

CO-OPTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **13 December 2017**

From: **Fiona Mackirdy**
Head of Countywide and Looked After Children's services

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To advise the sub-committee on progress in identifying young people to be co-opted members**

Recommendation: **The Committee is asked to note the report and indicate views on the proposed way forward**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee has been constituted in such a way as to enable two young people with recent (within the past 5 years) experience of being a looked after child or care leaver to be co-opted members of the panel

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Officers met with the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board which preceded this Sub-Committee to consider how best to enable young people to become co-opted members of the Sub-Committee.
- 2.2 Views were also sought from the Voices Matter group by the Chair and the Chairman of the Children and Young Peoples' Committee. This group is the Cambridgeshire Children in Care Council.
- 2.3 As a matter of principle Members, officers and young people wanted to open up this opportunity to as many young people with care experience as possible which may be wider than the current cohort on the Voices Matter group or those attending looked after children's participation groups.
- 2.4 It was recognised that some thought as to those young people who may be best able to participate was needed as identified below:
- Young people would probably need to be aged over 12
 - As membership of the Sub-Committee is published, and records are in the public domain, children and young people would need to be happy that they were identified as someone with care experience, and that no safeguarding issues would arise from them being publically identified as such
 - Given young people's commitments some thought is needed on how young people's views can be represented if the co-opted members are unable to attend a meeting
 - Officers needed to provide as much support as was necessary to individuals, including young people who may have disabilities
- 2.5 It was proposed that the Service Development and Commissioning Manager would write to all young people aged over 12 to outline this opportunity and to seek interest that could then be followed up with direct contact. This written contact would be in a young-person friendly and attractive format. Foster carers, care settings, social worker and Independent Reviewing Officers would also be made aware of the opportunity so that they could publicise or nominate young people.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

None

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

None

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

None

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

None

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

None

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

None

3.7 Public Health Implications

None

SOURCE DOCUMENTS

Source Documents	Location
<i>None</i>	