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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 Meeting
- II. CiCC Steering Group/ Cross Service Support
- III. CiC Christmas Card Competition
- IV. School Participation
- V. Regional CiCC Residential

- 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.
- 2.2 To seek support for the development of our CiCC (Paragraph 4.2)

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) Meeting

There has been one meeting of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) since the last report, December 2022 - topics discussed as follows:

- **December Meeting** – This meeting was held at Megazone as a Children in Care Council Christmas get together alongside consultation time over food.

There were 4 new members who attended this get together which included 2 games of laser tag to promote relationship building. The focus of this session was around the name change of the CiCC. This was 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 words 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.

Members were also consulted on the current Children's Guide with the majority stating they had not seen this document before and had not received when coming into care. There was then discussion around their likes and dislikes of this guide along with any ideas they had for the reviewed guide. This piece of work is ongoing and will include the Residential Children's Guide in the review.

Please see Appendix 1 for findings from this meeting.

4.2 CiCC Steering Group / Cross Service Support

Following a meeting with the Practice Supervisor (Quality and Standards) at Lincolnshire County Council the Participation Officer would like to highlight the need for cross service support in the implementation and running of Local Authority CiCC's and the participation and engagement of CiC.

Within Derby City we are experiencing barriers around engagement with CiC in terms of participation which is also both a regional and national issue. CiCC's in other LA's operate in a range of different formats including formal CiCC meetings/groups, informal 'youth club' groups with elements of consultation, a network of groups focussing on different areas such as training or recruitment of staff. The current model within Derby City is under development trialling several the above methods which will be ongoing throughout the year of 2023.

Recruitment of members or indeed Young People who would engage with participation work alike continues to be an issue and a key focus in future priorities.

The National Children's Bureau report into good practice regarding CiCC's in 2018 (See Appendix 2) highlights various points to consider supporting quality participation:

- "Recruitment (of children and young people) requires the full involvement of social workers and carers. They will not only need to be prepared to encourage young people to become members but transport young people to meetings. In larger authorities like county councils, meetings could move around the authority or there could be smaller locality groups meeting regularly with full County wide group meetings less frequently."
- "Young people should be rewarded for their involvement in the CiCC. Some authorities have given payment and vouchers, others provided trips, residentials and days out for those who attend."
- "CiCC's work best when they have a well-defined purpose with clear areas of responsibility"
- "The CiCC members need to know their work makes a difference. The group should work closely with the most senior corporate parents "An efficient structure for the group is one with a constitution, a schedule of activities and agenda"
- "The local authority Care Pledge should be at the centre of the work of the CiCC. It can be used as a plan for improvement and a monitoring tool"

Derby City undertakes the above recommendations well with the Participation Officer forging links with services that support CiC. The Participation Officer has attended various Team Meetings, Foster Carer and Social Carer Training and other meetings to promote the CiCC and increase support. There are some areas which may benefit from further support to encourage Young People to attend and be a part of making change by those they are supported by, despite increased promotion of the CiCC there has not been a great increase in the number of referrals to or attendance at the CiCC.

To see improvement within our participation work with CiC and support the development of our CiCC I would like to seek support in:

- The continuation and growth in the support from Children's Services teams that work directly with Children in Care, including the Fostering Teams, Foster Carers, Children in Care and Residential Teams and IRO's who have regular/consistent contact with young people and the ability to encourage Young People to engage with consultations and events by promoting the CiCC alongside making referrals to support increase in engagement
- Consideration to develop a working group to consist of relevant managers and/or staff involved in co-ordinating and delivering services to CiC to support and steer the CiCC using the experience and knowledge of those staff to improve methods of participation within the LA and support the Participation Officer to embed and develop into everyday practice

4.3 Children in Care Christmas Card Competition 2022

The Participation Officer ran a Christmas Card competition with support from the Creative Design Officer within the Communications and Marketing Team. The winning artwork to feature on the card sent from the Strategic Director of People's Services and Cabinet Member for Children.

The competition was a huge success, and we received a number of fantastic designs, please see winning artwork in Appendix 3 of this report.

4.4 School and Residential Participation

The Participation Officer continues to consult with Derby City Schools and agreed cohorts with CiC at West Park and Woodlands termly. These 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.

Residential Homes are visited bi-monthly and again views fed into the wider consultations.

There are still barriers to engaging with these groups due to complexities in schools 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.

4.5 Regional CiCC Residential

The Participation Officer in partnership with the East Midlands Regional Participation Leads Group worked on the planning of the residential and has been the link member of staff to facilitate the participation of Derby City Council. Meeting with regional LAs to ensure the safe planning of the event and work with colleagues within Derby City to put together a robust plan and offer to enable our young people to take part in this opportunity.

The residential took place at Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire on October 15th & 16th with Derby City Council having representation from 1 Young Person and Social Worker. The focus was on the language used within services and included fun activities and relationship building opportunities followed by findings being presented to Senior Leaders from LAs across the region.

This event was a huge success with all attending benefitting in different ways from the opportunity.

Please see Appendix 4 for Regional Residential CiCC Overview.

5.1 Care Leavers Update

The Participation Officer is offering support to the Leaving Care Service where possible and required. The Participation Officer plans to attend the next Care Leavers event in support of the Leaving Care Manager which is provisionally scheduled for February. This gives opportunity for The Participation Officer to form links with those in attendance to allow further engagement in participation work.

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	19/01/2023
Other(s)	Lorraine Smith, Commissioning Manager	18/01/2023
Background papers:	n/a	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – CiCC December meeting findings Appendix 2 - National Children's Bureau report Appendix 3 – Christmas Card Competition Winning Artwork Appendix 4 – Regional Residential CiCC Overview	

Appendix 1

1. Words to Describe CiCC	
• Helpful	• Kind
• Caring	• Cool
• Inviting	• Support x2
• Friendly	•
2. Names that we like from other councils.	
• Make a Difference (MAD).	• Our Voice, Our Services.
• Fight for Change x3	• Children in Charge x2
• Vision of Success.	•

1. What do you think is good/like about the Children's Guide?	
• Lots of relevant information included – names of people involved such as social workers and IRO's.	•
2. What do you dislike and think needs to be improved?	
• Too much information and the booklet is too long.	• Need a different book for different age ranges.
• Information is not always easy to take in especially if a young person has a learning disability.	• Split the booklet into different parts and topics so they can be given at different stages.
• Improve the colours that are used.	• There is too much information on job roles which could be given in a separate leaflet.
• Include things to get involved in such as CiCC, activities, virtual school etc.	•
3. Further comments	
• Don't give the guide to children until they are settled up to 3 months.	• More awareness of CiCC.

Appendix 2



A%20guide%20to%20good%20practice%2

Appendix 3



Appendix 4



Beaumanor Hall
Residential Trip