

**14 January 2013**

**Agenda Item: 6**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

### **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 update on the progress of the work of the County wide young people looked after youth work team which is responsible for the delivery of the Children in Care Council and leisure provision for all children and young people fostered, adopted and living in residential care.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The young people looked after youth work team is responsible for the planning and delivery of a range of positive out of school activities 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 Children in Care Council (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. There is also an expectation that young people will be signposted to universal services across the County as well as participate 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 activity 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 Children in Care Council.
5. Looked after and adopted young people have participated in a wide range of activities throughout 2012, with some events planned for 2013 up to end of financial year (see **Appendices 1 and 2**).

6. The CICC listen 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 children and young people board function. The strategic development of the young people looked after 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 looked after children and young people and has strategic commitment from senior management and the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee (see **Appendix 3**).
8. The CICC structure, which provides a set of seven sub-groups, meets the needs of the wide range of looked after provision for young people. This gives all young people the opportunity to participate (**Appendix 3**). Representation from each sub-group then meets as the formal CICC board (known as No Labels). The groups have all met five times throughout 2012. Young people have been asked to give their views and make decisions on a variety of strategic and business agenda items such as:
  - The new Looked After Children Strategy
  - Personal Education Plans – a new form introduced by the Virtual School Coordinator
  - ‘Listen to me’ booklet for each young person’s review which has been re-designed by young people and is now printed and distributed
  - Councillor Philip Owen, Chairman of the Children and Young People’s Committee, and Anthony May, Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services, were invited to meet with young people to explain their roles and responsibilities and answer questions from young people
  - Consultation with children and young people about the new child protection forms
  - Consultation and development of the ‘your rights if arrested’ booklet.

### **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, equal opportunities, 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 report be noted.

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (initials 02/01/13)**

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

### **Background Papers**

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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