

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
17 JULY 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

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

CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL PARTICIPATION REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Sara Graves, 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**

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. <i>(Please specify which Government Dept.)</i>	

4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Participation Team promotes 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. 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 Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Peterborough Care Leaders (PCL) for final review.
- 4.3 Engagement activities were delivered by the Participation Team in the Easter school holidays and dates have been shared for the summer holiday activity programme for children in care. These activities are an opportunity for children and young people to meet with the team and learn about different participation opportunities, whilst having fun with peers.
- 4.4 The annual Children Awards were held in the May half term. A new ‘Make a Difference’ award was launched by the PCL and the Corporate Leadership Team and awarded to three young people who had used participation opportunities to share their experiences and feedback to create positive changes to services for children.
- 4.5 The CiCC continues to be consulted by services and co-production. In addition to their work co-producing new Children’s Profiles, they have reviewed each of the promises, reminding services to regularly reflect on these with colleagues and the children they work with, and provided feedback on the new Children’s Strategy.
- 4.6 The ‘Children in Charge’ Youth Club has enjoyed a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities, including art activities and team games. Recent discussions in the group have been around things children in care deal with that other children might not have to, such as not living with family and being treated differently at school.
- 4.7 The Peterborough Care Leaders have continued to be consulted by services and the main priority the group has identified from their discussions is developing the Local Offer. PCL representatives are actively involved in the local authority’s ‘House Project’, a project to support a child in care’s transition to independent living and the Fostering ‘Mockingbird’ project, a project to support children with stability in their care, build positive support networks and support stability from foster carers. The PCL are also exploring the specific impact and changes

around the 'Protected Characteristic' motion, where care experience is regarded as a protected characteristic in Peterborough.

- 4.8 Representatives from the CiCC and PCL attended the Informal Corporate Parenting Committee meeting in June, having provided feedback on the format and content of the meetings. They were pleased to see many of their suggestions had been implemented and look forward to more child-friendly reports and presentations in future meetings. The CiCC and PCL also requested all members of the committee to submit a profile that the young people can see before the next informal meeting.
- 4.9 The Separated Migrant Children (SMC) focus group continue to meet to discuss their experiences. The group has been discussing their experiences of social care support upon arrival in the UK and are working on developing a bespoke coming into care pack for separated migrant children.
- 4.10 The Young Inspectors undertook a re-inspection of Cherry Lodge in the Easter holidays, reviewing their previous recommendations, the majority of which had been actioned. Their re-inspection report included five new recommendations, and they are waiting for a response from the registered manager to these.
- 4.11 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 latest video '[Twiggy's Journey into Care](#)'.
- 4.12 Young Recruiters continue to be involved in recruitment of staff, most recently supporting interviews for Children in Care Senior Practitioner, Care Leaver Local Offer Lead and Service Director for Practice.

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, and improved services for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

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.*

Other Implications

10.4 *This report details the work undertaken to consult with Children in Care and Care Leavers and seek feedback to improve services for them.*

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*

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