

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
26 FEBRUARY 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

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

YOUTH VOICE COORDINATOR REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Gary Jones, Service Director, Children's Services	Deadline date: N/A
<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 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?	NO	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), the 'Children in Charge' Youth Club and other participation groups including the Young Inspectors, Young Recruiters and Young Trainers and upcoming engagement activities. Newsletters have also promoted relevant opportunities with external organisations such as the national charity 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 Engagement activities have been organised for children in care in the February half term and provisional dates set and shared for Easter holidays activities. After consultation with children and carers on the annual awards, a date has been set for the event in the May half term in line with feedback.
- 4.4 The CiCC continues to be consulted by services and co-production. As well as their ongoing work with the service to refine the Child Protection consultation booklets, they also fed into a consultation about the role of corporate parenting champions alongside the PCL. The CiCC are also working with the Virtual School to look at language used by professionals when discussing Personal Education Plans (PEPs).
- 4.5 The 'Children in Charge' Youth Club has been looking at new activities and in addition to art workshops, children have recently expressed interest in music, drama and performing arts. Contact with the Music Hub, Key Theatre and other groups has been made to arrange workshops in line with the children's interests.
- 4.6 The PCL has continued to be consulted by services and the main priority the group has identified from their discussions is developing the Local Offer. A series of Local Offer focus groups and individual meetings were held with Care Leavers to collate feedback on the Local Offer. The PCL collated and prioritised ideas based on the feedback, which has been shared with the service.

- 4.7 A POD (Participation Online Discussion) session took place in December for children and young people who live outside of Peterborough, with another planned for the February half term. The session focused on language and how important it is for professionals to use the right language around children and young people. The feedback has been included in the 'Every Word Matters' glossary which will be published in the coming months.
- 4.8 The Separated Migrant Children (SMC) focus group continued to meet to discuss their experiences. The group gave a range of feedback to Children's Services covering loneliness, life skills, appointments with doctors, opening a bank account, evidence of legal status, housing, visits and bespoke support. This feedback has been shared with the service for action. After the success of the last engagement event to build SMC group membership, the Participation Team has arranged a further football session in the February half term, working in partnership with the Peterborough United Foundation.
- 4.9 The Young Inspectors have completed their interviews of professionals and corporate parents on the Promise to Children in Care. They are now in the process of creating a poster for professionals to remind them of the importance of keeping the promise, and a separate leaflet for children.
- 4.10 The Young Trainers continue to deliver training for prospective foster carers as part of the Foster Carer Training programme, and to student social workers. Children and young people have continued to develop induction and training resources for professionals, including their award winning ['Every Word Matters' video](#) and their latest [video about Personal Education Plans \(PEPs\)](#).
- 4.11 Young Recruiters have continued to be involved in recruitment of staff, most recently supported interviews for the Head of SEND. The Participation Team will be offering bespoke training for new and existing Young Recruiters in the next few months.
- 4.12 Children and Young People have been recognised for their efforts to create change through the Participation groups they are part of, by being successfully nominated for the 2024 Peterborough Civic awards. We're very pleased to report that the Children in Care Council, Young Inspectors and the Chair of the Peterborough Care Leaders will all receive Civic awards in the upcoming ceremony.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

Prevention, Independence & Resilience

- *Children*

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*