

Corporate Parenting Panel

15th May 2023

CiCC/CLF & 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 22nd November to 31st March 2023.

5.1 *Care Leavers/CLF Christmas Party:*

On the 13th of December a Christmas Party was held for our Care Leavers and UASC Young people. Around 75 young people were in attendance. It was held at the St Nicolas parish Church in Nuneaton.

There was a lovely set up with a balloon arch on entrance, table decorations, balloons, lights etc.

There was a DJ who was incredible who bought his foster son to support him and our young people danced together to the music. We had a John the poet come who played some songs which the young people loved. We had a rustic pizza pop up who provided pizzas with a wide range of toppings.

There was a caricaturist, a mocktail stand, a photo booth, a sweet stand, a tattoo/ glitter stands and a bag full of goodies for our young people to take home once the party had finished.



5.2 *CiCC/Youth Council Christmas Party*

On 13th December a joint Christmas party was held for the Children in Care Council and Youth Council at Myton Park. Around 40 young people came and enjoyed a winter BBQ, live music, games, activities and arts and crafts.



5.3 *Norma's Hampers and Christmas Frozen Meals from Stacy*

In December, the team was involved in supporting Norma in producing over 200 hampers to send to care experienced young people to support them over the Christmas period. Child Friendly Warwickshire, Evelyn's Gift, Morrisons Leamington Spa and Warwickshire Children and Families were all involved in sourcing the contents for the hampers. Warwickshire Search and Rescue supported in the collection and delivery of the goods to Norma for her to make up the hampers ready for delivery.

In addition to the hampers provided by Norma, a family support worker in the Voice, Influence and Change team also arranged with Stacy for 40 frozen Christmas meals to be prepared and delivered to care leavers.



5.4 ***Santa's Grotto – 10th December***

On 10th December, young parents with care experience had the fantastic opportunity to take their children to see Santa at the Heart of England centre in Fillongley. The children were able to write a letter to Santa, make reindeer food, speak to the elves and then board the Santa Express through the magical woods to visit Santa himself! A great opportunity for our young people to make memories with their children that they wouldn't have been able to do.



5.5 Cross Ministerial Board Meeting – 8th February

On 8th February, one of our family support workers with Care Experience was invited to attend the ministerial board meeting held in London. 3 young people in total were invited to talk about experiences for care leavers regarding EET, Health and Housing. Ministers in attendance listened carefully to their talks and made suggestions and considerations for issues raised going forward. In particular, Fiona Walshe (Director for Mental Health and Disabilities) is keen to discuss further working with our family support worker.

Letter received from Rt Hon Gillian Keegan and Rt Hon Michael Gove:



5.6 Ofsted Engagement Sessions

On the 11th and 13th January, the Voice, Influence and Change team were involved in supporting the housing commissioner to collate views from young people in supported accommodation for the Ofsted Consultation. Two accommodation providers were visited (Binswood Lodge and Deepmore). 18 young people in total were supported to fill in the survey produced by Ofsted so they directly had access to the young peoples' views.

5.7 Young Inspectors Reports

In 2021, two accommodation providers were visited by one of our apprentices with care experience and young people with care experience to assess the properties and ensure they were fit for young people. Based on these reports, recommendations were made to the providers. In February, the young

inspectors re-visited these accommodation providers to see if improvements has been made.

Select Care in Birmingham was visited on the 2nd February. Although there are still improvements to be made, there were some great improvements within the property, including the kitchen area and shared living areas.

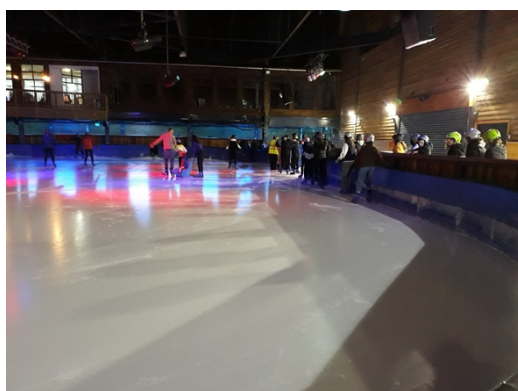
Link to report for Select Care: [Young inspectors - Select Care Feb 2023.docx](#)

P3 Arbury Lodge in Nuneaton was visited on the 15th February. Again, there were some vast improvements including a brand new kitchen area and new paint in various rooms. More improvements are still to made in the old kitchen.

Link to report for Arbury Lodge: [P3 Arbury Lodge Feb 2023 young inspectors.docx](#)

5.8 Snow Dome Trip – 20th February

On 20th February, 27 children in care aged 9-15 went on a trip to the Snow Dome in Tamworth. Children were transported from across Warwickshire. They took part in 3 activities, swimming, climbing and ice skating. The group included some sibling groups that are not able to live together currently.



5.9 Bear Grylls – 22nd February

On 22nd February, 15 care leavers took part in a trip to the Bear Grylls experience. They completed the assault course, did some high ropes and participated in archery.



5.10 Forum Updates

Children in Care Council

10th January – The council had a representative from Coventry and Warwickshire MIND to talk about the importance of mental health and how to promote this. The designated nurse for children in care was also in attendance and asked for feedback via a survey to capture opinions of young people on health, particularly around health assessments, mental health and school nursing.

14th February – CiCC met and discussed Improving the School Experience. And Education Advisor from the Virtual School attended and joined in with experiences around positive aspects of school, improvements to be made, the support available and the transition between schools.

14th March – Representatives from Family Group Conference (FGC) came and spoke to CiCC about what FGC is how they can learn more about it. They asked for feedback from CiCC about their leaflet, video and whether they thought FGC would work in different situations.

Care Leavers Forum

10th January – Wellbeing check in and catch up.

14th February – CLF discussed the route from being in care to leaving care and experiences of housing and living independently. Care Leavers discussed what makes their houses a home and what is a priority for them in where they live and what is in their home

14th March – The theme was around Watch Your Words. The young people were encouraged to write their own poem to social services which will be

shared. Young people also shared that producing videos to go alongside the Watch Your Words booklet would be beneficial.

5.11 Young People involved in interviews

Youth Justice Turnaround Practitioner - 16th and 23rd February

A young person from the Children in Care Council sat on the interview panel for two positions for Youth Justice Turnaround Practitioners.

Feedback from Adrian Seymour (YJS Team Manager):

“Erika helped us out by interviewing 5 candidates for a range of practitioner roles in the youth justice service. She came prepared with a range of questions which we agreed that she would ask between those asked by Becky Sumner and me. The questions that she asked helped us to gain an insight into how the candidates thought and how they would deal with children using our service. Erika was polite and professional and contributed constructively to the conversation around each candidate after their interviews and the final discussion on who to appoint. As a group we were in agreement on those that should be appointed and the feedback that should be given to the unsuccessful candidates. I really hope Erika is able to engage with future interview panels as her contribution was valued in this round.”

Feedback received from the young person:

“I think this was actually quite fun although I did get a bit upset at first, the meetings went rllly well and i got the hang of it quite quickly I would definitely do it again cuz I got to learn about other people's experiences and i found it very educational:)”

Family Support Worker (Family & Adolescent Support Team)- 13th February

A young person from our Care Leavers Forum supported with interviews for a Family Support Worker role within the Family & Adolescent Support Team on Teams.

Lead Education Strategy Commissioning Manager – 28th March

A youth interview panel was set up including representatives from the Care Leavers Forum, Children in Care Council, Youth Council and Impact (SEND Forum), to interview candidates for the role of Lead Education Strategy Commissioning Manager.

The young people met prior to the interview to put together the questions that they would like to ask the candidates, this included a short presentation on the School Inclusion Charter.

The representative from the Children in Care Council fed back the views and opinions from the youth panel to the interviewing managers. The young people enjoyed and appreciated being part of these interviews.

5.12 Ofsted Focused Visit – Care Experienced Young People – 28th/29th March

As part of the recent Ofsted focused visit for care experienced young people, the inspectors wished to talk to different groups of young people. These included:

- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People
 - Young parents with care experience
 - Young people in full time education or employment and those that are not currently in education or employed.
- Young people attended these focus groups with Ofsted and were able to share their views and opinions around the support that they have received and the services that have been available to them as young people of Warwickshire.

5.13 In celebration of Mother's Day – 30th March

On 30th March, an event was held at the CHESS centre in Nuneaton to celebrate our young parents with Care Experience. Parents had the opportunity to socialise with other parents, the children were able to play together and the parents created a height chart for their child to take away and use for memories of their child growing up.



5.14 Monthly Social Nights for Care Experience Young People

At the start of 2023, a monthly social for our care experienced young people was launched. This has taken place during the last week of the month.

January – Bowling in Leamington

February – Bowling in Nuneaton

March – Games night at Myton Park. Young people enjoyed coming together and playing games with and against each other.

From these events, more care leavers are now signed up to attend Chill n Grill which is being launched in April.



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): n/a

Other members: n/a