

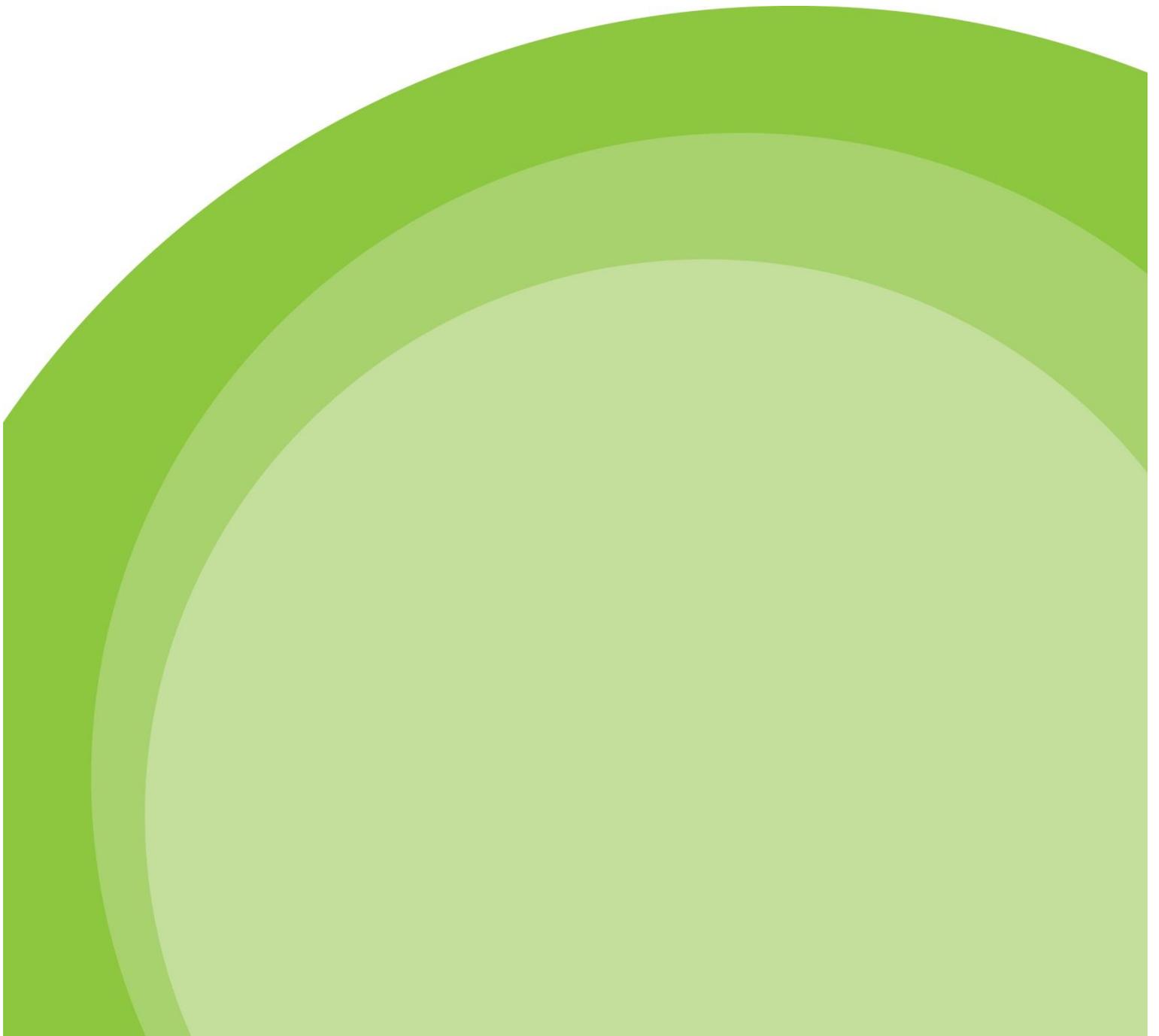
Appendix A

Central Bedfordshire Council
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Children in Care Council and Participation 2014 - 2015

Annual Report



Aims and Objectives

The aim of the following report is to summarise and evaluate the work of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Participation Officer during 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015. See appendix 1.

Members of the CiCC have been asked –

What has the CiCC achieved over the last year

- **The Awards** – This was the biggest event to date with 108 young people receiving their award on the night.
- **Recruitment Involvement** – CiCC members took part in the recruitment of the Director of Children's Services, the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Board, 9 managers across Children's Services, 2 personal advisers working for the Youth Support Team and 6 days of Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) social worker recruitment.
- **The Frontline Programme** – CiCC members organised training for 120 social work students and were asked to return to be part of another day as part of the training placement for the students.
- **Working with the Commissioning Service** – CiCC members were involved from the outset with the tendering processes for supported accommodation for leaving care young people and the advocacy and independent visitor contracts.
- **Shadowing the Chief Executive** – one member of the CiCC spent the afternoon shadowing the Chief Executive, Richard Carr at the Senior Management Team meeting.
- **Children's Commissioner Participation Group** – 2 members of our CiCC attend this group.
- **Summer Activities** – 36 young people aged 8 – 15 years and 19 over 16 year olds attended one activity day.
- **Peer Mentors** – CiCC have continued to mentor younger looked after children (LAC).
- **Training Days for Assisted and Supported Year of Employment** – CiCC have developed and received accreditation for the training they delivered.
- **Consultation on Our approach to Corporate Parenting in Central Bedfordshire Council 2014 - 2017** – A group of young people including members of CiCC were consulted to make comments on the policy and action plan
- **Consultation Booklets** – new consultation booklets have been redesigned and re worded with the involvement of the CiCC..
- **Development of a Passport to Independence** – This was an idea from the CiCC members to help prove that they are ready to move to independent living.

What will be your priorities for 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

- CiCC Work plan to be developed and agreed.
- Review & Update the Pledge.
- To further develop the website.
- A focus group on Review Meetings to make them more child/young person friendly
- Work to promote the CiCC activities and encourage more social workers to attend.
- Social Workers activity box for each of the teams to ensure that social workers have tools to be able to engage with all ages of children and young people.
- More focused consultations to help to improve services.

Children in Care Council

The CiCC continue to work to develop the group and encourage new members to join. Discussions have taken place with regards to the development of smaller focus groups to work on specific tasks, which will allow more young people to be part of the CiCC. Representatives from the groups will then attend the CiCC meetings, which are planned to take place monthly.

One of the groups which have been developed is a group of young people representing unaccompanied asylum seekers. There are currently 12 young people attending these meetings, which take place every month. Topics of discussion have been around attending church and being supported to do this, recreational activities including riding bikes and attending football-training sessions, which have been arranged through Central Bedfordshire Council's leisure service. Further discussions will take place with regards to the name of the group and how this will link to the CiCC.

Further groups which will be developed will be looking at the Looked After Children's Reviews – this group will be developed with the Independent Review Officers and young people on how to make to the review meetings more young person friendly. There will also be a group on the Passport to Independence Programme, which will involve our care leavers working to develop this document to support the transition into independent living.

The Young Voices for looked after children between the ages of 8 – 15 years, continues to develop with around 26 young people attending the most recent event along with a number of social workers. The feedback from the event was very positive, with young people stating that it was good to see their workers during a fun activity and that they would like to have more of these events with their workers. A number of CiCC representatives also attended to support the younger looked after children.

Members of the CiCC also met with Sue Harrison, the new Director of Children's Services to welcome her to Central Bedfordshire Council and provide information on the CiCC.

Newsletters continue to be sent out to all of our looked after children, these are written by CiCC members and recently have included Sue Harrison's blog to children and young people. Sue's blog is sent to CiCC members for their feedback and comments before being sent out. (See Appendix 2)

Members of the CiCC continue to attend Corporate Parenting Panel and present information on their work plan three times per year.

Regular meetings with the Chief Executive and the Director of Children's Services continue to take place. One member of the CiCC shadowed Richard Carr at a recent Senior Management Group meeting, which allowed the young person to learn more about what Central Bedfordshire Council does outside of Children's Services.

Consultation Events

There have been a number of consultations taking place including the Passport to Independence workshop. This took place during the school holidays and a greater number of CiCC members were able to attend along with social workers and personal advisers, officers from the Commissioning service along with Cllr Wells and Cllr Goodchild and Richard Carr. The attendees worked together to start to develop the Passport to Independence. From this the key headings for the passport were agreed and there will be further development of the passport to enable it to be used as a tool to demonstrate that young people have the skills to move into independence.

Feedback from the event included –

'I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the young people, their social workers and personal advisers, it was a great opportunity, to listen to their stories and thoughts and openly discuss these in a setting, where they felt safe and very well supported.' **Councillor Goodchild.**

'It was a pleasure to attend the meeting with the boys and girls to listen to their issues and suggestions about setting up home on their own.' **Councillor Wells.**

'For me, it was really helpful to listen to the experiences and perspectives of at least some of our young people. If we want to deliver improvements for young people for whom we have a special responsibility, then I think it's really important that we hear their voices. Some of the issues raised present real dilemmas but I think it's important that they are explored and discussed.' **Richard Carr.**

Looked After Children and Care Leavers met to redesign the looked after children's consultation documents which are sent to all looked after children before their review meetings. Young people also looked at the questions and

how they are worded and made the booklets more young person friendly. Reports from one of the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) are that children are using the spaces to draw as well as write.

Members of the CiCC attended consultation days on the Central Bedfordshire Council's Homelessness Strategy; the young people represented the views of other care leavers and gave good examples of where the services to prevent and support homeless could be improved.

Two members of Central Bedfordshire Council's CiCC also attended the Children's Commissioners Participation group and worked on the My Care Survey. We are now encouraging all our young people to complete this survey.

The Eastern region participation leads organised a consultation with the Children's Commissioner Participation officers. Two members of the CiCC attended and gave their view on the services in Central Bedfordshire.

Young Voices have been consulted on the activity programme and have given their ideas for what activities they would like to try over the next year.

Annual Awards Evening

The Annual Awards evening took place on Friday 24th October 2014 in the Council Chambers at Priory House, over 200 nominations were received from social workers, foster carers and school staff.

This year 'Young Voices' planned the evening and suggested what entertainment, decorations, the design of the invites and the certificates should be. The evening started with a welcome from the CiCC members who then introduced the new Director of Children's Services, Sue Harrison. One of the CiCC members performed a song before Gerard Jones Assistant Director compered the evening. The Executive Member for Children's Services presented the awards, along with a social worker and personal advisor from the Corporate Parenting Service to each young person.

There were 108 young people who received their certificate, trophy and voucher on the night. All these young people had their photo taken and this was sent out after the event. The council chamber was decorated on a fairground theme along with fairground stalls including a coconut shy, tin can alley and a popcorn machine.

Feedback from the awards has been very positive from young people and professionals and was featured in Leighton Buzzard Observer. We also received some ideas for next year with regards to how the event is organised due to the fact that the event is bigger each year.

Activity Based Participation

This years summer activities programme included 9 days of activities, the information is sent out to all looked after children living in an area close enough to travel. This year there were 36 children between the ages of 8 – 15

years, including 3 young people from the Children with Disabilities team, who attended at least one of these days. The activity days continue to encourage young people to participate in activities they may not have tried before but also gives them an opportunity to meet other looked after children and care leavers. The CiCC members attend the activities to act as peer mentors and to support young people.

During the pony day a young person who had no experience of ponies eventually faced his fears and took part in a riding lesson. The young person was not only pleased with his achievements but also demonstrated good behaviour, which was then passed onto his social worker and foster carer for them to praise him during a time when he was struggling to maintain good behaviour.

Whilst taking part in the activity programme informal consultations took place with young people to find out their views of services. One of the main areas of discussion was the high number of changes of social worker, with a number of young people stating they had had 3 or 4 changes. One young person explained there had been a number of changes when workers had not left CBC but there had been changes within the team. Another young person said that they had so many changes that they could not remember who their worker was. This information was shared with managers and social workers.

There was also an activity day for the over 16s at Sport Support, this gave the young people an opportunity to develop team skills and meet other care leavers. Through this we were able to recruit more young people to our participation / CiCC events.

These informal consultation activities allow us to get information from young people who would not necessarily take part in a CiCC meeting or complete a survey but when in a relaxed environment are happy to discuss things that matter to them.

CiCC Involvement

Members of the CiCC including a representative from the Children with Disabilities team, have been part of the recruitment process for the Director of Children's Services, the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Board, managers for various teams within Children's Services and social workers applying for the Assisted and Supported Year of Employment, (ASYE).

The CiCC have further developed the training for the ASYE programme, where the CiCC members deliver the training to newly qualified social workers and will be developing an evaluation of the training. This includes the 'Social Workers Toolbox' which workers take away and will then evaluate 6 months after working as a social worker. Members of the CiCC who have delivered this training have achieved accreditation for this work, through The Academy.

The Frontline Programme, which is the new fast track social work training programme, requested Central Bedfordshire's CiCC to support the training

programme of over 100 social workers. The 10 members of the CiCC who took part developed the Social Work Toolbox as a way to ask the workers to look at the reasons they wanted to become a social worker and what qualities they would need. Then inside the box they discussed what tools they would need to make a good social worker, the young people received excellent feedback and were invited to be part of another training day and have been invited to train this year's cohort.

'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 satisfying 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.'

Louise Grant, Principal Lecturer in Social Work, University of Bedfordshire

The CiCC continues to be part of the training for foster carers, where they create a house to represent what makes a good foster carer and then the houses are taken to show new young people moving into the house what they can expect.

The CiCC are now part of the Induction Process for new members of staff starting within the Children's Services directorate. The CiCC have written a presentation and then allow a question and answer session. They have also created posters for the training room. Feedback from this has been very positive. *'It was to quote 'buzzing' it really was the best revamp of this programme we have done, it actually made the induction live. The new starters were amazed at what they received.'* Sandra Einon

Members of the CiCC worked with the Commissioning Service in the tendering process for supported accommodation for care leavers and the Independent Visitor and Advocate Service contracts,

Participation Work Plan (Appendix 1)

The seconded participation officer post created in 2012 was extended to cover the permanent post holder's maternity leave. This has now ended and the work plan going forward will be for one full time participation officer, this will impact on the work plan going forward.

As well as working with Looked After Children and Care Leavers, the participation officer is working alongside Research in Practice to develop the Voice of the Child within Child Protection.

Future Priorities

The CiCC have discussed the need to redevelop the CiCC and how they meet. This will be a main focus of the work plan over the next year along with recruiting more young people to both the CiCC and Young Voices groups.

The CiCC write their own priorities and these need to be confirmed and agreed by the Corporate Parenting Panel, whilst taking into consideration any budget implications.

The activity programmes need to be developed with input from the CiCC and Young Voices and Central Bedfordshire Council's leisure services who are able to support the activity programme.

The Awards evening has been provisionally booked for Friday 25th September 2015 in the Council Chamber; discussions need to take place with facilities to ensure the event can take place in the Chamber. Representatives from the CiCC and Young Voices will work together to organise this year's event.

The CiCC have identified the need to update The Pledge to our looked after children. The current one was agreed in 2010, and an audit tool needs to be developed to make sure our young people are receiving what the Pledge says.

The development of the Passport to Independence continues and a focus group will be developed to work on this alongside the Leaving Care Team.

The CiCC website is still a priority but there have been IT challenges in relation to resources allocated to the project. Mock up website pages have been drawn up in addition to a prototype website to test functionality. The way forward would be to have a dedicated IT worker to implement the website and test its functionality.

Challenges

Even though the number of young people involved in the CiCC and Young Voices has risen there is a perception that only certain young people are involved. This is mainly due to the timings of interviews, meetings and other events where young people are requested to take part. The number of young people available during the working day has decreased due to the increase in young people being involved in education, training or employment.

Discussions need to take place with regards to the support for participation activities and CiCC / Young Voices meetings, guaranteed support needs to be found, as they cannot take place with just one worker.

The CiCC have not received feedback when completing consultations and work and sometimes the involvement may seem tokenistic. For example when young people raised an issue with regards to the Young Inspectors inspecting Corporate Parenting Service and the question was asked around the involvement of the CiCC, they received no feedback. This information was then added to another report, which was then presented to Corporate Parenting Panel where CiCC members were present but did not feel able to ask the question.

Conclusion

The CiCC continues to develop and change, however the young people themselves report that further work and support is needed to make this a better functioning group.

The CiCC need to develop their own work plan and priorities to ensure that the work they do is young person led, this will then support the group in ensuring they feel that the work they do is meaningful. This will take some time to nurture and empower young people to then develop the confidence of the group.

The Young Voices Group over the last year has continued to grow and the young people involved in this are enjoying the experience that this has brought. Further consultation will be developed with this group to ensure their feedback is used to develop services for looked after children.

Members of the CiCC continue to have strong links with the Corporate Parenting Panel and Senior Officers including the Chief Executive, the Director of Children's Services and the Assistant Director.

The CiCC continue to be involved in areas of work for Central Bedfordshire Council and gain valuable experience and skills in being part of this which has enabled young people to use the experience to show experience of work when applying for jobs or training.

Discussions need to take place with regards the future work plan of the Participation Officer for 2015.

Forward Plan

See Appendix 3

Appendix 1

Participation Work Plan 2014

Priorities	Action	Timescales	Accountability	Outcomes	Update
Support CiCC with achieving priorities and work plan for 2014.	Continue to work through agreed priorities and work plan.	Ongoing throughout 2014	CiCC and Participation Officers	<p>Young people to have a voice in relation to the planning and delivery of services they receive. Feedback will influence and improve services to the Corporate Parenting Service.</p> <p>To develop a sense of belonging and shared identity with others who have similar experiences.</p> <p>To increase their confidence & raise self esteem and establish transferable and valuable life skills.</p> <p>Be part of the planning and operational process.</p> <p>To engage with officers and elected members within CBC.</p>	Young People where involved in developing the new framework for recruiting semi-independent providers to provide a range of supported accommodation for Looked After Children & Care Leavers – this included a workshop with our commissioning team to develop the framework and 2 young people participated in the shortlisting of providers.
Children with Disabilities. Increase involvement and engagement.	Liaise with CWD Head of Service.	Initial strategy completed by the end of April 2014	CWD Head of Service and Participation Officers	Children with disabilities will be represented within the CiCC and strategies will be established where their wishes and feelings will be incorporated into service developments.	All looked after children including those children with disabilities, are invited to all the activities and awards evening. There has been 3 young people attend the activities from this team as well as young people attending the awards evening. One young person from the CWD also supported

					the CiCC on the interview panel for the Director of Children's Services.
Encourage more engagement from looked after children and care leavers in participation activities.	Improve relationships with social workers, foster carers and personal advisors in promoting participation events and staff engagement.	February (half term) April (Easter holidays) August (Summer holidays) October (Half term) December (Winter holidays)	Participation Officers, managers in the Corporate Parenting Service, Social workers, Personal Advisors & Foster Carers	Increase the numbers of young people, including children with disabilities, engaging in participation activities. Young people will benefit from peer support, positive interactions with other young people who are in care and this will be recorded in case notes and statutory visits.	There were 36 children and young people who attended at least one day of the summer activities programme, this also included young people from the CWD team. There was also an activity day for the over 16 year olds and 19 young people attended this. The feedback from the older group was that they would like more of this type of activity.
Establish consultation work with a more representative cohort of young people including out of county.	CBC specific surveys developed for social workers and Personals advisors to incorporate into their statutory visits.	July 2014	Participation Officers, Social Workers, Personal Advisors	CBC to have specific feedback about the quality of service young people are receiving and use this information to make positive change. Increase the use of the independent advocacy service and peer mentors.	Consultations took place on the review documents which has resulted in new booklets being produced. A passport to independence workshop was arranged which included young people, managers and Cllrs. Further development work will continue on this.
Further develop	CiCC to research into	Ongoing throughout	Participation Officers,	CiCC, looked after children and care leavers will have greater	Participation leads meeting

<p>relationships with members of Corporate Parenting Panel and the CiCC.</p>	<p>how other local authorities engage with their councillors and develop a strategy of how the CiCC, looked after children and care leavers will engage with councillors.</p>	<p>2014.</p>	<p>CiCC and Councillors</p>	<p>opportunities to meet with councillors and discuss their experiences of care and contribute to service developments.</p> <p>Councillors having more involvement with a wider cohort of young people looked after and care leavers to strengthen links and raise awareness of the importance of having meaningful relationships as corporate parents.</p>	
--	---	--------------	-----------------------------	---	--

Say It Loud!

Welcome to another edition of the children in care council's newsletter, we have worked really hard to change the service for all young people to give them a better experience of being a looked after child and a care leaver. We are going to tell you some of the things that the CICC have been up to the last few months.

Awards Evening

This year the awards evening was held on Friday 24th October. It was the biggest event to date, with over 200 nominations and over 100 young people attending. Cllr Versallion presented the awards and said: "I'm always delighted to attend this awards event, and to hear some of the amazing achievements by these truly inspiring children and young people. They really do prove that if you put your mind to something then the sky's the limit."



Summer Activities

During the summer holiday we arranged a variety of activities for the young people to participate in. We did activities such as Kempston outdoor centre, Gulliver's land and the cinema. During the activities the older children in care council acted as peer mentors, this would give them a chance to ask any questions that they may be afraid to ask their foster carers or social workers about.

Children's Commissioner

Two members of our CICC have been attending meetings with the Children's Commissioner young expert group in London. We have been meeting to change the national survey that goes out every year to the young people, this is so we can get views and opinions on how good services are and how they can be improved. We have enclosed a leaflet with information on where to find the survey and would be grateful if you could complete this so we can also use the results to make things better in Central Bedfordshire.

Christmas Events

Monday 22nd December – Flitwick Village Hall. Christmas Party for young people over 16. For more information or to book a place please speak to your worker.

Tuesday 23rd December – Pizza Hut & Cineworld, Bedford. For young people aged 8-15, places are limited please contact Marie Short on 0300 300 4881.

Introducing Sue Harrison



We have a new Director of Children's services, her name is Sue Harrison (pictured left), we met up with her to introduce the CICC and what we do. Sue is really interested in what our views are and we will be meeting with her to give her updates. Sue has written a blog for children and young people and we have added it to the back of our newsletter.

We looked forward to working with Sue and welcome her to Central Bedfordshire.

THANKS FOR READING OUR NEWSLETTER! DAYTONA, CHARLOTTE & AMY!



SUE'S BLOG FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Hello,

You may well be wondering who is this person writing a blog? Well, I am your new Director of Children's Services. I have a wonderful job as I am responsible for making sure that young people in Central Bedfordshire are supported by good quality services from the moment they are born until they reach adulthood. These services include Children's Centres, youth work, schools and social work teams. I have already been able to visit some wonderful schools including [Redbourne Upper School](#), where I was pleasantly surprised to find a real life farm as part of the school! I saw some amazing art work produced by students at Robert Bloomfield Middle School.

This is my first blog written especially for young people. I write a blog each month which you are all welcome to read, but it is aimed at an adult audience. I hope that you will tell me whether you have found this blog interesting to read and whether you think it would be a good idea for me to write a regular blog for young people. Thank you to Amy, Charlotte and Daytona, from the Children in care Council, who gave me useful feedback on my first attempt!

I am sure you have all experienced starting a new school. It's an exciting time, a chance to make new friends but like any new experience there are nervous feelings too! Starting a new job is a bit like starting a new school. There are a lot of new faces and names to learn! I am very grateful for all the support that everyone has given me since I arrived in Central Bedfordshire council six weeks ago. From my secretary, Annette, who has made sure I get to the right place at the right time, to our head teachers who have kindly invited me to their schools, and all the staff who are so proud of the children they support.

I have two grown up children. My son lives and works in Switzerland, and my daughter is studying for an English degree at Leeds University. My daughter had to spend a considerable amount of time in hospital as she was growing up, so I understand how for some young people there are additional challenges that are part of life. Overcoming these challenges is daily routine for some of you and I am committed to making sure that all children and young people have the best support to help you make the most of your individual talents.

I would like to find out more from you and discover what you are most proud of as a young citizen of Central Bedfordshire. Perhaps you have questions for me or ideas of services you think I should go and visit. Perhaps you would like to tell me more about your experiences growing up here. I am very interested in your views and hope I will meet you when I am visiting schools or at one of our young people's summit which I will be telling you more about next time.

Sue Harrison

Looked after Children and Young Peoples Participation Forward Plan 2015 - 2016

The active involvement of children and young people is a central commitment to the Children and Young People's Plan

Theme	Action Plan	Action by	Timescale	Benefits for young people
Children in Care Council and Participation Groups.	<p>To work with managers and staff from Corporate Parenting Service to support the CiCC for Central Bedfordshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the CiCC Monthly Meetings where members work to complete tasks identified in the Children in Care Council Priorities. • To organise and support activity based Participation Groups; one for over 16 year olds and one for young people between the ages of 8 and 15 years. • To support representatives of the CiCC to meet with workers and young people from the children with disabilities team to ensure their views are heard. • To promote the work of the CiCC and recruit more young people to attend the CiCC meetings. 	<p>M Short (MS)</p> <p>MS</p> <p>MS</p> <p>MS</p> <p>MS</p>	<p>Ongoing – reviewed quarterly</p> <p>Ongoing– reviewed quarterly</p> <p>Ongoing– reviewed quarterly</p> <p>Ongoing– reviewed quarterly</p> <p>Ongoing– reviewed quarterly</p>	<p>To have a voice in relation to the planning and delivery of services they receive. Feedback will influence and improve services to looked after children & care leavers.</p> <p>To develop a sense of belonging and shared identity with others who have similar experiences.</p> <p>To develop confidence & raise self esteem.</p> <p>To develop transferable and valuable life skills.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with & support looked after children and young people in monitoring and reviewing the Pledge for Central Bedfordshire. • To support members of the Children in Care Council to attend the Corporate Parenting Panel and present updates and reports as requested. • To support members of the CiCC in meetings with the Chief Executive, Director of Children’s Services, Assistant Director and Head of Service. • To work with & support the young people involved in the participation groups to draw up agendas and work plans regarding participation and consultations. • To be actively engaged in planning future activity based participation events and the Annual Achievement Awards. • To explore with CiCC members their role in future Ofsted Inspections. 	<p>MS/Edward Wong (EW)</p> <p>MS/EW</p> <p>MS/Richard Carr (RCC)/Sue Harrison (SC)/Gerard Jones (GJ)</p> <p>MS</p> <p>MS/CiCC</p> <p>MS/EW/GJ</p>	<p>Ongoing– reviewed quarterly</p> <p>Ongoing– reviewed quarterly</p> <p>As and when required.</p> <p>Ongoing – reviewed quarterly</p>	<p>Be part of the planning and operational process.</p> <p>To engage with officers and elected members</p> <p>To develop a dialogue with officers that make decisions within the council, providing a voice for all looked after children and care leavers.</p> <p>To have a young person led participation group.</p> <p>CiCC members are aware of their role & participation in an Ofsted Inspection.</p>
--	---	---	--	---

The Pledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review & update the looked after children & care leavers Pledge in consultation with all young people. 	MS/EW	May 2015	The Pledge has been endorsed by Corporate Parenting Panel & all young people and staff are aware.
Consultation/ Training/ Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To actively participate in consultation exercises across the service in line with local requirements, regional and National events. Support members of the CiCC to develop a survey to gain feedback on services. To support young people in delivering training for social workers and foster carers. To be part of the induction process for new workers starting with CBC. To support young people to be part of the recruitment process for social workers and foster carers for Central Bedfordshire Council. 	MS/CiCC MS MS/GJ MS/GJ MS/GJ	Ongoing– reviewed quarterly Sept 2015 When required Every 2 weeks	Oversight and responsibility for delivering services Employment and skill development opportunities for looked after children, building confidence & self esteem and positive contribution to their CV's.
Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support young people in producing a newsletter giving information about the CiCC and participation groups. 	MS	Every month	Keep LAC informed of events and current opportunities.

Leaving Care packs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a Leaving Care Information Pack/Passport to Independence. 	MS/EW	October 2015	To ensure that young people will have the appropriate information when they enter the care system.
Web-site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a web site for children and young people in care with which they are actively involved both in the production and ongoing maintenance. 	MS/GJ	Summer 2015	To better enable young people to have the lead in developing the site and improving their own IT skills. Improved participation and consultation through a user-friendly medium for young people.
Engagement in meetings/ networks/ raising participation in CiCC for all looked after children and care leavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To attend Regional Participation Leads meetings. To attend SMT to report on activity. Attend LAC Education working group. To attend joint meeting with looked after children, care leavers and Youth Support. Attend joint looked after children & care leaver team meetings and other service team meetings as appropriate. 	MS MS MS MS MS	Quarterly	Maintaining the profile of participation work.
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend relevant external training courses on Participation. Explore opportunities for developing 	MS MS	Ongoing – reviewed quarterly	External training to influence improved participation, better ways of engaging and improving service delivery Young people benefit from personal

	an in house course(s) for children and young people in care.			development which will improve the quality of participation.
Policy 'Our approach to Corporate Parenting in Central Bedfordshire Council 2014 – 2017'	Contribute to the implementation of Corporate Parenting Action Plan,	MS	Ongoing – reviewed quarterly	To review and monitor actions taken in consultation with Looked After Children & Care Leavers
Bi-Monthly Challenge Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up terms of reference. • Identify group of young people for panel – equal representation from looked after children & care leavers population. • Group of young people to discuss concerns/issues with the managers of the Corporate Parenting Service 	MS/CiCC MS/CiCC MS/CiCC	Through the course of the year.	Young people to influence policy and practice of the Corporate Parenting Service.