



## **Corporate Parenting Committee July 2023**

# **ITEM XX**

Report sponsor: Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help and Social Care  
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 areas of work include:

- I. Children in Care Council Meetings
- II. Virtual School Cookery
- III. Small Children's Homes Interiors
- IV. School Participation
- V. Residential Participation
- VI. Participation Evidence
- VII. Young Recruiters

- 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 Our Voice, Our Success (OvOs) Meetings

There have been two meetings of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) since the last report, May 2023 - topics discussed as follows:

- **May Meeting** – This meeting was held at Derby Arena including consultation time and food. This session was a design session for the newsletter in which we had attendance from the Communications and Marketing Manager and Creative Designer to support and gather information to form part of planning for the newsletter.

The Participation Officer showed previous examples of newsletters and asked for their thoughts along with what they would like to see in the new upcoming newsletter and how it should be distributed with young people saying the following:

- Social Workers and carers should have access to the newsletter to share with young people.
- WhatsApp – people can use that and can post the newsletter in the group. You can change the settings so no one can chat, and it could reach a lot of people from teenagers to older adults.
- People use email a lot more.
- Put the activity in the middle of the newsletter to break up the writing.

It was agreed a newsletter would be useful for members to inform all about what they had been doing and things they wanted to talk about along with it being a promotional tool to recruit more members and young people to see a different side to the Our Voice, Our Success group other than a meeting format.

Within this meeting a member expressed he thought it would be useful to have occasional virtual meetings in addition to face to face as he feels some young people would prefer this, the Participation Officer will plan a future Our Voice, Our Success meeting to be virtual on MS Teams to support this.

### 4.2 Virtual School Cookery

The Participation Officer and Commissioning Assistant attended a Virtual School cookery event which was held at Claude's Café in the Easter Half Term. We supported Foster Carers and young people make millionaire shortbread carrot or banana cake and hot cross buns which were all very well received.

Within this event we were given time to promote and speak about the OVOS group, what we get involved in and how to get involved along. We will continue to attend any events to include CiC to ensure wider promotion of our group.

### 4.3 **Small Children's Home interiors**

The Participation Officer was contacted by The Commissioning Manager – Joint Commissioning and Health Integration offering opportunity for 2 young people to be part of the development of the Small Children's Homes project in helping to select the soft furnishings for the home in development in Allestree. 2 members of Our Voice, Our Success along with Foster Carers went to Coventry to meet with the Provider before then travelling to Bicester to assist in the choosing the interiors for the home. Their input was taken on board and valued with them having the freedom to use their creative ideas to choose appropriate interiors and furnishings to make a comfortable home environment for the Young Person moving into the home. This also give the opportunity for them to build on their independence skills and knowledge along with giving them the understanding and tools to support them into adulthood furnishing a home for themselves.

Feedback from the young people and Foster Carers involved in this was very positive and all thoroughly enjoyed the day. Please see feedback from one of the young people who attended along with photographs in Appendix 1 of this report.

The Participation Officer endeavours to ensure there are more opportunities of this nature and ensure there is a wide variety of participation opportunities which support our young people to develop their skills and knowledge alongside them having the opportunity to give their views and shape services. The importance of offering a variety of participation is much needed to ensure we are able to increase our reach to CiC and offer something for all interests.

### 4.4 **School Participation**

The Participation Officer has developed a Cluster event/ambassador model in which schools will come together with representation from each to form a group meeting, this gives wider opportunity and formats for young people to engage with participation work. There was an initial planning group with included the Designation Teacher for CiC from Woodlands School and St Martins school who would champion and support facilitation of this group giving their thoughts and ideas around the barriers and how to overcome these to ensure smooth running of these sessions. The group will have the opportunity to look at topics covered in our meetings alongside school specific topics.

The Participation Officer invited Derby City Secondary Schools to attend a launch/information event at The Museum of Making, Derby on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July. In which there was to be iformation about what our group have been involved and indeed what sort of thing to expect to be involved in should they attend our future events, informal networking with other schools and CiC along with refreshments and the opportunity for those attending to make the most of their time and visit the museum following the meeting. Topics were to be showcased in the style of 'You Said, We Did' with tables of different topics we have explored to showcase the work we have done, these included:

- Lifestory Work
- Pocket Money and Savings
- Regional CiCC Residential Weekend

- NHS Health Assessment Animation
- Bicester Interiors Trip – Small Children’s Homes

Unfortunately, this event had to be cancelled the week prior due to lack of numbers it was not viable to run. However, a number of schools said they would be interested in coming to these group meetings moving forward with the first School Participation meeting due to be held at Woodlands School on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Again, all secondary age CiC will be invited to attend with their school.

#### 4.5 Residential Participation

The Participation Officer visited the Derby City Residential Homes in April and June.

- **April Visit** – We focussed on the Residential Children’s Guide as this is under review. Feedback that was given on this from young people visited were:
  - Needs more colour
  - Pop outs with information to read when you want to
  - Too much information to see at once
  - Pop art
  - Information was useful

The Residential Manager at Limestone suggested a file similar to the NHS Health Passport as this is appealing to the eye and has the ability to use inserts of appropriate information allowing to be tailored to individual needs. This information was fed back to the Principal Service Manager for Early Help and Social Care to speak with Residential Managers. The Participation Officer will take any further developments to future visits to consult with young people.

- **June Visit** – This focus of this session was the newsletter following on from the Our Voice, Our Success meeting in May. The Participation Officer showed previous examples of newsletters and asked for thoughts of this along with what they would like to see in the new upcoming newsletter and how it should be distributed, the following information was captured and fed into the wider consultation:
  - Would prefer a paper version
  - Contains useful information so would read it
  - Graffiti is cool
  - Information about services such as advocacy and virtual school is good to include

It is important to note that there was minimal young people seen on these visits and as stated in previous reports there remain challenges to achieving consistent engagement.. 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 Participation Evidence**

The Participation Officer for CiC has worked alongside the CYP Participation Officer over the 22/23 period. The Participation Officer CiC oversaw the services which support Children in Care and Care Leavers and supported in the gathering of pieces of evidence for staff members. The purpose of this piece of work is to evidence that as a LA we listen to the voice of Children and Young People and capture the involvement of CYP, and parent/carers in the LA's decision-making processes.

Please see Appendix 2 for the full report including key areas highlighted for support along with services areas which completed this piece of work.

#### **4.7 Young Recruiters**

Young People should have the opportunity to shape services that affect them at all levels and within all areas, not excluding the staff the LA employ. It is really 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.

The Participation Officer for CiC has put together a group called 'Young Recruiters' this 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. A training session for young people will be planned for the Summer Holidays with the view of interviews to be attended by young people from September. All services who employ staff that support our CiC are encouraged to involve this group when carrying out interviews where possible.

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

The Participation Officer was contacted by the Designated Nurse for CiC with request for a YP to be part of the interview process for a new post within the NHS for a Band 4 Trauma Navigator position this role will predominantly support our UASC / former UASC with their health needs and help community integration. The Participation Officer met with the Personal Adviser/Staying Close Lead within the Leaving Care Team to offer this opportunity for a Care Leaver to be a part of which would give them additional knowledge and experience to add to their CV along with gaining valuable skills. The interviews took place on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Derby Royal Hospital with 2 Care Leavers being a part of this. Feedback from the Designated Nurse for CiC was extremely positive with them being said 'to have engaged well with the professionals and interviewees, acting in a professional manner at all times and offering excellent feedback in the decision-making process, we valued their contributions and thoughts.'

**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:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of sign-off</b>
<b>Legal Finance Service Director(s)</b>	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care	03/07/2023
<b>Report sponsor Other(s)</b>	Lorraine Smith, Commissioning Manager	
<b>Background papers: List of appendices:</b>	n/a Appendix 1 – Small Children's Homes Interiors Trip Appendix 2 – Participation Evidence Report 22/23	

## Appendix 1



Small Children's  
Home Bisceter Trip.doc



## Appendix 2



2023 -22 FINAL CYP  
Participation Evidence