

Corporate Parenting Panel

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 1st April – 4th September.

5.1 *Children in Care Council Updates*

May – Youth Voice Event – see below for more details

June – What Happens After 18? One of our care experienced apprentices led the session around what support is in place for when the children turn 18 and potentially leave their foster homes. This was supported by a team leader from the leaving care team.

July – July saw the Children in Care council take part in a bowling evening with a burger meal to celebrate the end of the year and the children's commitment to the forum. This provided a great time for staff and children to enjoy time together.

5.2 Care Leavers Forum Updates

May – Youth Voice Event – see below for more details.

June – Focus – Mental Health. Guest speakers from Cov & Warks Mind (Melissa Gray) and from Aspire in Arts (Morgan Snow). Mindfulness sessions were run and young people could talk about their mental health and how they think support could be better.

July – July saw the Care Leavers Forum go out for a meal together to celebrate the end of the year and their commitment to the forum. Staff and young people had a great time socialising together.

5.3 Young people involvement in interviews

Through the last 6 months, we have had many requests for young people to either sit on the interview panel for new positions, or to form a youth panel to interview potential candidates. Below are a few of the interviews that young people have been involved in:

30th May/5th June – Family Group Conference Coordinator

29th June – SEND and Inclusion Service Manager

20th July – Trauma Informed Practitioner (Positive Directions)

6th July – Residential Home Manager

14th August – Youth Worker

24th August – Operational Manager – Residential Homes

1st September – Leader Practitioner for Trauma within YJS and FAST

8th September - Chief Constable of Warwickshire

5.4 Chill ‘n’ Grill Sessions

Our monthly Chill ‘n’ Grill sessions were re-launched for 2023 on the evening of 27th April and have continued to happen each month on the last Thursday evening. Around 20 young people from our leaving care and UASC teams attend to share food, socialise together and play outdoor games.

5.5 Brothers and Sisters’ Day – 6th April

On 6th April, in line with National Sibling Day, an event was hosted at Myton Park to celebrate brothers and sisters in care or who have left care. Around 50 attended with their families. Activities at the event included:

- Tea cup ride
- Swing boats
- Bouncy Castle
- Arts and crafts
- Face painting
- Guess the name of the Teddy

There was also an ice cream van, candy floss stall, cake stand and BBQ so no one went hungry! The Easter Bunny made an appearance and all the children loved being involved in an Easter Egg hunt. A professional photographer was also at the event and took photos of the sibling groups which will be given to the children and their families.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for our brothers and sisters in care to spend time together and take part in activities with each other.

Feedback from the event:

'K and J thoroughly enjoyed the day. They loved the Easter egg hunt, burgers and of course the free ice cream van. J said "we should come here more often"'

'Such friendly and committed staff, making the children feel so special'.

'Just like to say a big thank you to you and all the staff today that organised and managed today's siblings day'.



5.6 Paediatric First Aid – 28th April

In partnership with Warwickshire Fire Service, a paediatric first aid course was organised and delivered for our care experienced young parents. This was a fantastic opportunity for our young parents to gain confidence and learn life saving skills to help with their parenting and to know how to respond if they

have an emergency situation with their children. The course also built friendships between our parents and their children.



5.7 Youth Voice Event – 9th May

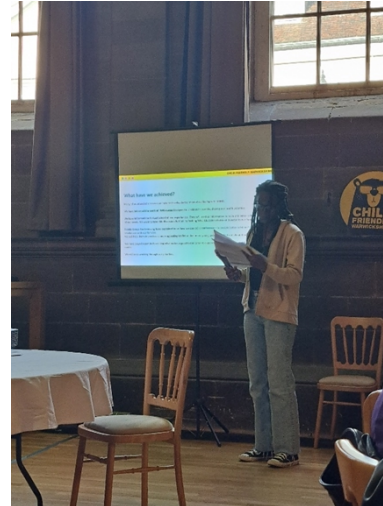
On 9th May, 39 children and young people from across Warwickshire came to our Youth Voice event held at Shire Hall. Many of these children are active participants of our forums including Care Leavers Forum, Children in Care Council, Youth Council and Impact (forum for young people with SEND). The event was an opportunity to hear our young people's voices and opinions on key areas that they have said are important to them:

- Mental health in young people
- Safety in Warwickshire
- Things to do in Warwickshire
- Young people's experience in schools/college

Councillors, elected members and senior leaders were invited to come to the event and sit in on the discussions around these topics with the young people. Each group was then asked to bring forward some recommendations from their discussion groups to be brought to senior leaders and corporate board. There were also a number of activities at the event for the participants to be involved in. These included:

- African Drumming
- Salt Sculptures
- Fake tattoos
- Magnet making
- Scrapbook ideas

Food was provided at the events from a local catering firm. The event also gave the opportunity for reps from each of the four forums to speak about the work that their forums have done and what they are planning to address in the future.



5.8 **Foster Carer Conference – 18th May**

The fostering team held their conference for their foster carers on 18th May and the Voice, Influence and Change team were invited to lead on a workshop. This workshop was titled 'Making Memories' and talked about the importance of life story work with photos and scrapbooks. One of our care experienced apprentices produced a powerpoint with ideas for scrapbooking and how to include the children they are fostering in making memories. They then delivered this workshop alongside two other staff. The workshop also talked about the brothers and sisters work and links to the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum.

5.9 **Legoland Trip – 2nd June**

During the May half term a group of 38 children in care aged 7-14 took a trip to Legoland, accompanied by 13 staff members. After an early start, the coach travelled to Windsor to have a fun packed day. The weather was sunny and the children enjoyed the rides, looking at the Lego builds around the park and enjoying time with other children.



5.10 Provider Forum – 7th June

On 7th June, a forum was held for accommodation providers for our young people including supported accommodation, independent fostering agencies and residential settings. As part of this forum we were asked to provide feedback from young people about their experiences of these. One of our care experienced apprentices worked with the deputy lead of the voice, influence and change team to collate young people's voices and present these at the forum.

5.11 Refugee Celebration Event – 19th June

As part of Refugee Celebration Week, Warwickshire hosted a celebration for all of our asylum young people on the evening of 19th June. Over 60 young people attended along with their PAs, wider staff, senior leaders and councillors. There was a meal, music, dancing and lots of activities including a photo booth and caricaturist. The evening included an awards ceremony to recognise educational and personal achievements and acts of kindness. The award for the Young Person of the Year 2023 was awarded to Even Daniels.



5.12 Staff Conference – 13th and 14th July

26 young people came along to the staff conference on both days to help run an activity designed to help staff understand how a young person may feel when they come into contact with Children & Families services. The activity was fun but filled with lots of learning potential for the conference attendees. Feedback from staff was that the activity did make them think about young peoples' experiences and how they may feel.



5.13 Peppa Pig World/Paulton's Park Trip – 27th July

On 23rd July, a group of 53 young children with their carers attended a trip to Peppa Pig World within Paulton's Park. A full coach, with pick up points in Nuneaton and Warwick, transported the group down to Romsey early in the morning to arrive at the park for 10:15am. Everyone then split into the family/carer groups to enjoy the park's attractions together. Some children who were unable to come with their carers were supported by staff. This included siblings who are in separate homes and don't live together. The day was a huge success with huge smiles from everyone getting back on the coach at 3:30pm for the journey home.



5.14 Football Tournament in Herefordshire – 29th July

On 29th July, representatives from our UASC football team were invited to Herefordshire to take part in a tournament against other teams in the west midlands. This event happens yearly and the young people really love to play against others. Warwickshire played really well and came 2nd in the tournament overall.

Football continues to run every Sunday in Coventry and is very well attended. Two of the players are shortly to undergo their Coaching qualification to help to support and lead the teams.



5.15 Brothers and Sisters' Residential – 21st-24th August

From 21st-24th August, 25 children aged between 7 and 15 went to the Pioneer Centre near Kidderminster to take part in a fun packed activity residential. All the children were part of sibling groups, with the majority not currently living in the same home. The break away gave them the opportunity to spend time together, eat together and have overnight stays together.

Throughout the residential, children took part in archery, high ropes, zip line, caving and even a forest walk in the Wyre Forest. Meals were prepared for us by the Pioneer staff and there were three hot meals a day! The evenings were spent having a film night, socialising together or doing the inflatable challenge course.

Following the residential, we are planning to meet with the children again so they can see each other. There were also a number of new recruits from the residential to our children in care council!





5.16 Young Parents Butlins Weekend – 1st-4th September (Young Parents Picnic 17th August)

From 1st to 4th September, a group of 8 care experienced young parents were given the opportunity to go on holiday with their children. The group went to Butlins in Minehead for a weekend of fun activities and socialising together. In preparation for going, the group met in advance and had a picnic in the park together. This gave them the opportunity to get to know each other before the holiday and for the children to play together.



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