

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 19 September 2018

From: Claire Betteridge and Jacqui Barry - Service Development Managers
Holly Unwin– Participation Worker
Hullal Miah – Mind of my Own (MOMO) Apprentice

Electoral division(s): All

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

Recommendation: To advise sub-committee of developments in the participation team.

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Summary:

- We now have two looked after young people who are Co-Opted members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.
- They are also part of the Children in Care Council and will seek out the views of the wider looked after population in a variety of ways, and feed these into the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee as appropriate.
- The new participation team is now in post and have been actively working on developing the participation service alongside the strategic leads
- The participation service hosted the annual event for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, "Picnic in the Park", held at Witchford Village hall and sports field. The event was well attended and we have received positive feedback from colleagues and foster carers.
- We are looking to facilitate the Just Us groups during holiday times to facilitate the attendance of children and young people who reside out of county. There were two events for children aged between 5 and 9 and 10 and 16, on the 20 and 21 August.
- A group of children attended the Crest Award at the Botanical Gardens in collaboration with Cambridge University.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It was agreed by the 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

The two young people were co-opted at the April 2018 meeting as planned. We are looking to confirm a third and fourth young person who will act as substitutes in accordance with the Terms of Reference. This approach will allow the young people to share the workload with two of the four young people attending each meeting.

The young people will be offered support with preparing for meetings and this will be provided through the Participation Team.

The plan is that after each meeting the young people will write a brief update to share with other young people so that they know what was discussed.

These young people will all 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 voices matter took place as planned on the 17 July 2018. Unfortunately due to transport difficulties and traffic delays only two young people were in attendance but a good discussion was still able to be held. Additional young people will be joining the group.

2.2 Update on Participation Service

Participation staff have now been recruited. They have been working hard to make contact with various young people, including making early contact with young people first coming into care. The team has spent a lot of time planning and preparing for the Just Us groups which started in August 2018. The ages for the groups have changed slightly. The younger group will range from 5 to 9 in age and the other group from 10 to 16. From 16 upwards the young people will then be invited to join our care leavers' forum. We had 12 children for the initial groups and generally these went well and there was also some useful learning for future sessions.

The Just Us groups are scheduled to happen every six weeks and to be within the school holidays. This hopefully will make them more inclusive of young people who have been placed out of county or those in foster placements where there are other evening commitments.

The care leavers' forum happens once a month in the South of the county and we will be looking to facilitate a group in the north of the county.

We have also made contact with residential homes and disability/special educational needs and disability (SEND) services in order to be inclusive in our service. It has been noted that previously these groups of people have been left out of participation and we are keen to get them involved by implementing a bespoke service to these young people. Both the disabilities service and the residential care homes are on board in supporting us with this and we are keen to move forward with them.

The annual fun day, "Picnic in the Park" took place on the 1 August 2018 as planned. The event was a real success, we had lots of activities, including craft stalls there from glitter tattoos to pompom making, a soft play area, a sensory area, as well as funfair stalls such as coconut shy, hoopla and inflatable slides as well as giant games such as kerplunk and jenga, alongside crazy golf. The bake off competition went well with some creative and tasty entries. The ice cream van was very popular. We had feedback that the young people and carers really enjoyed themselves and we have had some interest from children and young people to get involved with the Just Us groups and Voices Matter. We plan to have a date for next year in the diary very soon.

During the week of the 30 July 2018, we had a small group of children take part in the Crest Award at the Botanic Gardens in partnership with Cambridge University. The week consisted of learning about different types of pollinators, how they pollinate flowers and what impact that has on the wider world. It was a really interesting week and on the whole the young people who took part were enthusiastic and really enjoyed the week. There will be another opportunity to take part in activities at the Botanic Garden in October.

On the 1 August 2018, our 'Mind of my Own' (MOMO) apprentice joined the team. He is currently completing his induction but we have an event planned at various office bases across the county on the 10 September, "MOMO Monday" to promote the use of MOMO with the workforce. We were pleased to have been one of MOMOs 'top users' in the first quarter of the year.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

3.7 Public Health Implications N/A

SOURCE DOCUMENTS

Source Documents	Location
N/A	