

16 September 2013**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE****PROVISION, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS OF THE CHILDREN IN
CARE COUNCIL AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE LOOKED AFTER 2012/13****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an overview of the work of the Young People Looked After (YPLA) team, situated within the Young People's Service. The YPLA team is responsible for:
 - the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and ensuring that young people looked after are represented at all levels in the Nottinghamshire system of Youth Participation
 - encouraging and enabling young people who are looked after, adopted or living in residential care to engage in positive activities provided by the young people looked after youth work team and to independently access mainstream provision
 - offering individual support to an agreed number of fostered young people
 - engaging with at least 250 children and young people looked after in more than 900 attendances with staff
 - working in partnership with Children's Social Care and the Group Manager for the Access to Resources section.

Information and Advice

2. The YPLA team is responsible for the planning and delivery of a range of positive activities outside of school for looked after and adopted young people to enable them to come together to participate and have fun in events throughout the year as well as to have a voice about their life in care through the work of the CiCC. The opportunities on offer for young people to engage are designed to promote and support them to build their confidence and self esteem.
3. Young people looked after are signposted to universal services across the County as well as participating in small and large group work activities to ensure that they can gain the self reliance through learning new skills and experience positive relationships to help broaden their horizons.

4. Activities are designed to help support a holistic assessment of children and young people's needs and to help close the gap in educational attainment through joining in activities outside of the school environment. The positive activities young people participate in also promotes placement stability, as young people are actively engaged, as well as a platform for young people to share their views about life in care. A number of those young people will go on to be members of the sub groups of the CiCC and the more formal No Labels meetings where the sub-group representatives come together with a range of senior management and elected members to sign off completed pieces of consultation and commissioned task and finish participation work. The Structure of the CiCC is set out in **Appendix 1**.
5. Young People Looked After have participated in a wide range of activities throughout the first half of 2013, with more events planned for the remaining financial year. This includes various adventurous activities, visits and trips, dance, arts and crafts, music and horse riding.
6. The CiCC listen to what children and young people are saying and these views are taken forward and acted upon. Representatives from the CiCC are also encouraged to have an active role on the Children and Young People's Board. The strategic development of the CiCC has direct links to the new Looked After Strategy and is set within a whole vision for Children, Families and Cultural Services.
7. The work of the CiCC has direct links to The Pledge which is a set of promises that Nottinghamshire County Council has made to young people looked after and has strategic commitment from senior management and the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. The Pledge is currently in the process of being reviewed and there is an expectation that the CiCC sub-groups and No Labels will sign off the changes throughout 2013 with the updated Pledge will be ready for circulation to all young people looked after by April 2014.
8. The CiCC structure includes seven sub groups, which provides a mechanism for a range of groups of looked after young people to be involved in the Nottinghamshire system of Youth Participation. Representatives from each sub-group then meet as the formal CICC board (known as No Labels). The groups have all met three times during 2013 with three more meetings scheduled up to March 2014. Young people have been asked to give their views and decisions on a variety of strategic and business agenda items such as:
 - the Looked After Children Strategy monitoring – Pledge review throughout 2013/14
 - Personal Education Plans – a new form introduced by the Virtual School Coordinator – booklet for young people
 - consultation with young people on the review of the Aftercare service
 - consultation with young people on the Nottinghamshire County and Bassetlaw Children in Care and Adoption Health Team Leaflet – ongoing throughout 2013/14

- group of young people worked together on the planning and participation at the Achievement Event
- consultation with young people regarding the payments for pocket money in NCC residential homes
- consultation with young people regarding free access to youth service provision across the County
- young people participating in the training of foster carers attending foundation training.

Other Options Considered:

9. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the overview of the work of the Young People Looked After team be noted.

Derek Highton,
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Constitutional Comments

12. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KLA 15/08/13)

13. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

The PLEDGE booklet – Nottinghamshire County Council's promise to children and young people Looked After

Nottinghamshire County Council Looked After Strategy

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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