

Children in Care Council Work Programme Priorities for 2013 – 2014

Children in Care Council Meetings

- To continue to develop the four different CiCC groups, ensuring each group has their own identity and work plan.
- Monthly Meetings will be arranged for the two older CiCC groups. Meetings for the younger groups will take place four times per year.
- There will be two activity based Participation Groups one for over 16 year olds and one for young people between the ages of 8 and 15. These activities will encourage the wider Looked after / Leaving Care population to attend informal consultation events whilst taking part in fun activities ensuring the views of looked after children are heard.
- Representatives to attend activities to act as peer mentors to younger children in care.
- Representatives of the CiCC to work towards gaining the views of the wider CiCC.
- Promote the work of the CiCC and recruit more young people to be part of the CiCC meetings and using other means of communication as requested by current members of the CiCC.
- Representatives of the CiCC will meet with workers and young people from the children with disabilities team to ensure their views are also heard.

Links to Corporate Parenting Panel

- CiCC members to attend Corporate Parenting Panel three times per year.
- CiCC members to develop a CiCC conference.
- CiCC members to meet with Director of Children's Services and Lead Councillor for Children's Services twice a year.
- CiCC members to meet with Assistant Director and Head of Service three times per year.
- Additional meetings can be arranged as and when required between CiCC members and members of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- Information will be presented to Corporate Parenting Panel from the CiCC on the work of the CiCC.

Consultation Events

- Work with Department for Education and The Children's Rights Director to ensure involvement in consultation events for Children in Care.
- Attend regional CiCC meetings and the annual National conference for CiCC organised by Children's Rights Officers and Advocates.
- Attend any other consultation events organised for children in care.

Central Bedfordshire Council Consultation

- Monitoring and reviewing The Pledge to ensure that The Pledge remains up to date and meaningful.
- Consultation on the Pathway Planning process.

- Carry out surveys for Central Bedfordshire's looked after children and leaving care young people to give them the opportunity to give their views.

Recruitment and Training of Social Workers and Foster Carers for Central Bedfordshire Council

- Members of the CiCC have developed a training session for Central Bedfordshire social workers; this will become part of the on going training programme.
- Attend Information Evening for people interested in becoming a foster carer.
- Attend Skills to Foster training and facilitate workshops on 'what makes a good foster carer?'
- For members of the CiCC to be involved in the recruitment and selection process of new social workers and foster carers.

Annual Awards Evening

- Annual Awards Evening for Children in Care and Care Leavers.
- Arrangements for the awards evening will be discussed in CiCC meetings and agreed by members.
- Nomination Forms, Invitations, certificates will be designed by members of the CiCC.

School holiday Activities Programme / Activity Based Participation

- A range of activities will be organised for younger children in care and could also include children on the edge of care.
- Consultation opportunities during the activities, representatives from the CiCC will attend the activities to support and encourage positive peer mentoring.
- Activity days for over 16 year olds to allow for their views to be heard whilst taking part in fun activities and socialising with other care leavers. The activities will also allow positive relationships to be developed with other social workers within the team.

Training for Social Work Students at the University of Bedfordshire

- Work with the University of Bedfordshire and become part of the 'Experts by Experience Group'.
- Engage in training opportunities organised by the University of Bedfordshire.
- Members of the CiCC will be part of the recruitment and selection process for social work students.
- Members of the CiCC will also be part of the training and assessment of social work students.

Information for Looked after Children and Care Leavers

- Information to be put onto a web site so that it can also be accessible to all looked after children.
- Members of the CiCC will also be involved in the design of an information pack for young people leaving care, ensuring it contains

relevant information they need to help them make the transition to adulthood.

- Members of the CiCC to explore the use of social networking sites as a way to share information.

Newsletter to Children in Care

- A regular newsletter to be sent to all looked after children on the work of the CiCC, future events, consultation etc.

Website Specifically for Children in Care

- Website/page to be developed by the members of the CiCC. Website/page to contain:
 - Information from LAC Packs.
 - Opportunity to promote consultation and feedback.
 - Contact information for teams within Central Bedfordshire Council.
 - External agencies and other useful web sites.
 - Information on the work of the CiCC including upcoming meeting dates.
 - Information on the Activity Days.

A Fun Day / Charity Day / Consultation Day

- Consultation Day, to include fun activities with different services participating.
- To have the option of raising money for local charity.

Residential Trip for Members of the CiCC

- A residential trip specifically for members of the CiCC as a reward for their work.
- This residential trip will allow all the members of the CiCC to take part in a number of sessions to complete the CiCC tasks as outlined in our priorities.
- Members would be able to take part in team building exercises and other fun activities do develop their life skills.