

Corporate Parenting Panel Report

| | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|---|
| | 12 JULY 2016 | Item Number | 5 |
|--|--------------|-------------|---|

Children & Young People's Participation

Children in Care Council: Today's Children Tomorrow's Future (TCTF)

Report Sponsor: Nicky Rayner, Service Director Children & Families

Authors and contacts: Jo Hooper, Head of Safeguarding – Tel 01908 254307
Emma Hosking, Participation and Engagement Worker
– Tel 01908 253781

Report Summary

Purpose of report:

To update the Corporate Parenting Panel about participation and engagement with children and young people in care.

Background:

A key statutory requirement for Local Authorities is to ensure that children in care participate in and contribute to decisions about their lives and also contribute to the development of services which are provided for them. A Children in Care Council (known as TCTF) is established in Milton Keynes.

Corporate Priorities:

The Children in Care Council and associated engagement activities represent a central plank in the council's participation agenda, enabling children in care directly to contribute to meeting the corporate priority of *developing and maintaining effective services and interventions that keep the most vulnerable children and young people safe and prevent them from experiencing additional difficulties.*

Performance Information:

N/A

Equality and Diversity Impact:

The Corporate Parenting service is provided for children from across our community. It therefore needs to provide interventions that can meet the diverse needs of the children and young people for whom the Council is corporate parent.

Recommendations /Proposals:

That the Panel comments on the report and the report be noted.

Full Report

Children in Care Group

The group recently took part in a consultation led by TCTF about the new name for the Children in Care Council and what activities the group would like during the summer holidays. The outcome will be announced at True Triumph.

Members of staff nominated all the young people who attend the group for True Triumph awards (see below).

Summer Scheme

Young people at the Children in Care Group, supported by staff, have been developing a summer programme for 10-15 year olds in care. The three week long project aims to provide safe and positive activities and is intended to engage with young people who currently aren't attending the children in care youth group. The summer scheme will run from Monday 25th July – Wednesday 10th August. Activities will include sports, arts and crafts, a trip to Caldecotte Xperience (an outdoor education centre) and a disco.

The summer programme will provide a good opportunity to consult with young people about a number of care issues.

TCTF (Children in Care Council)

The Children in Care Council are developing a 'Coming into Care Pack', which will provide information for children and young people about what life is like in care and a range of information about support services. They are also working on participation training for social workers. The current priorities are True Triumph and summer activities, so the pack and training will become the focus in September, for implementation by the end of the year.

The group have been working on rebranding the Children in Care Council. This involved consulting other young people on a new name and logo and on redevelopment of the Children in Care Pledge. All will be revealed at True Triumph on Friday 1st July.

The 'VIP Pizza Party' for young people, Senior Management and Corporate Parenting Panel is now planned for September 2016. The pizza party will be an opportunity for young people to meet and discuss important issues with key decision makers whilst having fun. More information will be available shortly.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers (APPG) met on Wednesday 27th April. A group from TCTF attended and discussed 'should young people in care have to complete a money management course before leaving care?' The group agreed money management is important, but gave the view that it is important to all young people and therefore should be a subject which is taught in school.

New2UK Project

This weekly project, which started in February, provides social and emotional support to asylum seeking young people aged 15-20 who are new to the UK. It provides a space for them to learn more about different cultures, improve and develop new skills, boost confidence and self-esteem and get support. Eleven young people have been attending the sessions and staff have seen developments in their confidence and English language skills.

A summer programme of activities has been planned, including a trip to London on Monday 1st August, a bus trip around Milton Keynes and a BBQ.

Children in Care Survey

A short survey was developed with the Corporate Parenting Team to review how young people in care aged 5-18 felt about the services they had received during the past year. The survey was also shared at the Children in Care Youth Group. 25 children and young people responded to the survey and the results this report (Annexed).

Care Leavers Forum

The Care Leavers Forum continues to grow. The group met on the March 29th and April 26th at Bletchley Youth Centre. Six young people attended and we are looking at ideas for activities and sessions, such as learning to cook on a budget, organising social activities and support for gaining employment. Promotion of the group will continue and the next forum will take place on Tuesday 31st May.

Foster Carer Training

Young people supported the Foster Carer Training programme on Thursday 19th May. This gives foster carers the opportunity to ask young people questions and for young people to share good experiences and what life is really like in care. The young people really enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to participating again in the future.

Supported Accommodation Commissioning

Young people are involved in our commissioning work to identify providers for Supported Accommodation. Young people including young mums have already been consulted with on what they would like to see in supported accommodation and the information was used to inform the criteria of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) document. Three questions within the MEAT document will be scored by young people only.

The training of young people and the reading of tenders will take place in June 2016.

Contact Centre Consultation

Families with children over 8 years old who use our contact services have been asked for their views about what the contact centre could do to make contact better for older children. Eight families participated in a consultation conducted at the contact centre. A short report with the results will follow.

True Triumph 2016

Preparations are well advanced for the upcoming True Triumph Awards. The planning group, which last met on 17th May, includes members of TCTF, Care Leavers representative, Virtual School and Youth Faculty. We were pleased to receive 198 nominations, which were judged on Tuesday 31st May by a Panel involving young people, social workers and senior managers. The judging was enjoyed by all and the panel was impressed with the range of the children and young peoples achievements. The panel especially enjoyed having young people involved as they took the judging very seriously and contributed a different view point.

True Triumph will take place on Friday 1st July 2016 at the Ridgeway Centre, 5.00pm-9.00pm