



13 March 2017

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR YOUTH FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES

PROVISION, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS OF THE CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKED AFTER 2016/17

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an overview of the work of the Young People Looked After (YPLA) Youth Work team, situated within the Youth 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 YPLA team and to independently access mainstream provision.
 - Engaging with at least 250 unique individuals (children and young people looked after) in more than 1200 sessions of activity with youth work 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 the school day for looked after and adopted young people. This is to enable young people 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 CiCC structure includes a number of sub-groups, which provide 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 (also known as No Labels). The opportunities on offer for young people to engage are designed to promote and support them to build their confidence and self-esteem as well as to develop new experiences.
3. Young People Looked After are signposted to universal services across the County, as well as encouraged to participate in group work activities. This assists young people to

develop positive relationships with other young people and youth workers to help broaden their horizons, learning new skills and having new experiences. Young People Looked After have participated in a wide range of activities throughout 2016/17, with more events planned for the remaining financial year.

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 the school environment. The positive activities young people participate in provide a platform for young people to share their views about life in care, which helps to promote placement stability, as young people are actively engaged. A number of these young people will go on to be members of the sub-groups of the CiCC and attend No Labels meetings where sub-group representatives come together with a range of senior officers and elected Members to design and shape services available to them.
5. The CiCC listens to what children and young people are saying and these views are taken forward and acted upon. There is also an expectation that the membership of the CiCC will be encouraged to have an active role in the Young People Board. The strategic development of the CiCC has direct links to the Looked After Strategy and is set within a vision for Children, Families and Cultural Services.
6. The work of the CiCC has direct links to the PLEDGE which is a set of promises (set within the Looked After Strategy) that Nottinghamshire County Council has made to Young People Looked After and has strategic commitment from senior management and the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.
7. The CiCC sub-groups and No Labels have all met six times since April 2016 with further meetings planned from March 2017. To date young people have been actively involved in a number of events or participated in sharing their views and making decisions on a variety of strategic and business agenda items such as:
 - Consultation with young people on the LAC strategy review, and influencing the key priorities and action plan.
 - "My story" which articulates the experiences LAC children had of the health system
 - LAC young people attending the All Parliamentary Group debating the motion "Children can't leave care until they have completed a money management course"
 - Working with the Coordinator of the Virtual School on planning and delivering the Achievement Event in July 2016
 - To provide information for LAC young people on how CAMHS is structured and how support is accessed
 - Young people participating in the training of foster carers attending foundation training
 - LAC young people were involved with planning and delivering workshops at the launch of the D2N2 Youth Work Alliance
 - The CiCC have been approached by Waterways to develop a project led by young people to increase the participation, interest and involvement of young people in waterways across Nottinghamshire. (This is an ongoing project).
 - LAC young people are being consulted on their Pathway plans to ensure they are understood by young people, and are clear regarding actions, time scales and who is responsible in delivering actions (ongoing project).

- Looking at the quality of care and whether human rights are upheld in care and in residential schools (ongoing project)
 - Looked After Young People were also involved in the launch of the Health for teens website as part of the Young People's Health Strategy, enabling young people to access better online health information
 - Consultation with young people in care describing who in the care system has made the biggest difference to them and why, via short film, poem and/or photo.
8. Expression of Interest forms (EOI) were introduced in April 2015, following a review of the process of how young people are invited to participate in shaping the services available to them. The CiCC have received twenty-five EOI since April 2016, allowing young people to:
- Take ownership of the agenda and their involvement in the design and delivery of services.
 - Identify how requests link to the PLEDGE.
 - Establish the information required and the time needed to enable young people to actively participate.
 - And enable organisations to keep track of individual projects they are involved in

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 crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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 Higton
Service Director Youth Families and Cultural Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Pom Bhogal
Youth Service Manager
Youth, Families and Culture Division
T: 0115 993277
E: pom.bhogal@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (TMR 14/02/17)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents:

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.

C0954