

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION**

*To:* Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

*Meeting Date:* 20 March 2019

*From:* Jacqui Barry & Claire Betteridge - Service Development Managers  
Hullal Miah – Mind of my Own (MOMO) Apprentice  
Amanda Prior – Participation Worker

*Electoral division(s):* All

*Purpose:* To provide an update on the range of participation and consultation events offered by the Participation Service.

*Recommendation:* To comment on the consultation events and activities provided by the Participation Service to Children Looked After.

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## **Summary:**

- There is a plan for participation activities throughout 2019, including Voices Matter meetings and the Care Leavers Forum.
- The Corporate Parenting Committee Co-Opted Members are being consulted over mental health issues for children in care and care leavers.  
The Mind of my Own Apprentice continues to promote the use of the APP offering individual and group training. See Appendix 3 for a breakdown of performance for Mind of My Own.
- The Participation worker vacancy has been recruited to and Amanda Prior joined the team on the 16 January 2019.
- A new Participation Strategy has been produced and is awaiting approval and a formal launch
- An action plan is being drafted to support the monitoring and the implementation of The Promise for children in care and care leavers.
- The Participation Team hosted the annual awards ceremony for children in care and care leavers on the 15 February 2019.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 Committee requested an update on the work of the Participation Service at each meeting.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

### **2.1 Update on Involvement of Young People**

#### **Consultation**

The Care Leavers' Forum has been consulted on the Local Offer, including coming up with a new name for the initiative, Pathways4Us.

The two Co-Opted members of the Corporate Parenting Committee have been invited to be involved in the task and finish group on mental health for children in care and care leavers, with the Assistant Director and the Clinical Lead for Psychology.

The participation team is seeking to identify other young people who might be interested in being substitutes for the co-opted members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee, so we can ensure we have two young people in attendance at each meeting.

The participation team have been asked to support the children in care health team review the Health Passport. This will be discussed with the Care Leaver's Forum who are due to meet on the 12 March 2019.

### **2.2 Events Held**

- The participation service hosted the annual awards ceremony on the 15 February 2019. There were two hundred children and young people who were nominated for an award and around eighty attended the event, where they were entertained by a magician and disco.

- A number of children and young people along with their carers attended a recent stargazing session at Cambridge University hosted by the Realise team on astronomy, the event was reported to be extremely enjoyable and informative.
- We have supported six young people in their attendance during the half term holiday at another Realise University Explore days. The two day event, offered workshops on debating, geology, modern languages and an engineering session on bridges, as well as circuit training at the sports centre.

## **Activities Planned**

- A series of events are planned throughout 2019, with Cambridge University for children in care and care leavers. We have met with representatives from the corporate parenting team and the virtual school to explore how we can work more collaboratively to improve attendance.
- A schedule of events and participation activities are planned for 2019 and children residing out of County are invited to attend in the same way as all other children. We are currently exploring having a number of activity based sessions during the course of the year, which might include water based activities, drama and dance workshops.
- We are exploring supporting the participation of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people and how we can engage them in the groups we facilitate.
- The annual summer “picnic in the park” is booked for the 26 July 2019. We are going to consult with young people about the format of the day and what activities they would like to have on offer for this event.
- The next Voices Matter meeting is planned to take place over the Easter holidays and will include an activity of bowling and lunch in St Ives on the 9 April 2019.
- A Just Us group is planned for the 24 April 2019 and will take place in the Fenland area of the county.
- The participation team have also been asked to identify and support a group of young people being involved in the interviews for the step up to social work applicants which are taking place in May and June 2019.
- We are also looking at developing some training to support young people being involved in interview panels for social care staff.
- We are looking to visit social care teams and the foster carers support meetings in the coming weeks to update them regarding participation activities, promote the APP Mind of My Own, as well as using this as an opportunity to promote the revised promise and how this can be evidenced in their everyday practice.
- We have a session planned with the virtual school to promote the Mind of My Own App.
- We have finalised the content of the Facebook page and are looking to launch this with a restricted number of young people to ensure that the focus is appropriate before a formal launch. A process has been drafted to ensure that members of the page are children in care and care leavers from Cambridgeshire to safeguard that requests to join the closed group are valid to prevent the possibility of inappropriate involvement others on the page.

Finally, in the summer of 2018, we attended a regional participation event where local authorities in this region are working on a project which will cover children in care advice for social workers, called top ten tips. The subjects that will be covered are -

- Don't nag!
- Communication is key: Listen
- Take me places: don't wear your badge
- Honesty
- Saying Goodbye is important: Introduce new workers to us
- Social Worker to promote the Children in Care Council (CiCC)
- Arrive on time
- Be respectful: Please don't judge us
- Be happy & smile
- Don't take it personally if we are having a bad day; Don't use our emotions against us

We have been tasked with collecting feedback on - **Be Respectful: Please don't judge us**. We have collected some comments from children and young people. This work will be taken to the national Children in Care Council and will inform all of Local Authority Children's Social Care about what things social workers need to remember when supporting children in care and care leavers. The top ten tips will be made into a film and showcased on the 17 April 2019 in London.

Hullal in the team has made models to share the comments received.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for examples of the work.

## 2.3 Participation Service

### Staffing

Our new participation worker Amanda Prior has now joined us. The participation worker currently on maternity leave is due to return to their post in April 2019.

The absence of a Participation worker has impacted on capacity to engage children and young people in participation events and meetings. The service is confident that this will improve in the coming months when the appropriate staff are in post.

### Mind of My Own

There has been lots of media coverage in recent times regarding other websites which have been using the acronym of MOMO to promote self harm to children and young people. The developers of Mind of My Own have been regular communication with Local Authorities and have taken a decision recently to stop using the acronym of MOMO and will be re-branding their APP. At the time of writing this report we are still awaiting the new branding materials but information has been sent out to practitioners in the principal social workers newsletter to make everyone aware and advising how to support young people access the APP.

The Mind of My Own Apprentice continues to target practitioners across the service who have registered for a Mind of My Own account but have not used it, offering training and support as a team or on a one to one basis to enhance practitioners understanding in how to use the application to capture the voice of the child. He has a number of training sessions across the county planned for April 2019.

There continues to be an issue with statements being created by workers on their accounts with young people and then not being sent. During January and February 2019, there was a total of 56 statements were created which have not been sent from the workers account to the Mind of My Own dashboard.

We have been asked by Mind of My Own to co-facilitate a workshop at their conference in May 2019 with another local authority as we have been consistently been using the APP for foster carer reviews and therefore Mind of My Own are keen to share this practice with others as to how this has been of benefit to our fostering service so others might follow suit.

Further information about the usage of Mind of My Own for January and February 2019 is included at Appendix 2.

### **3.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **3.1 Resource Implications**

N/A

#### **3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

N/A

#### **3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

N/A

#### **3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

N/A

#### **3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications**

N/A

#### **3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

N/A

#### **3.7 Public Health Implications**

N/A

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
None	

**Top Ten Tips for Social Workers - Be Respectful: Please don't judge us**







## MOMO STATISTICS JAN and FEB 2019

<b>Number of worker accounts</b>	<b>Number of young people with accounts</b>			
344	195			
	<b>JAN 2019</b>	<b>FEB 2019</b>	<b>MARCH 2019</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Number of statements per month from YP</b>	6	4		
<b>Number of statements per month via worker</b>	29	25		
<b>MOMO Express Statements per month</b>	19	4		
<b>Any statements not assigned</b>	0	1 (received a fake statement due to the age and content received)		
<b>Statements created but not sent</b>	30	26		
<b>Top 3 subject matters each month MOMO ONE</b>	35% Worker Visit 19% Problem 14% Foster Care Review 14% Share Good News	41% Foster Carer Review 26% Worker Visit 20% Preparation		
<b>Top 3 subject matters each month MOMO</b>	All about Me My Life My Day	All about me My Education		



<b>EXPRESS</b>				
<b>Top 3 workers each month MOMO ONE</b>	Thomas Heffer (8) Heather Murray (3) Dibs Fletcher (3) Victoria Batterham (3)	Terri wright (3) Adrian Bloxham (3)		
<b>Top 3 workers each month MOMO EXPRESS</b>	Elizabeth Allen (3) Zoe Holland (3) Sian Talbott (2) Sophie Daynes (2) Gerald Cleary (2)	Gerald Cleary (3) Mia Ross (3)		