

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

This update covers the period from 18th September to 21st November 2022.

5.1 *Apprentice Appreciation Day – 6th October 2022:*

One of our care experienced apprentices planned and ran this event for all those young people who are currently on apprenticeships with Warwickshire County Council. The afternoon took place at Myton Park.

8 current apprentices attended along with members of the senior leadership team and the apprentice's supervisors. Awards were presented to recognise the achievements of each apprentice and everyone shared in food and drinks together.

There was then a session where the apprentices were able to feedback their views and opinions on the apprenticeship to the Apprentice and Placement Practitioner and ways that it could be improved for future cohorts.

5.2 **Children in Care Council**

Re-Launch – 13th October 2022

The children in care council was officially re-launched on 13th October. 13 children aged 11-17 attended. Senior leaders were in attendance and were able to join in with the young people with their activities and listen to what is important to them.

Activities on offer included:

- circus skills provided by 'Juggling Jim'
- arts and crafts including rock painting
- glitter tattoos and face painting
- scavenger hunt
- candy floss machine

Areas of importance to young people raised at the re-launch included:

- more support with self-harm
- more family time (including with brothers and sisters)
- meeting carers before being placed in their homes
- more support from schools
- more support with regards to LGBT+
- more opportunities to make friendships
- being treated like one of the family
- help with understanding transitions i.e. what happens when you go to college/university

These areas will be put on the agendas for future meetings and professionals invited to talk and discuss when these topics are in their areas.

Feedback from a foster carer:

"I just wanted to thank you for what must have been a fantastic night relaunch. B and T have come home full of how great it was and have asked if they can go every month. Of course they can. 😊"

"Thank you again for all the hard work your team put into tonight. And thanks for bringing them home."



CiCC Meetings

10th November – Developing better relationships

12 young people in attendance. During the November CiCC meeting, the discussion theme was around 'Developing better relationships with your carers or foster carers'. The Placement Hub Operations Manager was in attendance to lead on the discussion.

The discussion produced much positive feedback from those young people who feel a part of the family with many shared experiences among them. There were also some concerns raised about communication to the young person, largely in regard to the length of stay in a particular home.

The Placement Hub Operations Manager would like to work with a small group of the children in care council create a Foster Carer profile looking at what makes a good foster carer. This will then be used to support with future recruitment.

5.3 CLF Updates

The following items were discussed at the October and November CLF meetings:

4th October – Rights and Entitlements

7 young people in attendance. As part of our audit of the Local Offer, all aspects of Warwickshire's local offer were discussed with the young people and their feedback recorded to be considered in the updates. This included talking about aspects of the regional local offer that Warwickshire doesn't currently provide, and all the additional support that Warwickshire give on top of the regional local offer.

15th November – Opinions and ideas for 2023 CLF Meetings

6 young people in attendance. Young people were asked their opinions and views in order to shape future meetings of the Care Leavers Forum in 2023.

Areas the young people were asked for ideas included:

- Topics to be discussed
- Activities during the meetings
- Large trips and activities
- Home cooked meals
- Takeaway meals
- People to invite to meetings

5.4 Care Experience Week Celebration Event – 28th October

On 28th October, two fun filled activity sessions were held for our care experienced children and young people. From 11am til 1pm there was a family fun session for children up to 14 years with their carers and families they live with, then from 3pm til 5pm there was another session for young people aged 14+. These were held at Myton Park offices.

Activities and stalls on offer across both sessions included:

- Bouncy Castle
- Gladiator Jousting
- Surf Simulator
- Soft Archery
- Splat the rat
- Arts and Crafts
- Hook a duck
- Lucky Dip
- Where's the treasure?
- Sweet table
- Cake stall
- Photo booth
- Chocolate Tombola
- Glitter tattoos/face painting/Henna art
- Book corner
- Soft Play
- Quiet room

Food and drinks were also provided at both sessions.

The event was supported by Child Friendly Warwickshire with donations sought for prizes from the Network of Friends. In total, including both events, there were around 120 young people with their carers/PAs who attended.



5.5 *Refugee Football*

Football continues to take place every Sunday at Sidney Stringer school in Coventry. Around 30 young people come to play together, travelling from Birmingham, Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth.

Football Match against Milton Keynes – 16th October

On 16th October, a team of 12 young people travelled to Milton Keynes to take part in a friendly match. Unfortunately, on this occasion Warwickshire lost, but the young people enjoyed playing and seeing each other again. Milton Keynes provided pizza at the end of the match to share together.



5.6 RSE and Citizenship & Human Rights Workshops

A series of workshops have been delivered by a care experienced staff member on Relationships and Sex Education and Citizenship & Human Rights. The workshops have been delivered in two different languages at each session including Sudanese, Eritrean, Kurdish and Afghan.

11th October – Relationships and Sex Education – 4 young people

10th November – Citizenship and Human Rights – 19 young people

11th November – Citizenship and Human Rights – 13 young people

The purpose of the workshops is to encourage young asylum seekers to explore different cultural norms and to help educate them in regard to their rights and life in the UK.

5.7 Breakaway Camp – 2nd-4th November

In early November 9 young people who are not in education, employment, or training took part in a 2-night breakaway camp at Ackers Adventure. This was an opportunity for young people to do lots of fun and courageous activities and have informative career sessions about jobs and careers available.

Activities at Ackers included archery, tubing, skiing, disc golf and climbing. These activities were set up to increase awareness of their own skills and abilities, improve confidence and self-belief in own abilities and improve listening and communication.

There were multiple career sessions in the day to inform the young people of what is available to them and information of how to get to where they want to be. Many individuals left with ideas of their future career paths and confidence. One individual wants to explore an apprenticeship at Ackers Adventure!

Follow up session – 25th November



5.8 Visit from Children's Commissioner – 7th November

On 7th November the Children's Commissioner visited Warwick to meet with some of our Care Experienced Apprentices and those that have moved onto to full time employment. She was keen to learn about their journey through the care system, how they progressed into an apprenticeship and what their hopes and aspirations are for the future.

Comments from the Children's Commissioner:

"I was so inspired by their thoughtfulness and determination."

"I was delighted to hear what Warwickshire County Council are doing with their local offer to care experienced young people, including ring fencing places up to 10 apprentices."

"I would like to thank all the young people for all that they shared with me – they are the real experts in what support young people value the most, and it is vital that those making decisions take the time to listen to them."



5.9 Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 8th November

On 8th November, the Voice, Influence and Change team presented a report to the Overview and Scrutiny panel detailing the work of the team in the last 14 months. As part of the presentation, young people from each area of the team's work were asked to talk about their role and contributions.

Young people were present and represented from:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| -Care Leavers Forum | -Youth Council |
| -Children in Care Council | -UASC |
| -Impact (SEND forum) | |

All young people took part in planning meetings leading up to the panel and worked with staff to put together their part of the presentation which included the good things happening in their areas and also things that can be improved.

5.10 Interviews for Assistant Director of Education – 9th November

Interviews for the Assistant Director of Education took place on 9th November of which part of the process for candidates involved being interviewed by a youth panel.

Representatives on the youth panel:

- Children in Care Council
- Care Leaver's Forum
- Impact (SEND Forum)
- Youth Council

In preparation for the panel, the young people met on two occasions in order to put together the interview questions that they would like to ask the candidates. They also asked for a short presentation on the School Inclusion Charter.

Feedback from candidates on the day was that the youth panel was their most rewarding and engaging part of the interview process.

5.11 Appointment of Police and Youth Justice position

After interviewing on the 4th of November, the team have successfully appointed to the new role of Police and Youth Justice Participation Worker. This role is due to commence on 2nd January 2023.

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