch TV.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes the swing and being able to play with water in the summer.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively helping to prepare his snack such as pizza and packing his food when he is going to the community</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Limestone</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>  |

## Notes of Allestree Park Rewilding Consultation

### Derby City Council

6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

#### Who was there?

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| Voices in Action<br>Members - 9                         | Children in Care<br>Council<br>Members - 2    | Adele Styles – CYP<br>Participation Officer | Laura Bradley – CiC<br>Participation Officer |
| Holly Hardgrave –<br>Commissioning<br>Support Assistant | David Winslow<br>– Community<br>Parks Officer |   |  |

#### What we talked about

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Allestree Park Rewilding</b>  |
|           | <p>A focus group was set up so young people were able to give their views on the Allestree Park Rewilding consultation. Young people were invited to Allestree Park and walked round the park with David who pointed out features throughout the park and explained the rewilding consultation.</p> <p>Young People were asked:</p> <p><b>2. What are your thoughts and suggestions about the rewilding of Allestree Park?</b></p> <p>Key Themes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A combination of rewilding and adding attractions to the park such as sports area, natural play, walk and cycle track, dog agility, seating and a café.</li><li>• Maintaining habitats and planting new ones.</li><li>• Meeting needs of young people with disabilities such as signage to include BSL, sensory garden, wheelchair access</li></ul> |



| What are your thoughts and suggestions for the rewilding of Allestree Park?  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a combination of planting habitats and leaving certain areas as they are.</li> </ul>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have activities such as pay to rent a bike around the park.</li> </ul>                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There could be different areas of the park with different levels of intervention to help with rewilding.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like to see a sports area around the park for different leisure activities.</li> </ul>        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have an activity area that could be good for school trips especially primary school children.</li> </ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too many attractions could attract too many people which would be bad for wildlife.</li> </ul>      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would be nice to have wood attractions such as climbing.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have something in the middle between commercial rewilding and leaving the park as it is.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zipline through the park.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Happy with the open space as it is currently.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like to see other attractions such as a sports area.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Happy with current space as it is a nice place to walk the dog.</li> </ul>                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a cycle and walking trail that goes all around the edge of the park.</li> </ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodland type structures and natural play amongst the trees/woods.</li> </ul>                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would be nice to have a café and some seating areas to use in the park.</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could have a meadow with flowers.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could have a sensory garden which could add to the calming atmosphere of the park.</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a barefoot trail.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog agility course.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Important to have wheelchair access around the park.</li> </ul>                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible signs around the park with BSL symbols and pictures.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>   |

## Appendix 3 – Children’s Accommodation Strategy



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Model .pptx