

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION**

*To:* Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

*Meeting Date:* 27 April 2018

*From:* Claire Betteridge and Jacqui Barry  
Service Development Managers

*Electoral division(s):* All

*Purpose:* Update on participation of young people within Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

*Recommendation:* Note the update regarding the Participation Team and steps to involve young people within the Sub-Committee (young people to be co-opted at start of meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018)

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### **Summary:**

- Three Looked After young people have said that they would like to be part of the Corporate Parenting Sub- Committee. Two of them will become co-opted members and the third will be a substitute member. This means that they will go to meetings if one of the two co-opted members can't go. We will also look for another young person to be a substitute member to help make sure there are always young people able to come to meetings.
- The young people will write to other Looked After children after each Sub-Committee meeting to tell them what happened.
- All of the young people who are co-opted members or substitute members will be part of the Children in Care Council. They will find out what other Looked After children and young people think and tell councillors about this.
- The Participation Service has two new managers, Jacqui Barry and Claire Betteridge, and two new participation workers jobs are being advertised.
- The Participation groups 'Just Us' will start running again when the two new participation workers arrive.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 It was agreed by the Sub-Committee that they should involve young people directly in order to facilitate exchange of views. In addition the Committee requested an update on wider participation activities.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

### **2.1 Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Following a request by the Sub-Committee, all Looked After young people and care leavers were written to asking for expressions of interest in being part of the Sub-Committee's work. Four responded and three chose to attend a previous meeting and met with Councillor Every (Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee) on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018, to discuss, plan and agree their involvement and co-option to the committee.

It was agreed that two young people would be co-opted at the April meeting and that the third young person will be a substitute in accordance with the Terms of Reference. A fourth young person would also be sought to allow the young people to share the workload with two young people attending each meeting. Support with preparing for meetings will be provided through the Participation Team. The young people will write to all children in care and care leavers following every Sub-Committee meeting to keep them informed about the issues discussed and actions agreed.

These young people will also be members of the Voices Matter Group (Children in Care Council) and act as champions to take views to and from other young people. The group will have an agreed work plan and link with the work of the Committee. Councillor Every will be invited to attend these meetings.

## 2.2 Update on Participation Service

The Participation Service which involves young people in services has recently had a change in management. The Manager, Michelle Dean, has left and Steph Killick (Participation Worker) is now on maternity leave. Jacqui Barry and Claire Betteridge are now the strategic leads for the service.

Recruitment of two participation workers is underway. Until this recruitment is complete, 'Just Us' groups for young people will be paused. A letter has gone out to all Looked After Children and will shortly go to all Care Leavers to update them as above and also to let them know about opportunities to be part of Voices Matter – the Children in Care Council and a project called 'Staying Close Staying Connected' with a Charity called 'Break' which is looking at how young people who have been living in residential care are supported to move on when they reach 18 and their views on this.

As part of these changes, plans for the future role of the service will be developed with young people, senior managers and Sub-Committee members over the next few months.

## 3. **SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

### 3.1 **Resource Implications**

NA

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

NA

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

N/A

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

Not immediately but there will be a need to ensure equitable representation.

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

Not immediately but we will need to communicate and engage as the work develops.

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

At this point Member involvement will be via the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee but there may be more specific projects that emerge as the work develops.

### 3.7 **Public Health Implications**

N/A

Source Documents	Location
None	