

Corporate Parenting Panel

CiCC & Voice, Influence and Change Team 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 Voice, Influence and Change Team (Participation).
- 1.2 That the Panel acknowledge the work that continues to take place with young people.

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 31st May to 17th September 2022.

5.2 *Refugee Celebration Week:*

Refugee Celebration Event – 20th June 2022

Hired the Heart of England Conference Centre in Fillongley. 118 young people, foster carers and professionals attended the event to celebrate together. The theme of the week was 'Healing'.

John Coleman and Cllr Jeff Morgan spoke at the event and we heard from Harvir Singh who has produced the three films documenting the journeys of our young people seeking asylum. The first of these three films was shown at the event (My Experiences of Arriving in the UK), followed by an awards ceremony to celebrate some key accomplishments by our young people. Young Refugee of the Year award was also presented to Eliza Yeng. After the awards, everyone shared a meal together and then music was played by Aman and Levi. The young people loved dancing!

Refugee Celebration Film Event for Professionals – 22nd June 2022

On the 22nd June, 51 professionals met at Northgate House to view the three films that have been produced documenting the journey of our young people seeking asylum.

Film 1: My experience of arriving into the UK

Film 2: My experience of the support that I have received

Film 3: My experience of settling into life in the UK

Mati Hotak and Umar Teerab spoke about their experiences and introduced Films 2 and 3. Harvir Singh (the producer of the films) spoke about his experiences of making the films and introduced the first film.

There were opportunities for people to network and socialise before and after the event.

Moving forwards, the films have now been edited and uploaded to YouTube. They will be distributed across the organisation and further afield for use in training and development, and with young people on their own journeys.

[My first experience of arriving in the UK](#)

[My experience of the support I have received](#)

[My experience of settling into UK life](#)



5.3 Staff Conference - Feedback

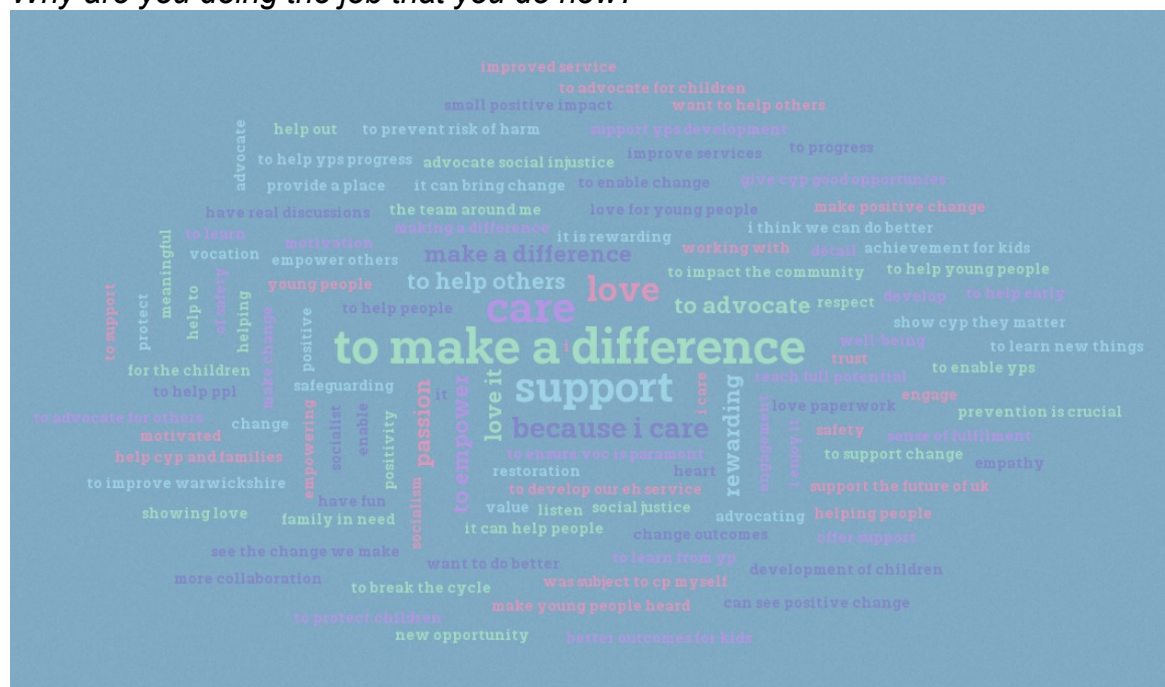
The Voice, Influence and Change team had a slot at the staff conference on Friday 15th July to talk about the work that we do and how we are listening to and responding to young peoples' voices.

Liss opening the section by giving an overview of the work that participation does and introduced a video (produced by Harvir Singh) giving snapshots of all the young people engaging with activities and events. Alisha then spoke and talk about the voice of the young people and some of the issues that they are talking about currently.

Umar then spoke about our young people seeking asylum and the work that we do with them. He also introduced a film being made by Ian Donnachie which showed young people telling us about their experiences of support they have received with some suggestions of how to improve. This film is still being finished and edited by Ian. Ian himself then came and spoke about SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and the work that Sam Craven is completing with parent carers and young people with disabilities.

Mati Hotak then spoke about the youth conference that was held in April and introduced a short film made about the event. To finish, Alice and Zoe from the youth council spoke to the staff team about the youth conference, youth council and youth council elections that are due to take place in 2024.

Why are you doing the job that you do now?



Participation Film: to be shown

Youth Conference Video: <https://youtu.be/WbykQN9B5mU>

5.4 Bournemouth Trip – 31st May 2022

12 families and children attended the Bournemouth Trip on May 31st (during the half term break). The ages of the children ranged from 5-14. Children and families were picked on up on minibuses from South and North Warwickshire. All the children had an opportunity to play in the sand, build sandcastles and some were even brave enough to enjoy a swim in the cold sea. Staff encouraged the children to join in with a game of cricket on the beach.

Staff and children all enjoyed an ice cream and fish and chips. One of the boys said he particularly enjoyed the arcade and the fish and chips! He seemed to also enjoy burying some of the staff in the sand!

Before the trip had ended, children were given the chance to mooch around Bournemouth town centre and purchase a souvenir.



5.5 Refugee Football –

31st July – Milton Keynes

On the 31st July, Warwickshire hosted a football match between our Warwickshire Refugee football team and the Refugee Football team from Milton Keynes. The pitch was hired at St Nicholas Park for an 11 a-side match.

Both teams played well and it was close, with our Warwickshire Young People sealing the victory 8 goals to 6.

The young people all had a fantastic time and were very respectful of one another. New friendships could also have been made.

Milton Keynes have invited Warwickshire to their home pitch for another friendly match on 16th October.



West Midlands 5-a-side tournament

On the 17th September, our football team took part in a 5-a-side tournament in Solihull against 7 other teams from local authorities across the West Midlands. Our Warwickshire team played fantastically and won all their matches in the round robin stage of the tournament.

After a tough match in the semi-finals, they also sealed a victory and then faced Wolverhampton in the final. They played well but did lose to Wolverhampton, but sealed 2nd place in the tournament and received a trophy and individual medals.

Wolverhampton are proposing to host the next care leaver football tournament next year.

5.6 *Housing Related Support work*

Throughout July and August, we worked with the housing commissioner to collate some feedback from young people across Warwickshire about their housing related support that they have received.

This involved producing Mentimeter surveys for each accommodation area and those accessing floating support. We also visited one accommodation block face to face and had direct conversation with young mothers in accommodation.

The feedback that was received has been sent back to the commissioner and will be used in future funding bids and projects of work.

5.7 *Care Leavers Forum (CLF) Updates*

All Care Leavers Forum meetings are now taking place face to face. From July, we have also started using Myton to host the meetings to give us more options for food and to keep the costs down.

The following items were discussed at the June and July CLF meetings:

June – Life after 25 Part 2

7 young people in attendance. Zoe Friend from Leaving Care came and spoke about options after 25 and the process of leaving the Leaving Care team.

July – Mental Health Support

9 young people in attendance. We were hoping Kooth would be able to come to this meeting but they had no availability. From this meeting, what the young people raised around mental health has been brought to SLT with further actions being considered.

September

9 young people attended for a 'welcome back' social including fish and chips and games and activities.

5.8 *BBQ and Mental Health training at Select Care – 9th August*

On 9th August, a BBQ was held for our young people seeking asylum who live in the Select Care accommodation in Birmingham. Around 30 young people were in attendance and enjoyed sharing in food and company together.

After the BBQ, 22 young people then attended a Mental Health Support session focussing on sleep and how to achieve a good quality of this.

5.9 *Harry Potter Trips – 31st August and 2nd September*

31st August – 16 young people in care aged 10-15 years

2nd September – 12 young care experienced young people aged 16-25 years

Both trips to the Harry Potter Studios in Leavesdon went very well and were fully attended. The young people enjoyed going around the studios, being with their peers and having a fun day out during the summer holidays. They all brought a packed lunch for the journey there and ate together at a service station stop on the way home.

The trip also provided the opportunity some siblings who do not live together to spend the day with each other.

From both trips, young people became interested in being members of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and the Care Leavers Forum (CLF).

6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

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

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

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

Local Member(s): none

Other members: none