

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
20 JULY 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Nicola Curley, Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lynne Ayres; Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Shalina Chandoo, QA Lead	Tel. 01733 452540

CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL PARTICIPATION REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Ricky Cooper, Assistant Director Children's Services</i>	Deadline date: <i>N/A</i>
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Notes the content of the report.</i> 2. <i>Raise any queries they have with the lead officers.</i> 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to each formal and informal Corporate Parenting Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update from the Children in Care Council and participation services.

2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference:

2.4.4.1 To act as advocates for looked after children and care leavers.

2.4.4.6 To monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care.

(a) Raise the profile of the needs of looked after children and care leavers through a range of actions including through the organising of celebratory events for the recognition of achievement.

(b) Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers.

(c) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Committee to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.

(d) Hold meetings with children and young people in care, frontline staff and foster carers to inform the committee of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.

2.3 This report links to the Children in Care Promise under:

Respecting You: We will do everything we can to make you feel cared about, valued and respected as an individual.

Making Decisions Together: We will involve you in decision making so your views are listened to, and will explain when we make a decision you may not like or agree with.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Participation Team continues to promote opportunities for children and young people through regular newsletters, as well as creating event-specific publications to encourage engagement. Recent newsletters have advertised training and mentorship opportunities, encouraged young people to sign up to attend upcoming engagement events, and updated young people on the work of the Young Inspectors group.
- 4.2 The Children in Care Council (CiCC) has been discussing ideas on the annual CiC awards, which will take place in early August. The group has opted for a similar fun day style event to last year, and have decided what activities, entertainment and refreshments they want. Invitations have been sent to Children in Care and carers, and members of the Corporate Parenting Committee, and nomination forms have been shared with professionals.
- 4.3 The CiCC has also given their suggestions on the summer engagement events. Activities planned include a visit to a farm, a spy mission challenge, an outdoor adventure day with raft building, canoeing, crate stacking and archery and ice skating. A creative virtual session has also been planned for children and young people who prefer to join online.
- 4.4 The CiCC worked with their CCC counterparts to decide the themes of the annual art exhibition. In addition to the virtual art exhibition, the group has decided to ask children and young people to bring their art entries to the annual awards day, so the artwork can be seen by all attendees at the event.
- 4.5 The CiCC continue to meet in person on a monthly basis to work on their Mental Health project and consultation requests, meet professionals and give feedback on services. Recent consultations with children and young people in care have included reviewing and adding to screening questions used for potential foster carers.
- 4.6 Members of the CiCC attended the informal Corporate Parenting Committee in June, and enjoyed the opportunity to engage with Corporate Parents, ask their questions and share their feedback. The CiCC will be discussing and sharing ideas of how they can take more ownership of the meeting.
- 4.7 The updated Promise to Children in Care was launched by the Participation Team and CiCC, with copies being shared with frontline practitioners, managers, carers and the Corporate Parenting Committee. The CiCC would like to know how staff and corporate parents will ensure these promises are being met, and plan to seek feedback from frontline practitioners via the Young Inspectors group, and also from corporate parents through discussion at the Informal Corporate Parenting Committee meeting.

- 4.8 The Children in Charge Youth Club continues to meet fortnightly during term time and have recently recruited some new members. The venue for the Youth Club has a large outdoor space, and children and young people make the most of it by playing games and sports in the space, as well as using the indoor space for art and craft activities.
- 4.9 The Youth Club attendees were recently consulted on the Fostering Service's new joint logo and gave their feedback on the design and colours used, with some amendments being made in line with their comments.
- 4.10 The CiCC, Young Recruiters and Young Trainers completed their ideal worker video project, working with their CCC counterparts to launch a video entitled '[Our Ideal Workers](#)', which will supplement existing recruitment, training and development materials for staff.
- 4.11 Young Recruiters continue to be actively involved in recruitment and were involved in interviews of newly qualified social workers for the ASYE (Assessed and Supported Year in Employment) in June and have been asked to help conduct Open University social work course interviews in July.
- 4.12 The Young Inspectors published their report following their Supervised Contact Centre inspections across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. A response has been received from the Supervised Contact Service and the Young Inspectors will meet to discuss the feedback and agree dates to go back to the centres and review progress against their recommendations.
- 4.13 In May, Young Trainers delivered training to prospective Foster Carers within the Fostering Team's training programme. The young people were supported by the Participation Team to facilitate an activity looking at Foster Carer skills and attributes and went through scenarios with the group on how to help young people settle into new placements. The Young Trainers were able to show their '[Ideal Foster Carers](#)' video at the training and were happy with the impact it made. The Young Trainers will be facilitating as part of the next course in July.
- 4.14 Care Leaver Forum (CLF) members have been discussing their own care experiences and focusing on improving the support and preparation for young people leaving care, working with the Leaving Care Service to share their thoughts and expertise. Recent consultation requests for the group include a request from Health to review the new CiC Health Assessment Service Specification, and a meeting with the Designated Nurse to discuss this has been scheduled for July.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 This report was completed in consultation with members of the Children in Care Council.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 Improved engagement with Children in Care and Care Leavers.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 N/A

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no changes required.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 *There are no financial implications.*

Legal Implications

9.2 *There are no legal implications, as the report is for information only.*

Equalities Implications

9.3 Participation is an essential service for Children in Care and Care Leavers and this report demonstrates the level of participation in various events and activities.

Carbon Impact Assessment

9.4 Children in Care Council meetings are held face to face on a monthly basis. As the venue for Children in Care Council meetings is centrally located, young people have been able to use public transport to travel to meetings.

Other Implications

Participation is an essential service for Children in Care and Care Leavers, offering activities and opportunities to provide feedback on Children's Services.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

11.1 N/A