

Corporate Parenting Panel

Monday 9 August 2021

CiCC & Participation Update

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Panel note the work of the Children in Care Council (CiCC), Care Leavers Forum (CLF) and the Participation Team.
- 1.2 That the Panel acknowledge the work that continues to take place with young people during the public health crisis.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This is a standing item on the Corporate Parenting Panel agenda which updates members on the work of the CiCC and CLF.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no significant financial implications to consider at this stage.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 There are no significant environmental implications to consider at this stage.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 This update covers the period from 22nd March to 12th July 2021.

5.2 ***Online Easter Competitions.***

Six online activities were run over the Easter school break during April.

- Guess What's in the Egg Challenge - Liss
- Chubby Bunny Challenge - Ian
- Quiz Challenge - Alisha
- Guess the Bunny's Name Challenge - Andrea
- How Many Eggs in the Jar Challenge - Shin
- Easter Acting Challenge – Umar

71 young people had a go online to see if they could win a prize.

5.3 **Human Rights and Citizenship Online Workshops**

36 young people attended 4 online half day workshops covering 4 different languages.

- 6th April Pashto am/Afghan pm
- 7th April Sudanese am/ Eritrean pm

The feedback from the workshops from young people was very positive. Young people found the workshops helpful and informative.

5.4 **Apprenticeships.**

Two further care experienced young people have been successful in securing apprenticeships with WCC. One young man started at the beginning of May and the other at the end of June.

This brings the total number of care experienced young people working in WCC apprenticeships to 10.

5.5 **CiCC meetings and topics**

- 06.07.2021
 - NHS England is applying for money for a trauma informed pathway for young people and is hoping to co-produce a bid with young people
 - Young people gave their views on a “Tenancy Ready Guide”, prepared by the NWFIP
- 08.06.2021
 - CiCC reviewed the group and discussed priorities
- 11.05.2021
 - Bernice Sproston Children in Care Nurse came to discuss the new service available to children and young people
 - Rosie Blakett National House Project came to discuss the campaign to end digital poverty
- 13.04.2021
 - Michael Spicer came to discuss “Timebanking”
 - John Murphy (Independent Reviewing Officer) came to discuss how children and young people could be better supported to run their own “All About Me Reviews”

5.6 **Allotment Project.**

This project is finally underway after being delayed by Covid restrictions. Young people have helped to build 3 large vegetable beds, line them, fill them with compost and soil and plant a range of different vegetables.

Preparation is already underway to build a further 3 vegetable beds. Young people are very engaged with this activity and in particular enjoy the physical nature of the work involved.

5.7 **Home Office Forum.**

Brought to light in the independent Windrush Lessons Learned Review, the Home Secretary and senior BICS officials recognise the importance of engaging with children and young people on issues that directly affect them.

WCC put forward names of 13 young people that expressed an interest in attending the Home Office Forum.

Nine young people were given invitations. Young people have attended initial meetings on 27th May 2021 and 28th June 2021.

5.8 **Refugee Celebration Week 14th to 18th June 2021.**

The Refugee Celebration Week celebrates the contribution of Refugees to life in the UK. This year the theme was "**We Cannot Walk Alone**". See the link below for more information.

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/theme-of-refugee-week-2021-we-cannot-walk-alone/>

In Warwickshire, we planned a walk with young people from Birmingham to Warwick in 5 stages over 5 days.

- Day 1 Birmingham Moor Street to Solihull Train station
- Day 2 Solihull to Berkswell Train station
- Day 3 Berkswell to Kenilworth Train station
- Day 4 Kenilworth to Coventry Train station
- Day 5 Coventry to Shire Hall, Warwick

This activity was also set up as a sponsored walk to allow young people to give back to a charity that helps Refugees - Refugee Action. So far, the walk has raised £455.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/liss-phillips19?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=liss-phillips19&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=fc6ace2fe7c343fb863e628438f9da70

5.9 Access to Records

A partnership has been successfully agreed with Rees Partnership to create a service that supports young people who wish to access their personal files.

The service consists of 4 sessions with a qualified care experienced social worker and access to the “Ask Jan” service for a period of 12 months.

Ask Jan offers the following support.

- A 24-hour **counselling helpline** - direct and immediate access to a BACP accredited counsellor
- Up to 8 **face to face counselling** sessions per issue with a BACP accredited counsellor
- **Personal finance advice** – mortgages, pensions, insurance, debt, and savings
- Nutrition, exercise, stress and **wellbeing advice**
- **Specialist advice helplines** including housing, legal and citizens advice 8am to 8pm
- Access to an enhanced wellbeing App **My Possible Self**
- **Cognitive behavioural therapy** – available online or via the App
- Discounts and special offers on days out and activities with **The Max Card**
- Access to all other **Rees Foundation projects**

5.10 Interviews

Over the last 3 months young people have supported the following interview panels,

- Deputy Registered Manager for the Residential Home
- NHS Looked After Nurse
- Recruitment to Initial Response
- Recruitment to Children’s Social Work Teams

6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

6.1 An update report to be presented to the next Corporate Parenting Panel.

7. Background Papers

None.

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): n/a

Other members: n/a