

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
<b>20 NOVEMBER 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

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**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Sara Graves, 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**

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. <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.
- 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 October half term holidays, and dates have been shared for Christmas activities 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 have been scheduled for the May 2025 half term. This will include award certificates for all children in care marking their achievements, as well as the new 'Make a Difference' award that was launched at the 2024 awards by the PCL and the Corporate Leadership for 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 around the promise and a booklet for corporate parents in relation to this, they have reviewed the new foster carer profiles, shared feedback around effective fostering recruitment with the fostering service and met with John Gregg and Cllr Katy Cole to discuss key issues for children in care. They also reviewed responses from the children in care survey and their comments and suggestions have been shared with services. The CiCC are currently exploring ways to raise awareness about the NYAS advocacy offer with children in care.
- 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 how well professionals communicate with children in care and keep them informed.
- 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 successfully applied to the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation for a grant to deliver a programme of activities for Care Leavers with a focus on skills building, hobbies and sports, social activities and experiences. The first activities took place in Care Leaver week, with more

planned in the coming months. The Chair of the PCL was nominated for the Young People's National Benchmarking Forum's 'Local Hero Award' for her work in improving services for and empowering the voices of Children in Care and Care Leavers.

- 4.8 Representatives from the CiCC and PCL attended the Informal Corporate Parenting Committee meeting in September, having provided feedback on the format and content of the meetings. They were pleased to see their suggestions had been implemented and particularly enjoyed the workshop aspect of the meeting as they were able to share their feedback and experiences and see action decided as a result. The CiCC and PCL have requested all members of the committee who have not yet done so should submit their profile by the end of the year.
- 4.9 The Unaccompanied Children in Care (UCiC) 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. They took part in a football coaching session with POSH in the October half term break and took the opportunity to develop their ideas on items for the coming into care pack.
- 4.10 The Young Inspectors worked with PCL members to conduct an inspection of a supported accommodation provider and shared their report with the Commissioning Team. Their inspection report was positive overall and included eight recommendations, which were communicated to the provider via Commissioning. The Young Inspectors' previous work with the CiCC on the Promise to Children in Care won Coram Voice's 'A National Voice' Collaboration award on 30 October 2024.
- 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 Psychology Posts in the Missing and Criminal Exploitation Team, Virtual Schools Education, Training and Employment Worker and Senior Youth Justice Officer.

## 5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

*Environmental Impact:*

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.

*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