

Appendix A

# Children in Care Council



# The CiCC & Young Voices

- We currently have around 30 young people involved in the CiCC and participation activities. We are a mixed age range from 16 – 22.
- The Young Voices group is for 8 – 15 year olds. We have around 30 young people who are involved in this group. Young Voices are involved in activity based participation as well as consultation based participation.
- We all have different experiences of being in care and are using these experiences to support the work of the CiCC.
- Our backgrounds are all different, we have young people who live in foster placements, young people who live in residential units, some of us are living independently and some of us living in semi independent housing.



# Passport to Independence

We organised the 'Passport to Independence' day which looked at the following areas which young people identified as the main areas needed to make a successful transition to independence.

- Education, Training and Employment
- Practical Skills
- Housing Options
- Health Information and Support
- Pathway Plan Process
- Entitlements Information and Support



We held workshops with Councillors, Officers and Young People. The information collected will be used to create the Passport to Independence which young people will work through to evidence they are ready for the transition to independence.

# The Key Messages

Young people would like information and support about the options for education & training or employment that are available to them so that informed decisions can be made.

Young people want pathway plans that are easy to read, colourful and set out achievable goals.

Young people want easily accessible information on their entitlements for example how to access files.

Young people want to work with their social worker or personal adviser to find out about the different housing options available.

Young people want to start developing the practical skills for independent living at an early age.



# Summer Activities Programme

- The Young Voices group gave their ideas for the summer activities programme from this there were 7 days of activities organised for looked after children age range from 8-15.
- Activities included canoeing, pony days, multi activity day at RAF Henlow, a trip to Gulliver's and a creative workshop.
- 37 young people attended at least one activity.
- Members of the CiCC have also supported Young Voices during the activities and acted as peer mentors.
- An activity day was organised for the over 16's. There were 20 young people who attended this day and participants have requested more days like these.



# The Frontline Programme

Frontline is a two year social work training programme for graduates. The programme is made up of a five-week residential and then two years working in a local authority child protection team. The first year qualifies the participants as social worker through direct work. The second year leads to a full Master's qualification whilst working as a newly qualified social worker.

The University of Bedfordshire are part of the Frontline Academy and asked us to deliver some training. We developed a workshop based on 'what makes a good social worker', we used our experiences to give them ideas from young peoples point of view.

10 members of our CiCC attended and worked with the participants to complete the boxes which represent a Social Workers Tool box. This was a real success and we were asked to return to take part in another workshop.

We have brought a sample to show you.





# Frontline Feedback

We have received some really positive feedback from Louise Grant from the University of Bedfordshire and would like to share this with you.

*The contribution of the young people from Central Bedfordshire to the recent Summer Institute for Frontline participants was exceptional. The thoughtfully constructed exercise and their keenness to offer their expertise to trainee social workers learning was a key part of the education provided.*

*The young people represented Central Bedfordshire Council's commitment to empowering young people in an exemplary fashion. They were enabled by the workers to run a session for 100 participants who unanimously reported that the learning they obtained from the young people as to what makes a good social worker will shape their future development. What was particularly satisfy to see was how in turn the young people blossomed and hopefully they felt a valued contributor. Hearing the young people confidently speaking to trainee social workers about what they perceived as the key skills and knowledge required for effective social work will have a lasting impact. It is to be hoped that the young people also gained from this experience.*

*Thank you so much arranging this and I hope we can work together in the future.*

# CiCC Work

- Members of the CiCC were involved in the ASYE interviews, we organised a group exercise to look at how the candidates interact with young people.
- Members of our CiCC have been part of the Children's Commissioner expert group to develop the new care monitor survey. The CiCC members were also invited to meet with a design team from Nottingham University to help create the online survey.
- Members of the CiCC have been consulted on the design of the new review booklets.
- CiCC members attended the regional participation group where representatives from the Office of the Children's Commissioner attended and from this we have discussed organising a regional CiCC Conference to showcase the Eastern Region's participation work.





# Future work



- We have been busy organising the awards evening which will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October.
- We will be meeting as a group to discuss the way in which the CiCC plans and develops their work. The will also include how the CiCC meetings are arranged.
- We will continue with the development of passport to independence.
- Review booklet for over 16's.
- We will be attending future meetings with the Eastern Region's CiCC group to continue organising the conference which we hope will take place in May 2015.
- We have been looking at our Pledge and think that this needs to be reviewed. We have been thinking about how to do this and would like your feedback on how we can work with you to do this?

Thank you for listening.

Any Questions?