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Integrated Commissioning (CYP)  
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Officer

## **Children in Care Council Update**

### **Purpose**

#### **1.1 Children in Care Council Summary**

There have been two virtual meetings of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) since the last report, July and September 2021:

- I. At the July meeting, The Commissioning Manager for Children in Care attended to discuss the consultation for 16+ Unregulated Accommodation. The Senior Brokerage Officer attended to discuss the term 'Placements' and how it is used within services.
  - II. In the September meeting, the Participation Officer discussed possible face to face meetings from October and gathered views on this. Corporate Parenting Committee attendance was discussed. Supervising Social Worker within the Fostering Team gave feedback on the Foster Carer Charter.
- 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 In July's meeting, The Commissioning Manager for Children in Care attended to inform the CiCC members of the consultation for 16+ Unregulated Accommodation. CiCC members were given the information to enable them to complete the consultation with support from their Carers/Support Workers. The Participation Officer sent out the information and link to the consultation to CiCC Members, Residential Homes and to the Head of Fostering to disseminate to relevant staff and CYP.
- 4.2 The Senior Brokerage Officer attended the July meeting to discuss the term 'Placements' explaining how the term is used and in what context. CiCC members expressed this term felt 'non-permanent' and suggested exploring the term 'Home' for example 'Home-Finding team' in place of 'Placements Team'. After the meeting the Participation Officer created and published a Poll which was sent to CiCC Members, Residential Homes, the Fostering Service and the Virtual School to promote to gain further feedback on this idea and seek suggestions.
- 4.3 The Participation Officer spoke about the possibility of face-to-face meetings soon to gain the views of CiCC Members. All the members agreed they would be happy to do this. The Alice Wheeldon Room within the Council House has been booked with the view of face-to-face meetings to commence from October. The Participation Officer is to seek guidance on how to facilitate this safely in compliance with the Local Authority Covid-19 Policies should this be possible.
- 4.4 In August the 'Placements' terminology Poll closed with the following results:
- *How do you feel about the term 'Placement' ?*  
20% 'ok with it'  
40% 'did not like it'  
40% 'did not feel strongly either way'
  - *Would you like to see the term 'Placement' changed to something else?*  
52% said yes,  
0% said no,  
48% said they did not mind
  - *Could you tell us of any suggestions to use in place of the word 'Placement'?*  
Home / House  
New Home  
Make it sound more special – pick a synonym in a foreign language  
Settled house

This information was collated for the Senior Brokerage Officer who will present the findings at a D2N2 meeting for further consultation. The Senior Brokerage Officer will then attend the CiCC in November to feedback findings and changes made.

- 4.5 There was a CiCC event at Megazone in Derby on September 1<sup>st</sup>. This event was organised by the Participation Officer as a thank you to the members for their commitment to the CiCC through the pandemic along. This event was also to promote the CiCC to allow the opportunity for young people who were considering joining the CiCC to come along and meet the group in an informal and fun setting.

The event was attended by all those who regularly attend CiCC meetings with the addition of a new member. This was a great opportunity for the Participation Officer and Commissioning Assistant to meet the CiCC members face to face for the first time, a great time was had by all and was a huge success with building the bond and relationships within the group.

- 4.6 The Participation Officer attended the Virtual School Cookery School session facilitated by the YMCA. This gave the Participation Officer the opportunity to promote and encourage young people to join the CiCC. The Participation Officer found this extremely valuable as it was a chance to meet with CYP and engage with them on a personal level giving them a point of contact should they consider joining the CiCC moving forward.
- 4.7 In September's meeting the Participation Officer discussed the possibility of face-to-face meetings from October. The Alice Wheeldon Room within the Council House is currently booked for these, the Participation Officer sought the views of the CiCC members regarding this, all agreed they would be happy to attend face-to-face in the Council House should the relevant approvals be made.
- 4.8 Supervising Social Worker within the Fostering Team came to the September meeting to feedback on the progression of the Foster Carer Charter after consulting with them previously. They gave a brief explanation about the document including the expectations for a Foster Carer and what support they can expect. The information from the previous consultation was discussed with Council members suggesting some word changes in the document to help it sound more friendly. Supervising Social Worker will feedback in a 'You said we did' style at a later meeting.
- 4.9 The CiCC members were invited to take part in a Public Consultation on the proposal to cease operating the leisure provision at Queen's Leisure Centre when Moorways Sports Village opens. This is in collaboration with members of Voices in Action and is to take place on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Queen's Leisure Centre.
- 4.10 The Participation Officer led a discussion around the Corporate Parenting Committee by giving an insight to what it was about. Members were offered the opportunity to attend meetings with the Participation Officer. Some members felt happy to attend alongside the Participation Officer but asked if they could confirm their attendance nearer the time as they felt they were unable to commit in advance. The Participation Officer passed on thanks from Councillor Williams for the participation of the CiCC Members in relation to Ofsted and meeting with Inspectors, this was well received.

- 4.11 The Participation Officer collaborated with the Senior Personal Adviser within the Leaving Care Service and the Head of Direct Services & Children's Residential Care to support the SEND Written Statement of Action in relation to Care Leavers and Residential homes. This is to map/review our current engagement activity with CYP and their families to better understand what information the Local Area already has access to. This will look at how we use this information, identify areas for development and ensure engagement opportunities are fully optimised to deliver effective engagement

## 5.1 Care Leavers Update

A meeting was held between the Participation Officer and Personal Adviser within the Leaving Care Service to discuss how to proceed with the Care Leavers Forum. The Personal Adviser within the Leaving Care Service will take the lead on this with the support of the Participation Officer and Commissioning Support Officer. A series of questions were compiled to capture how Care Leavers would like to be consulted with moving forward. The Participation Officer created a poll to which will go live through Care Leavers week in October. Results will be collated by the Commissioning Support Officer and passed to the Personal Adviser who, using the findings, will take lead on the Care Leavers forum and engagement activities.

## 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:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)	Gurmail Nizzer, Director, Integrated Commissioning Alice Sanghera, Acting Head of Integrated Commissioning, Children & Young People	22.10.2021

<b>Background papers:</b>	n/a
<b>List of appendices:</b>	n/a