



**Corporate Parenting Committee
25 October 2022**

ITEM 05

Report sponsor: Gurmail Nizzer, Director,
Integrated Commissioning (CYP)
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 Meeting
- II. Children in Care Council Consultation
- III. BBC Radio Derby CiCC Reporter
- IV. School Participation
- V. GP Training
- VI. Regional Residential CiCC Meeting
- VII. Participation Evidence
- VIII. Age Range

- 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 with reference to the consideration of the age range we consult with, and methodology used, further information within 4.7 of this report.

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 Children in Care Council (CiCC) Meeting

There has been one meeting of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) since the last report, September 2022 - topics discussed as follows:

- **September Meeting** – A ‘You Said, We Did’ event which was held in the Council House. This was an event to feedback to members of the Children in Care Council on the last year of meetings and what impact their views have had on services.
A PowerPoint Presentation created by the Participation Officer was shown (see Appendix 1) including information from each topic covered over the previous year. Children in Care Council members were particularly excited to see the animations of which they had been consulted with for the NHS Health Assessments.
This was the first face to face CiCC meeting in the Council House, the venue being requested at a previous get together, enjoying food together and building on the relationships within the group.

4.2 Children in Care Council Consultation

The Participation Officer in collaboration with The Consultation Officer produced a consultation which went out to Children in Care in March of this year with a closing date of April 29th, the consultation was then reopened until July 29th due to lack of interest. This consultation was to ascertain the way in which CiC would like to be consulted with and the methods they find suitable.

Key findings from this consultation were:

- 27% were unaware of the CiCC and what we do
- 45.5% did not want to be involved in the CiCC
- 36.4% would like to meet bi-monthly / yearly respectively
- The top 3 methods of consulting were Activity/Away Days, Face to Face Get Togethers and Email or Text Surveys
- The top 4 topics highlighted of preference for discussion were: Health and Wellbeing, Education and Employment, Developing Independence and Environmental Issues

Information captured through this consultation has assisted the Participation in the planning of the year to come with the CiCC including the meetings now being held Face to Face every other month with 2 activities planned (Christmas Activity and Summer Activity) and topics plotted around those highlighted as prevalent by our CiC within the City.

It is important to add that this consultation though reopened, still only received minimal engagement therefore cannot give a whole collective view of all CiC and further consultation will need to continue through myself during direct discussion with individuals and school groups.

Please see the full top-line report in Appendix 2

4.3 BBC Radio Derby CiCC Interview

Members of the Children in Care Council were invited to an exciting opportunity to meet with a reporter for BBC Radio Derby to give their views on how their voices are heard and how platforms such as the Children In Care Council are positive for Children in Care and the impact this has on them. The Participation Officer arrange and co-facilitated with The External Communications lead, a meeting between the reporter and CiCC members which went ahead on August 9th with 2 members happy to take part in this. Members spoke about their experiences within the CiCC and as a CiC in Derby positively along with the skills and confidence they have from attending our meetings.

In addition to this interview one of the members were asked to participate in a separate interview regarding her upcoming A-Level results and her plans for university which aired later in the month and was available on BBC Sounds for a number of weeks. I am pleased to say she achieved an A in photography, B in Film and Merit in Media and has been accepted into her chosen University.

4.4 School Participation

The Participation Officer facilitated has agreed cohorts with CiC at West Park and Woodlands with the first cohorts scheduled for mid-October, these will be termly and will promote the CiCC informing young people of upcoming meetings and activities. Consultations undertaken at meetings will be completed within these sessions and fed into the larger consultation. These sessions will give opportunity for the Participation Officer to meet with CYP and engage with them on a personal level giving them a point of contact and familiarity should they consider joining the Children in Care Council moving forward.

The Participation Officer continues to liaise with additional Secondary Schools within Derby City to develop and appropriate method of consultation with CiC in those schools and overcome barriers to this.

4.5 **GP Training**

The Participation Officer presented at Child Health Course training day for GPs in Derby at Derby Royal Hospital. This session focussed on the needs of CiC and to ensure professionals have insight into the lived experience of being a child in the care of the Authority, information was used from a previous session with CiCC Members to ascertain their wants and needs from professionals. This also gave opportunity for the Participation Officer to ensure understanding of participation and highlight the importance of this and how Derby City facilitate this including the CiCC.

4.6 **Regional Residential CiCC Meeting**

An exciting opportunity through the East Midlands Regional Participation Leads Group has arisen for a Regional Residential for our CiC. This will take place at Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire on October 15th & 16th with Derby City Council currently having representation from 2 children in Foster Care within the city.

This residential is focussed on the language used within services and will include a number of workshops around this. There will also be fun activities and relationship building opportunities followed by findings being presented to Senior Leaders from LAs across the region.

The Participation Officer has worked on the planning of the residential throughout the year and has been the link member of staff to facilitate the participation of Derby City Council. Meeting with regional LAs to ensure the safe planning of the event and work with colleagues within Derby City to put together a robust plan and offer to enable our young people to take part in this opportunity.

Please see Appendix 3 for the provisional programme timetable of the weekend.

4.7 **Participation Evidence**

The Participation Evidence for the Authority for 22/23 is open with Participation Champions encouraged to complete for workers throughout the collection period. The deadline for submission is March 31st 2023.

The Participation Officer for CiC alongside The Participation Officer for CYP will support and advise colleagues as necessary to ensure this task is completed.

The Participation Officer for CiC has met with several Champions across the services for CiC to discuss and support the processing of this information including IROs, Children in Care Teams, The Shine and Limestone House.

4.8 Age Range for Consultation

The Children in Care Council for Derby City currently consults with an age range of 10-24 to include Care Leavers, however, following research of other LAs nationally we have found that many consult with all CiC including under 10s. The Participation Officer would like guidance and direction regarding our offer for consultation to ensure we as an Authority give consideration to views of our CiC and do not exclude age groups. It is pertinent to highlight the are barriers to consider with regard to capacity, many of the LA's mentioned appear to have full time workers for Participation and/or cover different age ranges within each role, within Derby City Council I am the only Participation Officer for Children in Care currently holding an 18.5 hour contract for which I am up to capacity consulting with those mainly of secondary age through meetings, school groups and residential home visits included alongside the back office tasks required.

5.1 Care Leavers Update

The Participation Officer met a member of the Children in Care Council/Care Leaver following a request to discuss the Leaving Care offer within Derby City. The Participation Officer followed this up with meeting with the Leaving Care Team Manager to discuss exploring/reviewing the offer. This will be an ongoing piece of work, requiring consultation should there be a review.

Alongside this, The Leaving Care Manager invited The Participation Officer to attend the next Care Leavers get together to introduce herself to those in attendance and start to form relationships to allow further engagement in participation work. Care leavers will continue to be consulted with throughout the duration of the Children's Accommodation Strategy journey to ensure their lived experiences form part of the planning and development to improve outcomes and their voice is at the heart of all decision making.

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 Climate implications

None.

11.1 Other significant implications

None noted

report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Gurmail Nizzer, Director, Integrated Commissioning	04/10/2022
Other(s)	Lorraine Smith, Commissioning Manager	03/10/2022
Background papers:	n/a	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – ‘You Said, We Did’ Presentation Appendix 2 – CiCC Consultation Topline Report Appendix 3 – Regional Residential Programme Timetable	

Appendix 1



22.02.01 You Said
We Did 2022.ppt



Health Assessment
Animation - Younger.i

Appendix 2



Children in care final
topline report.pdf

Appendix 3

PROGRAMME TIMETABLE			
SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER	ACTIVITY	KEY MESSAGE	LOCATION
Morning	Travel to Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire	<i>Don't forget your toothbrush!</i>	Across the East Midlands
From 10am	Registration and settling in. Snacks and refreshments on arrival.	<i>Find your room, dump your bags and explore</i>	Beaumanor site and cabins
12pm	Introduction session lunch in Beaumanor Hall. Eat your packed lunch while we get to know each other and go over the programme for the weekend. We'll agree the code of conduct for the residential and make some plans for the evening social.	<i>Pleased to meet you</i>	Beaumanor Hall main hall
12.45pm	Ice-breaker and warm-up activity	<i>Building our confidence</i>	Sports Hall
1.30pm	Workshop - round one	<i>Breakout into small groups and have your say</i>	Workshop rooms in various locations
2.15pm	Break		
2.30pm	Workshop - round two	<i>Breakout into small groups and have your say</i>	Workshop rooms in various locations
3.15pm	Break - snack and refreshments		Beaumanor Hall main hall
3.45pm	Team building activity - High Ropes and/or Orienteering	<i>Reach new heights and find your way around</i>	Outdoors
5pm	Free time	<i>Have a breather, unpack your bags and explore</i>	Around the Beaumanor site and in cabins
6pm	Team building activity - problem solving	<i>Don't smash the eggs...</i>	Outside the hall if nice weather, doors in the sports hall if not

7pm	Dinner - informal and fun		Beaumanor main hall building
8pm	Social evening - some planned activities and some for young people to decide!	<i>Fun activities with something for everyone</i>	Beaumanor main hall building
11pm	Back to cabins for the night		Cabins
12pm	Lights out	<i>Get some kip - it's a busy day tomorrow!</i>	Cabins
SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER	ACTIVITY	KEY MESSAGE	LOCATION
From 7.30am	Cooked breakfast in Beaumanor Hall	<i>Red sauce, brown sauce or no sauce at all?</i>	Beaumanor main hall building
9am	Morning warm-up activity - the Night Line	<i>Building our confidence</i>	Outside
10am	Creative workshops - round one	<i>Your ideas to improve the language of care</i>	Workshop rooms in various locations
10.45am	Break - snack and refreshments		Beaumanor main hall building
11pm	Creative workshops - round two	<i>Your ideas to improve the language of care</i>	Workshop rooms in various locations
11.45pm	Preparation for afternoon presentations	<i>Rehearsal time</i>	Workshop rooms in various locations
12.30pm	Free time before lunch. Pack up your bags and tidy cabins	<i>Don't forget your toothbrush (again)</i>	Beaumanor main hall building
1pm - 1.30pm	Buffet lunch with guest visitors		Beaumanor main hall building
1.30pm	Presentations to visiting Councillors and Directors and fellow young people and staff	<i>Your chance to shine</i>	Beaumanor main hall building

3pm	Wrap-up, thank yous and good-byes		Beaumanor main hall building
4pm	Depart Beaumanor Hall for journeys home	<i>Farewell, until the next time!</i>	