



**Corporate Parenting Committee
20 February 2024**

ITEM 05

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

Our Voice, Our Success (Children in Care Council)

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. Christmas Card Competition
- III. Budget Consultation
- IV. School Cluster Groups Update
- V. Residential Participation
- VI. Room for Change Poll

- 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 three scheduled get together / meetings of the Our Voice, Our Success Group since the last report, October 2023 - topics discussed as follows:

- **November Meeting** – This was a get together at Quad Derby to look at the results of The Pledge Poll and also to receive information from the Strategic Director for People’s Services.
The Participation Officer presented a PowerPoint showing the findings of the The Pledge Poll.
The responses for this pledge can be viewed in Appendix 1 of this report, trends/comments throughout were:
 - Wasn’t aware of / hadn’t seen it before
 - 50% felt that promises were not kept (this can be subjective when put into context)
 - All points were important and should remain in the reviewed document

The results were further discussed at the meeting along with a discussion around the wording of the document, it was felt that it was worded in an adult/professional way which was not child friendly and some of the points were not understood by some young people. The overall look and design also were highlighted as a concern as it was felt to be a ‘Council’ looking document which young people feel should not be the case as this is their document.

The Participation Officer will speak with relevant Services to amend the wording on the promises made and will focus the January meeting around design to allow young people to express their preferences to enable the Participation Officer to work with the Communications and Marketing Team to update.

The Strategic Director for People’s Services attending the meeting to discuss the National DCS Group, it was put to those in attendance that there would be a national conference in July 2024 which young people who are part of our group are invited to attend to convey a message of choice to the national audience. It was felt appropriate to discuss our ‘Breaking the Stigma’ project which we are focussing on in 2024. The Participation Officer will meet with the Strategic Director for People’s Services early in 2024 to discuss this further and map out logistics.

- **December Christmas Get Together** - This was a Christmas get together as a thank you to young people for committing their time and being a part of our group and to promote relationship building within the group. We had this event at Megazone Derby where we had 2 games of laser tag and food together.
As seen below, a great time was had by all in attendance.



4.2 Christmas Card Competition

The Participation Officer facilitated the Annual CiC Christmas Card competition with support from the Creative Design Officer within the Communications and Marketing Team. The winning artwork featured on the card which was sent from the Strategic Director of People's Services and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Learning and Skills.

The competition was a huge success with a high level of engagement, and we received a number of fantastic designs. Please see the winning artwork below.



4.3 Budget Consultation

Topic areas explored with regard to the Budget Consultation were:

- SEND Services: removal of Early Help within Integrated Disabled Childrens Service
- Home to School Transport: Develop and support children and young people to access transport
- Adult Social Care: Scale back packages for those living in the community
- Libraries and Leisure Services: Look at how libraries are meeting needs of community and how leisure services are managed

Young People were asked which areas of the proposals they agreed or disagreed with and their thoughts and suggestions around this. Please see Appendix 2 for feedback captured.

4.4 School Cluster Groups

The first School Participation meeting was held at Woodlands School on October 17th. 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. This 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.

There were 4 schools in attendance Woodlands, Kingsmead, Littleover and City of Derby Academy – all reported back a positive experience an endeavour to attend the next session in the new year.

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 and will continue to champion and support this model.

Please see minutes from this session in Appendix 3.

4.5 Residential Participation

The Participation Officer continues to liaise with colleagues to develop appropriate methods of consultation with a flexible approach. Over the last quarter the Participation Officer has adopted a less formal approach to visiting the homes to ensure young people feel comfortable. This appears to be positives and is enabling the Participation Officer to start to build positive relationships with the young people.

Young people in Residential Homes continue to be consulted on topics we look at in other meetings and have been involved in the review of The Pledge and Budget Consultation.

4.6 Room for Change Poll

Following on from the previous report by the Participation Officer highlighting the age range of the group it was requested by Committee Members that groups of differing age ranges are explored.

The Participation Officer has spoken with young people within the meetings held and with young people individually. The feeling of these young people whose ages range from 11-16, are that they would not like to split the group into 2 age categories as they felt the age of others attending was not a barrier and enjoyed hearing views of those in different age brackets. However, to ensure a broad range of views are collected the Participation Officer has launched a poll to all Children in Care 10+, findings from which will be reported on in the Quarter 4 report.

5.1 Care Leavers Update

The Participation Officer works alongside the Personal Adviser/Staying Close Lead within the Leaving Care Team to support participation with Care Leavers as necessary.

The Participation Officer is the support role with regard to Participation Evidence and continues to liaise with staff where needed to support this piece of 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

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None noted.

report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s)	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care / Fiona Colton	05/02/2024
Report sponsor Other(s)	Lorraine Smith, Commissioning Manager	19/01/2024

Background papers:	n/a
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – The Pledge Poll Findings Appendix 2 – Budget Consultation Feedback Appendix 3 – Schools Event Minutes

Appendix 1



The Pledge Poll
Findings.pdf

Appendix 2



Budget Consultation
2024.docx

Appendix 3



School Nurse
Training Minutes Schc