

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION**

*To:* Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

*Meeting Date:* 22 May 2019

*From:* Claire Betteridge - Service Development Managers  
Hullal Miah – Mind of my Own (MOMO) Apprentice  
Amanda Prior – Participation Worker  
Helen Hooson – Business Support

*Electoral division(s):* All

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

*Recommendation:* To review and comment on the consultation events and activities provided by the Participation Service to Children in Care.

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## **Summary:**

- There is a plan for participation activities throughout 2019, including Voices Matter meetings and the Care Leavers Forum.
- 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.
- Amanda Prior and a young person attended the “Top Ten Tips for Social Workers” launch on the 17 April 2019.
- A new Participation Strategy has been produced and has been launched.
- The Participation Team hosted a Voices Matter meeting on the 9 April 2019 at One Leisure, this event was well attended.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Sub-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 participation team has been looking to identify other young people who might be interested in being substitutes for the co-opted members on the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee, so we can ensure we have young people in attendance at each meeting. One young person has expressed an interest and she is planning to come and observe The meeting on 22 May 2019 so she can gain an understanding of the purpose of the role she might take on.

Since January 2019, the care leaver’s forum meetings have not happened as anticipated for several reasons, including worker availability to cover evening meetings as well as young people not being able to attend or not confirming attendance. In February 2019, three young people came along to a meeting and they had a discussion about the impact that transport can have on their employability and job options and how they can become isolated as care leavers when they live in rural communities.

The April 2019 care leaver meeting only had one young person attend and therefore consultation was limited but she did contribute her views on the health passport, care leavers finance document and was keen to get involved in interviewing prospective. The next meeting is planned for the 8 May 2019.

The children in care council meeting (Voices Matter) took place on the 9 April 2019 at One Leisure. We had 20 children and young people come along aged between 6 and 15. There

were three young people who reside out of county. The meeting focused on promoting how children and young people can get involved in participation activities, after having a game of “Human Bingo”.

We then explored as a group the terminology we use when referring to children in care and the group made suggestions of alternative ways to describe things like their contact, care plan and Child in Care reviews. Prior to bowling the group tucked into a lunch of burgers, sausages or nuggets and chips. The event seemed to be positively received by all and everyone seemed to have a good time. The group was consulted about other activity based Voices Matter meetings and there was a consensus for trampoline session, water sports and football.

We have confirmed a booking at the trampoline centre in St Neots for the May half-term, which will incorporate the Voices Matter meeting, an hour on the trampolines and having something to eat.

## 2.2 Events Held

- The children in care council meeting took place on the 9 April 2019 at one leisure, see above for a summary of event.
- We planned to host a craft event after school on the 25 April 2019, however only one young person expressed an interest therefore we have changed date and will be looking to offer this over half term holiday, subject to securing a suitable venue.
- Amanda Prior and a care leaver went along to the premier in Greenwich of the regional participation film – “The Top Ten Tips for Social Workers”
  - 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
  - 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 are waiting to receive the link to the film and will circulate once we have it.

Although we gave an overview at the last Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee about the six young people who attended the Realise event in the February 2019 half term, we have recently received feedback from Realise about what the young people actually told them about the experience which we thought you would like to see.

- All participants reported that they had increased in knowledge about University from the event, this includes what life would be like, what student/financial support is available and what courses are available.

- The majority said their favourite session was the sport one and the feedback included, “Just fun to be active and try out new sport” and “I learnt to play a new sport and it was fun and different”

A series of events are planned throughout 2019, with Cambridge University for children in care and care leavers. The next date is planned for the May half term.

More information can be found via the link below

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/care>

### **Activities Planned**

- 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, arts and crafts.
- The next Voices Matter meeting is planned for the end of May 2019 and will be held at Xtreme 360 Trampoline Park in St Neots.
- The annual summer “picnic in the park” is booked for July 2019 and will again be held at Witchford Village Hall. We are in the process of finalising the activities for the day.
- 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. So far two young people have volunteered to be involved.
- We continue to meet with social care teams and the foster carers support meetings 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 are currently in discussion with two representatives from the library service as to how they can support children in care and care leavers in accessing their services, suggestions put forward by the library service has been offering access to free online resources (e.g. e-books, e-newspapers), Practice Driving Theory & Citizenship Tests, online training (i.e. Ciscoe Online I.T. Training).
- In addition to this we are meeting with representatives from the library service who are working on a project called ‘The Library Presents’ which is funded by Arts Council England which deliver arts events in libraries across Cambridgeshire. As a team they also do commissioned work with target groups and they are looking to facilitate opportunities specifically for children in care or care leavers. The information can be seen at the following link - [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts) We are meeting with them in early May with colleagues in corporate parenting to explore this further.

## **2.3 Participation Service**

### **Staffing**

The participation team currently has a part time manager (Claire Betteridge), two participation workers (Amanda Prior and Stephanie Killick, who has not returned from

maternity leave), a business support assistant (Helen Hooson) and an apprentice leading on Mind of my Own (Hullal Miah).

### **Mind of My Own**

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 delivered a number of training sessions across the county during April 2019.

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.

The table below highlights the statistics for Mind of My Own for the past 12 months – April 2018 – March 2019

<b>Number of YP accounts</b>	84
<b>Number of Worker accounts</b>	363
<b>Number of Express Statements</b>	353
<b>Number of One Statements</b>	397
<b>Top Statements – One</b>	35% Worker Visit
	27% Foster Carer Reviews
	12% Preparation
<b>Top Statements - Express</b>	33% About Me
	22% My Education
	15% My Health

### **3.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

None identified

### **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

Source Documents	Location
None	