

## **Report of the Strategic Director for Children to the meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

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**Subject:**

**Children in Care Council Development Event Feedback**

**Summary statement:**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> July an event was held with the Children in Care Council to celebrate the work that has been taking place and to start to think about how participation work with children Looked After might develop over the next year.

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**Portfolio:**

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Children's Services**

## 1. SUMMARY

This report provides the initial feedback from the development and celebration event held with the Children in Care Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Children in Care Council (CiCC) meets on a weekly basis and provides a platform for children looked after to share their experiences, support each other, and to make sure that children and young people with experience of care influence and shape services. The event on the 10<sup>th</sup> July was set up to celebrate the excellent work that has been undertaken by the group and also to think about how this might be broadened.
- 2.2 The event was attended by members of the CiCC, social workers and managers, Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), and political leaders including the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee and the new Director of Children's Services.
- 2.3 The event started with an ice breaker and mixed tables made replica models of the sculpture of the child outside MMT. These were all really different and demonstrated amazing creativity.
- 2.4 The young people then gave a presentation about the work that they have been doing including:
  - Training for Foster Carers
  - Sitting on interview panels
  - The Dragon Boat Race
- 2.5 Two young people both spoke about how important the CiCC has been for them and the benefit that they have had from it. It is also clear what the older young people are giving back.
- 2.6 Both were also very challenging about how important the role of the social worker is, and that we don't always get this right, especially when workers can change often.

### **Moving forward**

The second part of the meeting then looked at 5 areas:

1. What is really good about the CiCC and what does it do well?
2. What is good about how we listen to what young people in care have to tell us?
3. What could we do better and who don't we hear from?
4. What ideas have we got for how we could make what we do better?
5. Actions!

The feedback is in the Appendix but key areas are:

### **What does the CiCC do well**

- The support of the CiCC to each other ( this was the main benefit that everyone said)
- Making a difference
- Meeting professionals

Ideas for what is good about how we listen included view point, complaints and social workers and especially carers

### **Suggestions for what we could do better include:**

- Not just listening but making changes as a result
- Keeping helping even when young people are independent
- Listening to younger people in care
- IROs listening better

### **Ideas included;**

- A Whatsapp group
- Using young people as consultants
- Play brunches for younger children
- Social workers to see children more
- Apprenticeships
- Strong views that participation needs to include face to face

### **Actions:**

1. A newsletter run by children with experience of care
2. Talk directly to social work managers
3. Free up social worker time
4. Look at doing play brunches again
5. Look at doing a What's App group
6. Meet new social workers
7. Pass on the actions from the longer list to the social work managers

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

None.

### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

Some of the ideas will cost money and this will be raised with the Director of Children's Services.

### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

N/A

**6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

N/A

**7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

It is really important that participation work with young people is inclusive and makes sure that we hear the voice of young people from all groups.

**7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

N/A

**7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

N/A

**7.6 TRADE UNION**

N/A

**7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

See this report.

**7.10 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

N/A

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

N/A

## **9. OPTIONS**

- To work with the CiCC to agree the actions and to put these in place.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 That work continues with the CiCC to agree the actions and to put these in place.

## **11. APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1:** Feedback from the event on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.