

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 5</b>
<b>22 NOVEMBER 2023</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	John Gregg, Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Ray Bisby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Shalina Chandoo, QA Lead	Tel. 01733 452540

## **CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL PARTICIPATION REPORT**

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

### **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 the Participation Service.

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** [If this is not a Major Policy item, answer **NO** and delete the second line of boxes.]

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
Date for relevant Council meeting		Date for submission to Government Dept. (Please specify which Government Dept.)	

**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The Participation Team continues to promote opportunities for children and young people under the care of Peterborough City Council (PCC) through regular newsletters, as well as creating event-specific publications to encourage engagement. Recent newsletters have updated young people on the work of the Children in Care Council (CiCC), Peterborough Care Leaders (PCL), 'Children in Charge' Youth Club and other participation groups including the Young Inspectors, Young Recruiters and Young Trainers and activities during the October half term holiday. Newsletters have also promoted relevant opportunities with external organisations such as the national charities Article 39 and Become.

4.2 The Participation Team promotes the voice of children and young people in care. All feedback, including suggestions and ideas from children and young people, is communicated to services on a regular basis, and responses on action taken is shared with the CiCC and PCL for final review.

4.3 A final art workshop was held in the October half term at the request of children and young people, in the run up to the CiCC Art Exhibition at Peterborough Museum on Friday 27 October 2023. More than 100 children, carers, staff and members of the public attended the event to view the artwork, share their feedback and add to the communal artwork - a button tree. Some of the artwork was also displayed at Sand Martin House in early November for staff to enjoy, before being donated to the family Contact Centre in Welland.

4.4 Children and young people in Participation groups were recently recognised for their work at Coram Voice's national Amplify event in London. The Children in Care Council and Peterborough Care Leaders won Coram Voice's national Digital Award for their 'Every Word Matters' project and [animated video](#). The Young Inspectors group also won the Community Award for their inspections of the care provided for children with severe disabilities at Cherry Lodge, having also won a national Coram Voice award last year for their inspections of supervised contact centres.

Four young people from Children in Care Council, Peterborough Care Leaders and Young Inspectors groups attended the Coram Voice Amplify event in London with the Participation Team on 25 October 2023, to hear the results and collect their awards in person.

4.5 To accompany the 'Every Word Matters' original video, produced by the PCL and CiCC in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council CiCC, children and young people are finalising a glossary of words for professionals. This will be used as a key training resource for professionals, as well as informing language used when meeting children and young people and in documents raising from policies to job descriptions. The groups are also in the process

of finalising videos in a podcast style on Personal Education Plans and the difference between Fostering and Adoption.

- 4.6 The CiCC continues to be consulted by services and co-production, and recently worked with the service to refine the Child Protection consultation booklets and shared their views on the 'All About Me' child profiles, which they continue to be involved in. They will be reviewing the existing profiles for younger children, and plan to work with the service to create a new version for an older cohort.
- 4.7 The 'Children in Charge' Youth Club has recently welcomed new members to the group and decided to create artwork to be displayed at the CiCC October art exhibition. The group has completed their project of decorating a feedback post-box for the Welland family Contact Centre and this has been sent to Welland so that children and families can use it to share their suggestions and feedback.
- 4.8 The PCL has been involved in consultations on apprenticeship taster opportunities and fed back that they would like more Public Relations and Health and Social Care taster day opportunities. The PCL worked on a consultation with the Commissioning Team around supported accommodation providers to help design a new contract and framework and share experiences of support in these settings.
- 4.9 The PCL marked National Care Leavers' Week 2023 with a visit to Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), followed by lunch. The group had a comprehensive tour of the Peterborough site with presentations around financial support and social work courses to supplement their awareness of course modules and the teaching approach. The PCL found the tour useful and inspiring, and commented that they felt reassured and well-informed on accommodation and finances whilst at university.
- 4.10 To mark the end of National Care Leavers' Week, the Participation Team worked with the Chair of Peterborough Care Leaders (PCL) to produce a [new information video](#) with tips to all professionals who work with children. This video has added to the suite of training materials produced by Participation groups for social workers and other professionals.
- 4.11 At the request of the PCL, public speaking training was organised for Care Leavers in November. Young people who attended the training have been invited to practice their new skills by delivering speeches to Anglia Ruskin University social work students.
- 4.12 The Participation Team led a focus group with separated migrant children to capture feedback on social care experience when first entering the country. The group discussed information they felt was essential to know as a child or young person new to the country, such as how to use public transport, health and housing as well how lonely some of them had felt when they first arrived in the UK. Following the focus group, the Participation Team arranged a football training session with a Peterborough United coach for the young people during the October half term and National Care Leavers' week, to engage more young people and gather feedback.
- 4.13 The Young Inspectors have continued to interview professionals and corporate parents on the Promise to Children in Care. They plan to create a poster for professionals to remind them of the importance of keeping the promise, and a separate leaflet for children.
- 4.14 The Young Recruiters continue to be involved in the recruitment of staff and most recently formed a Young Person's panel to interview candidates for the roles of Service Director for Education and Service Director for Targeted Support and Safeguarding.

## **5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 5.1 This report provides an update on activities linked the Council's Corporate Priority:

*Prevention, Independence & Resilience*

- *Children*

3. *The Economy & Inclusive Growth*

- *Environment (including a summary of the outcome of a completed Carbon Impact Assessment, to be submitted in full to the Transport and Environment Team)*
- *Homes and Workplaces*
- *Jobs and Money*

Summary

The report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.

**6. CONSULTATION**

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

**7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

7.1 Improved engagement with Children in Care and Care Leavers and improved services.

**8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 *N/A*

**9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 There are no changes required.

**10. IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial Implications**

10.1 *There are no financial implications.*

**Legal Implications**

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

**Equalities Implications**

10.3 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.

**11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

11.1 *N/A*

**12. APPENDICES**

12.1 *N/A*