

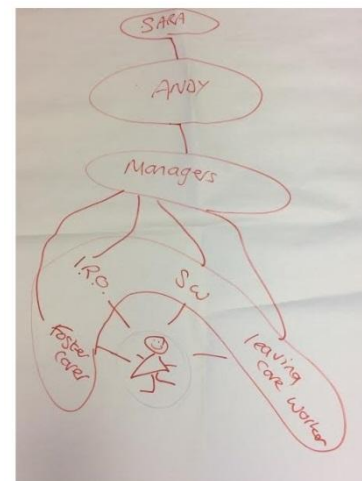
## **Children In Care Council Update - Corporate Parenting Committee meeting** **29<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

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

### **1. CICC General Meetings**

At each meeting, the members select countries signed up to the UN Convention on the rights of the Child – we have a flag (which a member can win) sample food and learn fun facts about the chosen country. A member is nominated to Chair – we endeavour to rotate the role.

In October, 5 young people attended and the CICC welcomed Andy Smith and Counsellor Bolton – improving links with the Corporate Parenting Committee. They explained how they hope to see more young people at the next CPC meeting and Counsellor Bolton asked if the CICC would kindly design a Christmas card for her use. They left the meeting to enable the young people to continue with agenda items, this centred on explaining the purpose and function of their Corporate Parent using diagrams. This led to discussions about the Corporate Parenting Strategy – young person's version which the CICC had been asked to comment upon.



In November, (6 young people present) the CICC welcomed Chris Hill, Margot Summerbridge and a social worker student from Derby university. Ground rules were agreed and one young person was nominated as Chair. The guests explained their roles and accepted questions from the CICC members – once again, the mini bus dilemma featured and the current situation was explained by Chris Hill. The guests supported the young people to consider line by line the modified CP Strategy – which was then accepted by the CICC.

### **2. CICC Consultations**

The CICC have been consulted in two significant areas, The Corporate Parent Strategy – young person's version, and the overall effectiveness of the Pledge as part of the consultation carousel. Many of the members of the CICC attended the Quad and were proud to share the work they have done on re-wording the Pledge. They also talked positively about the CICC with other young people present. The consultation findings overall were positive, though we felt that young people struggle to understand the concept of “corporate parent” - we have tried to address this in the CP strategy.

### **3. The Pledge**

Following “The Pledge Revisited” in July, the CICC consider at least one point from the Pledge at each meeting. In October they reflected on Pledge 2 *“We will provide safe place for you to live. We want you to know you are safe protected and valued and can trust those caring for you.”*

I’m pleased to report that all present agreed that this is being implemented. One young person said his old home was “disgusting”, but that his new one is a lot better he especially likes the living room because they have a huge TV in there. Another said he feels valued by the people caring for him.

In November they considered Pledge 3 *“We will encourage & support you to participate in wider opportunities to build our confidence so you are able to make safe decisions for yourself”* we asked all young people present how they spend their free time, they provided a huge variety of activities including:

Youth Club, independent visitors, dance class, riding bikes, piano lessons, guitar lessons, singing lessons; horse riding. Cinema and they all enjoy attending CICC!

### **4. Any other business Take Over Day**

The CICC are excited to be involved with Take Over day. The purpose is to inspire our young people to believe in themselves and embrace positive opportunities. Most of the CICC members who expressed an interest have been successful in securing a placement. At the time of writing, two young people await a confirmed opportunity, one with security and another with Derby County, though it is hoped that a stadium tour can be arranged incorporating different roles within the management of football. Opportunities arranged include:

- The Fire service
- A Day at Court
- A Day at Parliament
- A Week work placement at a Junior School
- Assisting in the kitchens at a children’s home
- A Musical day placement at Derby Theatre
- A day shadowing Andy Smith

**Outstanding Matters:**

**Leisure Cards:** The CICC are aware that leisure cards are available for foster carers. The CICC would like to see this extended and Leisure cards be available for all young people in care.

**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](mailto:gill.black@volunteeringmatters.org.uk) and I will be pleased to advise the members.