



## **Children in Care Council – Update, October 2018**

### **SUMMARY**

#### **1.1 Children In Care Council summary:**

There have been two meetings of the Children In Care Council since the last report, July and September:

- i. July's meeting looked at the changes that had been made to the Corporate Parenting Committee, reviews and care plans.
- ii. September's meeting looked at the Local Area Coordinator support for Care Leavers and was attended by the Strategic Director for People's Services and the Councillor Evonne Williams, who is the new Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

The August meeting was cancelled at the request of the young people due to the summer break.

Since the last meeting the previous Participation Officer has left and members of the Children in Care Council, and the Youth Council have appointed a new Participation Officer.

In November the Childrens Commissioner has invited nominations from Local Authorities for young people who may wish to go to Westminster to experience how parliament is run. Nominations are being made for children and young people who are interested.

- 1.2 The Children in Care Council (CICC) give a report to each Corporate Parenting Committee meeting, to help them work together. The Children in Care Council share what they have talked about, been working on and the changes from their work. It also lets the Children in Care Council share any challenges they may have had, which the Corporate Parenting Committee may be able to help with or need to know about.
- 1.3 The report from the CICC describes the issues the CICC have talked about in meetings in the last three months, guests, participation opportunities, numbers of young people attending and the changes made.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To consider this update report and make recommendations.
- 2.2 For Council Members to consider supporting children and young people during Takeover Day. The official date is 23 November 2018. This would involve a young person in care shadowing and supporting Council Members to make and influence decisions during the day.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee needs to know the CICC is being run well, that young people are able to participate, have their voice heard and see changes made in the services they use, and about any difficulties and progress made. The report also gives a voice for the Children in Care Council at the Corporate Parenting Committee.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Since the last report, there have been two meetings of the CICC (July and September). The August meeting was cancelled at the request of the young people due to the summer break.
- 4.2 On 4 July 2018, seven CICC members went to the CICC meeting.

The Children's Quality Assurance Manager attended the meeting to ask the young people about how they felt about the following updates to the Corporate Parenting Committee:

- Councillor Evonne Williams would be chairing the committee meetings.
- People writing reports have been asked to make these as simple as possible for everyone reading them.
- CICC members will carry on starting the meeting with an update and ask any questions.
- Reports will be sent a few weeks before the meeting.
- Each meeting will have a theme: safety, accommodation, education and health.
- There will no longer be separate pledge events; these would now become part of the Corporate Parenting Committee meeting, with managers providing pledge updates.

Feedback was gathered by the Children's Quality Assurance Manager. The young people requested that an ice breaker would be helpful at the Corporate Parenting meetings.

- 4.3 The CICC members also gave feedback to the Children's Quality Assurance Manager about the review process. The manager took this feedback away from the meeting to share with the Independent Reviewing Officers.

- 4.4 The Senior Practitioner for Children in Care also attended the meeting and talked with the group about care plans. The CICC members agreed that they would like to receive a one page summary of their care plan. This was fed back to the Senior Practitioner to action along with other feedback relating to care plans.
- 4.5 The CICC meeting on 4 July was the last meeting of the Participation Officer who has now left the Local Authority. On the 26 July one member of the CICC and three members of the Youth Council interviewed for a replacement Participation Officer. The new Participation Officer starts on 1 October 2018.
- 4.6 The meeting due on 1 August 2018 was cancelled at the request of the CICC members due to the summer period.
- 4.7 On 5 September 2018 six members went to the CICC meeting.
- The Strategic Director for People's Services and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People attended the meeting to talk with the group and introduce the new lead member. During the meeting the CICC members explained that having summaries on Corporate Parenting Committee reports was helpful. Further feedback from the young people has been sent to the people that attended the meeting.
- 4.8 The Social Capital Development Manager and the Senior Local Area Co-ordinator attended the meeting. They talked to the group about what the Local Area Co-ordinators do and how it was now available to children and young people leaving care. Feedback from this discussion has been circulated to people that have attended the meeting for action.
- 4.9 Takeover Day is a national opportunity for children in care to be involved in running services for the day and is taking place on 23 November this year. The Participation Officer will be supporting young people in Derby to access opportunities for the day in the city, where they can direct and influence decision making, including, shadowing Council Members.
- 4.10 Alongside opportunities in Derby the Children's Commissioner has asked Local Authorities to nominate children and young people to attend parliament in November for Takeover Day. A number of CICC members have requested a nomination; this has also been widened to children and young people who are not council members. Only a limited number of young people will be able to attend Westminster.
- 4.11 The new Participation Officer will start within the team on 1 October 2018. The new Participation Officer will be supporting the group to plan the Christmas event.
- 4.12 The Spring 'Focus On Us' newsletter will be sent out electronically at the end of October. Two of these newsletters are created per year.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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- 5.1 None

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Gurmail Nizzer, Director for Integrated Commissioning (CYP) Lisa Melrose, Head of Integrated Commissioning (CYP)
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<b>For more information contact:</b>  <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Emma Humphrey, Commissioning Manager, Commissioning 01332 640269 Emma.Humphrey@derby.gov.uk None None
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<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 None arising from this report.

**Legal**

- 2.1 None arising from this report.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

**IT**

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

**Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 This report gives a voice for the Children in Care Council at the Corporate Parenting Committee meeting.

**Health and Safety**

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

**Property and Asset Management**

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

**Risk Management**

- 9.1 None arising from this report.

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 10.1 The content of this report links to the priority 'Protecting vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people'. We work to safeguard our children in care who can be vulnerable and sometimes need higher levels of support. This will involve helping early on if things are starting to feel difficult or unsafe (early intervention) and working to keep things safe and well (prevention) wherever possible.