



**CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE**  
**31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

# ITEM 05

Report sponsor: Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help and Social Care  
Report author: Laura Bradley, Participation Officer

## **Our Voice, Our Success**

### **Purpose**

#### **1.1 Our Voice, Our Success (CiCC) 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. Our Voice, Our Success Meetings/Get together.
- II. Young Recruiters
- III. Our Voice, Our Success Steering Group Update
- IV. School Cluster Groups
- V. Residential Participation
- VI. The Language of Care
- VII. Age Range

- 1.2 The report highlights the work the Our Voice, Our Success (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 Our Voice, Our Success.

### **Reason**

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee need to know that the Local Authority 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

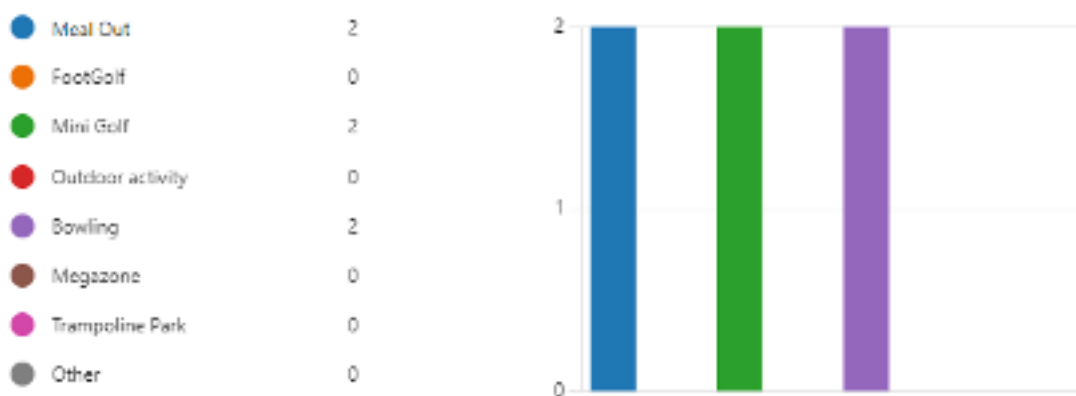
### 4.1 Our Voice, Our Success (OVOS) Meetings

There have been two scheduled get together / meetings of the Our Voice, Our Success Group since the last report, July 2023 - topics discussed as follows:

- **August Summer Event** – This was a get together organised by the Participation Officer as a thank you to those who have attended meetings throughout the year for their time and support. Early in the summer a poll was sent out to members, results are as below:

#### 1. What activity would you like to do?

[More Details](#)



As seen in the results there was minimal engagement with this poll, given this was around a 'fun' event for which they would choose the activity it is concerning there is limited engagement.

Following on from this it was arranged to attend Paradise Golf in Derby on August 8<sup>th</sup> followed by lunch together. Again, there was little uptake to attend with only 2 young people confirming and only 1 attending on the day. This said, the young person in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the day enabling us to show our appreciation for her continued commitment to the group.



- **September Meeting** This was due to be a hybrid meeting to enable wider accessibility focussing on a 'You Said, We Did' looking at what we have been involved in over the last year and what changes/improvements have come into fruition.

This meeting was unfortunately cancelled due to no uptake to attend, the Participation Officer sent out the information to members for their information and feedback along with offering to meet with them to discuss further if they wished, this information was also taken into Derby City Residential Homes.

See Appendix 1 for the 'You Said, We Did' PowerPoint Presentation

#### 4.2 **Young Recruiters**

The Participation Officer for CiC developed a group called 'Young Recruiters' which is a group of young people who have the opportunity to have recruitment training with materials which have been obtained from HR within Derby City Council to then be a part of the recruitment of employees who would support our CiC.

This followed on from an earlier report which referred to Young People having the opportunity to shape services that affect them at all levels and within all areas, not excluding the staff the LA employ. It is powerful for our young people to have input in the recruitment of the staff which support them, and they have the opportunity where possible to be involved in this decision-making process and allows our young people to feel heard and empowers and encourages them to participate in wider opportunities.

A training session for young people went ahead in the Summer Holidays with the view of interviews to be attended by young people from September, using a mock Person Specification and Job Description along with a PowerPoint Presentation. This session was well attended with young people really keen to be a part of our recruitment process within the LA. The Participation Officer plans to run this training again for young people who were unable to attend the initial session.

All services who employ staff that support our CiC are encouraged to involve this group when carrying out interviews where possible. The Participation Officer will support facilitation of this and will hold details of young people who have completed the training and would like to be on panels moving forward. Consideration needs to be made around how we plan interviews to enable young people to attend and limit any barriers pertaining to this.

#### 4.3 **Steering Group Outcome**

The first Our Voice, Our Success Steering Group meeting was held on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Council House.

The meeting was well attended with representatives from Children in Care teams, Virtual School, Children's Residential, Youth Justice Service, Fostering and Permanence, Independent Reviewing Service and the Director for Early Help and Social Care.

This meeting allowed perspective from differing services to support the development of the umbrella of the LAs Children in Care Council including the Our Voice, Our Success Group and other areas such as Young Recruiters and School Participation.

Key points of discussion were to increase awareness of participation for young people including support from IROs and the continued attendance at events for Children in Care by the Participation Officer for which services will inform of dates to attend. The Virtual School will support the School Cluster Groups model which will start in October, encouraging schools to participate and a member of the Virtual School attending on the day.

This group will meet twice yearly with the next meeting to be held in March 2024. Please see appendix 2 for the minutes of this meeting.

#### 4.4 **School Cluster Groups**

The first School Participation meeting was held at Woodlands School on October 17<sup>th</sup>. All secondary age CiC were invited to attend with their school.

This model will give opportunity for schools to come along alongside other schools in the city, we will get together once a term at a hosting school where all Derby City secondary schools would be invited to bring along CiC within their school to attend with a member(s) of staff to support. Within these sessions we will look at various topics and issues which affect CiC for them to participate in and have their say on getting involved in council policies and services, recruitment and training of staff, review and development of buildings which CiC use such as interiors of Children's Homes. The first session focussed on School Nurses and for young people to have their say on training for School Nurses developed by the University of Derby in which we had Senior Lecturer attending to facilitate the session.

The Participation Officer for CiC gained support from a Specialist Education Officer for The Virtual School who attended the session along with liaising with schools to promote the sessions.

Due to reporting deadlines the outcome of the session and further information will feature in the Quarter 3 report.

#### 4.5 **Residential Participation**

The Participation Officer visited the Derby City Residential Homes in August and October.

- **August Visit** – We focussed on The Pledge Poll to form part of the review of the The Pledge. Feedback that was given on this from young people visited were:
  - Wasn't aware of The Pledge
  - Some promises were not met for some individuals.
  - All the promises are important to them.
  - 'Empty promises'

The Pledge Poll will run until the end of October with the findings forming part of the next Our Voice, Our Success group on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

These sessions within the Residential Homes were extremely positive and showed real progress in terms of increasing engagement in this area, the Participation Officer will continue to build on these relationships with young people and breaking down the barriers of engagement with regard to participation.

- **October Visit** – The focus of these sessions was to give information relating to the 'You Said, We Did' which was due to go ahead early September. The PowerPoint Presentation shown in Appendix 1 of this report was shown to young people to feedback on the outcomes of change following on from their views.

The Participation Officer continues to liaise with colleagues to develop appropriate methods of consultation with a flexible approach and will continue to visit the homes bi-monthly.

#### 4.6 **The Language of Care**

The Participation Officer for CiC has worked alongside the Director for Early Help and Social Care to embed the initiative for the language used by all who work with and support our Children in Care. This follows on from recommendation by the Corporate Parenting Committee in respect of the information presented by a Care Leaver who attended the Regional Residential focussing on the language used and the feelings this evokes for young people.

The Director for Early Help and Social Care highlighted this agenda at the recent Steering Group Meeting featuring in 4.3 of this report which was discussed further by colleagues in Youth Justice Service, Fostering and Permanence, Independent Reviewing Service, Residential Services, and the Virtual School. This will be taken to City Managers to start a 'Big Conversation'.

The Participation Officer will support throughout offering perspective from young people and their feedback on language used throughout their journeys to enable the LA to make positive change in terms of the language we use.

Please see Appendix 3 for the PowerPoint Presentation on the experience of the Regional Residential presented at the 2023 Quarter 1 Corporate Parenting Committee.

#### 4.7 **Age Range**

The Children in Care Council for Derby City currently consults with an age range of 10-24 to include Care Leavers, this was increased from the original age range of 10-18 to enable long standing members of the group the continued opportunity to take part in consultation as there was not at that time a Care Leavers Forum to be accessed. The Participation Officer would like to review this agreement with a view of lowering the age range back down to 10-18, as there is a current Care Leavers Forum for young people to access post 18.

The Participation Officer will work with the Leaving Care Team to ensure smooth transition between the groups when reaching 18 to enable the young people to continue participating if they wish.

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

The Participation Officer is working alongside the Personal Adviser/Staying Close Lead within the Leaving Care Team to plan smooth transition from the Our Voice, Our Success group to the Care Leavers Forum once they become Care Leavers to ensure they are still able to participate in consultation work and be a part of a group moving forward.

A Care Leaver has also been a part of the 'Young Recruiters' scheme and is trained on recruitment within the LA and willing to be a part of interview panels moving forward. The offer to be part of the Young Recruiters Pool is out to all Care Leavers should they wish to take up the opportunity.

## 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
<b>Legal</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care	12 October 2023
<b>Report sponsor</b>		
<b>Other(s)</b>	Lorraine Smith, Commissioning Manager	
<b>Background papers:</b>	n/a	
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – 'You Said, We Did' PowerPoint Presentation Appendix 2 – Steering Group Minutes Appendix 3 – Regional Residential PowerPoint Presentation	

## Appendix 1



You Said We Did  
2023.pdf

## Appendix 2



OVOS Steering  
Group Minutes 12.09.

## Appendix 3



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Residential Trip.pdf