

Corporate Parenting Panel

25th March 2024

CiCC and 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 January – 14th March 2024

5.1 Children in Care Council Updates

16th January – Guest speakers Abbey Baker and Hayley McKenna came to talk to the children in care council about the deep dive currently taking place into recording, and the new Life Long Links programme that is being funded from the Department for Education. Views were sought on what young people thought about recording and how they would want information about them to be written. Some children were interested in the Life Long Links and have started the process to try and reconnect with a lost relationship.

13th February – Cancelled due to water issues at Shire Hall

13th March - Guest speaker, Sarah Hack, from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). Sarah came to talk to children about their views on the police and their involvement with them. Sarah also raised awareness about police searches and people's rights with this. Also discussed about the differences between a stop and account, stop and search and a Section 60.

Discussion was also had with the children about their health, and they filled out a questionnaire related to this. This was one of the priorities that the children in care council had raised to discuss and feedback on. This will form part of a report for SLT in April.

5.2 Care Leavers Forum Updates

16th January – Welcome back session after the Christmas holidays. The group discussed priorities to cover in the coming year. Feedback was also sought on the recent events and activities and what they would like in the future.

13th February - Cancelled due to water issues at Shire Hall.

13th March - Guest speakers, Brit and Dave, from the Policy Scrutiny Panel. Brit and Dave came to hold a short session on how the police work with young people and how they can get involved in making these experiences better.

Guest speaker, Laura Forrest, came to talk to the forum about Life Long Links programme.

Forum members also had a discussion around health and people filled in a questionnaire as part of this.

5.3 Hey Foster Carer – 28th February

On 28th February, the launch of Hey Foster Carer took place at Old Shire Hall in Warwick. Hey Foster Carer is a booklet that has been coproduced with children and young people to help existing and prospective foster carers understand the wishes and feelings of our Warwickshire children looked after. Views and opinions of children were sought from the children in care council and wider for the content of the booklet.

As part of the launch evening, two representatives from the Children in Care Council and one Care Experienced Apprentice delivered speeches to the audience. The content of their speeches addressed:

- What makes a good foster carer?
- Why it is important to listen to children?
- How can foster carers listen to children?
- Why should someone become a foster carer?

The link to the Hey Foster Carer booklet is below:
[Hey Foster Carer \(2\).pdf](#)

5.4 **UASC Football**

Football continues to run every Sunday at the Sidney Stringer Academy in Coventry. Attendance is now up to around 35 young people!

In partnership with Think Active, football kits were provided for all the young people who attend. They loved receiving their new clothing and are all kitted up to play each week.



After applying for some funding, Think Active are also providing the resources for two of the young people to go on their Football Coaching course so they will be qualified football coaches. The two people chosen have shown a commitment to the weekly football session and tournaments, and who have been actively helping to run the sessions. This will enable the football to continue each week and smaller coaching groups to happen within the training.

5.5 **Leaving Care and Asylum Team Activities**

Monthly Wellbeing Walks

The Leaving Care and Asylum team are now holding monthly Wellbeing walks for their carers. These walks have taken place:

10th January – Coombe Abbey
16th February – Draycote Water

The walks aim to get young people out to socialise with one another, participate in exercise and improve mental health.

In partnership with Evelyn's Gifts, the young people that take part on these walks are being provided with a bag, water bottle and suncream to encourage them to take part and keep themselves healthy.

Winter Socials

Throughout the winter months, Chill n Grill has become the Winter Socials. These take place monthly for Care Leavers at Myton Park. They include the opportunity for a hot meal, socialising with other young people and talking to PAs and managers.

5.6 Youth Council Elections – 12th March

Throughout the month of February, voting was open online for all young people across Warwickshire to vote in their members of the new Warwickshire Youth Council. 1314 votes were received for the 66 nominations of young people.

On 12th March at Shire Hall, around 115 children, young people and their parent carers attended the results evening to see who had been elected onto the new Warwickshire Youth Council. 30 young people have been voted in with their monthly meetings starting in April 2024.

For those children and young people that were not voted onto the council, they have been invited to become members of the 'Friends of the Youth Council' forum.

[NEW YC Members .mov](#)

[YC video - Outgoing .mov](#)



5.7 Putting Participation on the Map Event – 16th February

Warwickshire have had a representative sit on the West Midlands ADCS Network group which planned a 'Putting the Participation on the Map' Event held in Walsall. The aim of the event was to bring care experienced young

people together to ask them how they would like our professionals to be trained and to see what they think it is important for professionals to know.

The event was attended by all West Midland Local Authorities. One Warwickshire staff member from the Voice, Influence and Change team attended with a Care Experienced Apprentice. Together, they also led on one aspect of the day which talked about Ice breaker games and the importance that these have in training.

5.8 **'Wrong' Size Fits All Film Launch – 5th March**

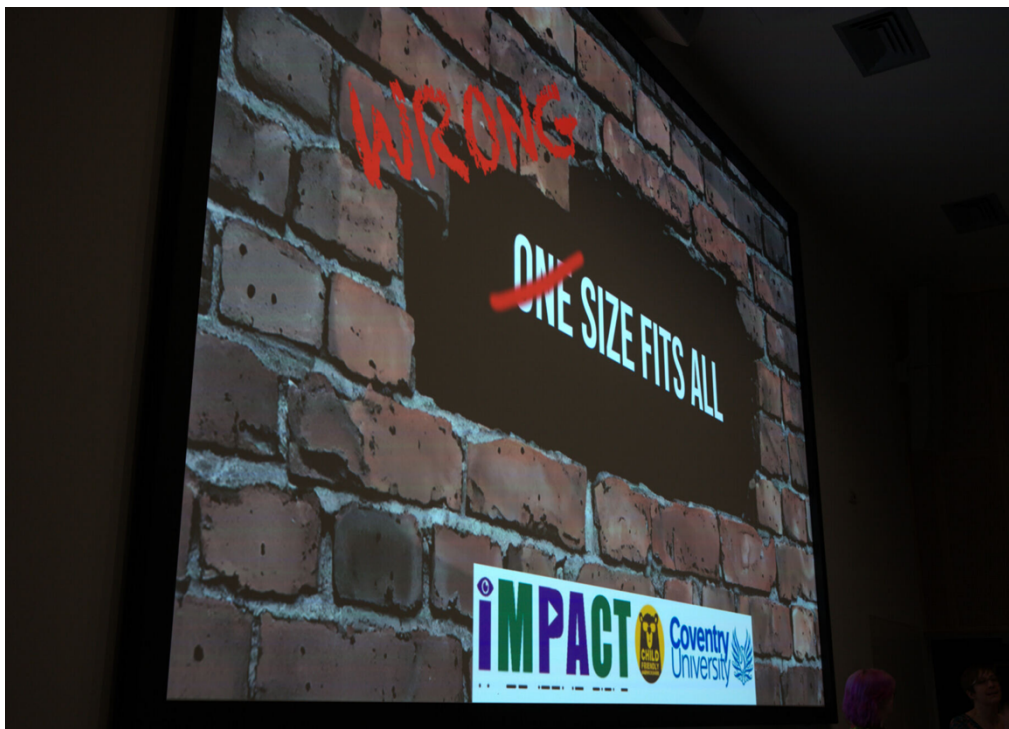
Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) showcased their talents on Tuesday 5th March at a film premier that took place in Coventry. The film is called 'Wrong Size Fits All' and it highlights the experiences children and young people with SEND face within educational settings and aims to promote an understanding of their needs.

The film was filmed and produced with member of IMPACT, Warwickshire's forum for children and young people with SEND.

In attendance at the premier evening were educational officers, film students, senior leaders and families of the participants. There was a time for a question-and-answer session after the viewing of the film.

A representative from IMPACT said:

"It is important for IMPACT to share their experiences because there are too many young people who don't have a voice or the privilege of being heard. We hope the film inspires young people to open up and that it has a positive impact on the way that teachers work with students."



www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wrongsize.

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