



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Committee  
24 July 2018**

Report of the Strategic Director of People's  
Services

# ITEM 5

## Children in Care Council - Update July 2018

### SUMMARY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

There have been three meetings of the Children In Care Council since the last report, April, May and June:

- i. April's meeting looked at the National Fostering Stocktake consultation.
- ii. May's meeting looked at the Leaving Care service and emotional wellbeing services.
- iii. June's meeting looked at the Concordat project, Corporate Parenting Committee, Pledge events and the feedback from the regional event on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

A new Participation Apprentice has joined the team.

The Spring Focus On Us newsletter has been sent out electronically.

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee needs to know the Children in Care Council 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 3 meetings of the Children In Care Council (April, May and June).
- 4.2 On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018, three CICC members went to the Children In Care Council meeting. The group worked on their presentation for the regional meeting of Children In Care Councils on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Members gave their views on the Independent Fostering Review around:

- What is foster care for?
- What should it be for?
- What makes a good foster carer?
- How do we encourage these people to become foster carers?
- How do we match the right foster carer to the right child or young person?
- What kind of information would you want to know about your new foster carer?
- What information would you want them to know about you?
- Who are the most important people in your life?
- How do you keep in touch with them?
- Are there any people that you want to be in touch with, but are not?

The Participation Officer sent these to the national project team and the fostering team managers to share with Supervising Social Workers.

- 4.3 On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 six members went to the Children In Care Council meeting. The members watched the podcast they recorded with the Derby Safeguarding Children Board which is now live on the website <http://www.derbyscb.org.uk/training/additional-resources/>
- 4.4 The Leaving Care Manager attended the meeting. He spoke with members about the Leaving Care Service extending support until young people are 25 years old; along with the changes Derby City Council is making with the communication grant and council tax exemption. Members asked the Leaving Care Manager some questions about the Leaving Care service. The Leaving Care manager left the Local Offer consultation form for young people to share their views - the Participation Officer recorded the views of the young people. These were shared with the Leaving Care

Manager after the meeting. This consultation document was also sent out to the Virtual Members for them to send feedback to the Leaving Care Manager.

- 4.5 The Children In Care Commissioning Project Officer attended the meeting to get the members' views on the emotional wellbeing service. The young people shared what they thought was good about the service, what they would like the building to be like, what they would like to change, how they would like to receive support and what good emotional health feels like. The Children In Care Commissioning Project Officer will use these views when reviewing the emotional wellbeing service. Members designed questions for a workshop they will be running at the regional event on 1st June.
- 4.6 A young person gave an update on the Wi-Fi at their home. The money for the Wi-Fi has been agreed and approved, but it is not yet in place. There is progress in the right direction and it is hoped that the young person will have more of an update for us at future meetings.
- 4.7 On 6<sup>th</sup> June seven young people attended the Children In Care Council, including a new young person who joined after taking part in the telephone survey in April. The Participation Officer asked for members' views on some questions linked to the Concordat work, to be passed to the Head of Specialist Services (around sanctions used in residential homes).
- What do young people feel is the right thing to do to help young people in residential homes?
  - How would young people want it to be treated by agencies?
  - What can young people do?

Young people talked at length about how behaviour is linked to emotions (the workshop that was delivered at the regional event), and that it is important for adults to look beyond the behaviour to the emotions behind it. Young people felt that by helping with the emotions, adults can help with the behaviour.

- 4.8 The member who presented at the regional event for Children In Care Councils on 1st June gave some feedback on the presentations and workshops. Members gave their views on the workshops topics, and the Participation Officer will pass these to the event co-ordinator.
- 4.9 Members gave their views on how Corporate Parenting Committee and Pledge events could be improved further and the Participation Officer shared these with the Corporate Parenting Lead and responsible Councillors. Members were asked if there were any specific issues they wanted to discuss this year. They said how teachers treat children in care and rules around sleepovers with friends.
- 4.10 Members were told that the Participation Officer will be leaving the Council in July and so the next meeting will be her final meeting. Members voted to move the August event to the October half term, when the new person is in post. Members will be included in the interview panel and are developing questions for the interview. The Participation Officer shared with members the positive comments that have been received about the welcome packs and their hard work has been recognised.

- 4.11 One young person went to the regional meeting of Children In Care Councils which the Children's Commissioner also went to on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 in Mansfield. A young person and her Leaving Care PA also attended. The member gave an excellent presentation on the Derby City Children In Care Council, telling young people in other areas about the work of the group. The member also helped run two workshops in the afternoon on behaviour linked to emotions.
- 4.12 A meeting of the Residential Homes Champions was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June. There has been very low numbers of young people in Derby City residential homes coming to the meetings, with no young people at the last two meetings. One young person from an independent residential home placed outside of Derby came to the last meeting, joined by his key worker.
- 4.13 The new Participation Apprentice started on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018. She is learning a lot about participation with children and young people and is providing good support to the Participation Officers.
- 4.14 The Spring Focus On Us newsletter was sent out by email to foster carers and agencies in April 2018. These are written twice a 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 Commissioning (Acting) Lisa Melrose, Head of Commissioning Emma Humphrey, Commissioning Manager
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Claire Hurst, Participation Officer, Commissioning 01332 640269 Claire.Hurst@derby.gov.uk None None

<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 None arising from this report.

**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.