

Children in Care Council Meeting 'Voices of Care'

25th March 2021 from 5pm

Attending: Emily, Rhianna, Lawson, Aaron, Ella, Alex, Reo, Courtney, Chloe, Summer, Declan (11)

Staff: Ruth & Tim

Visitors: Rosie Key (Participation Manager), Councillor Alex Dale

Apologies: Paige

Hello & Welcome

Ruth explained how the 'Teams' meeting will work (cameras on or off, microphones muted, hands up etc.,) and the Agenda for the meeting

Ground Rules

At the last meeting the chat room got a bit silly so Tim spoke to the group about what they thought should go in the chat room? What was appropriate to say and not to say. The group agreed on the ground rules.

- Be respectful
- Choose your language carefully as not to offend
- Listen to others
- Take part
- If asked, remove comments made and apologise
- Be kind
- Be mindful of others

Councillor Alex Dale

Cllr Dale gave a brief introduction to the group about himself and his role as lead cabinet member for Children's Services.

Flowerpots

The group had been sent a sewing activity to do prior to the meeting. This consisted of a flowerpot sewing kit to assemble and give to someone they care about.

Quiz by Declan

Declan had produced a general knowledge quiz for the group which was very interactive and engaging everyone took part and had good fun. Thank you, Declan. Ruth to send an official thank you email to Declan

Corporate Parenting Group Action Plan Break Out Groups

The group has been asked to look at the Corporate Parenting Group Action Plan. It was decided that a working group needed to be set up to look at this document prior to this children in care council meeting. Ruth had set up a working group with Rhianna and Emily to look at the plan to get it more young people friendly.

The group broke out into 'break out rooms' with facilitators and looked at sections of the Action Plan and made amendments which Ruth will pull together and present back to Smruti for the Corporate Parenting Group. The group found this task challenging as it was written in a corporate way with acronyms and language the young people struggled to understand. The facilitators in each group (Rosie, Tim and Ruth) supported each group to complete their tasks.

Completion of the Big Conversation 8 Survey

Ruth informed the young people about the survey which was live and asked each young person to follow the link

[Big Conversation 8 Link](#) and encouraged young people to register for the Big Conversation 8 by contacting the CAYA.BSHQSupport@derbyshire.gov.uk a link to the meeting will be sent out nearer the time.

Young people completed the survey whilst in the meeting apart from Lawson who agreed to complete this tomorrow evening with his short break carer.

Questions of the Big Conversation 8 from young people

The group were asked if they had any questions or issues, they would like to take to the next Big Conversation 8 in April. None of the young people had any at this point.

Any Other Business

Progress of Foster Care Council short video clips

Those that Ruth has received have been sent to Luke Impey for consideration. Ruth will await to hear back from Luke to which they use on their Facebook page to help recruit foster carers.

Information Card for Lena Ratcliffe

The group have been asked by Lena Ratcliffe to have an input into designing an 'information Card'. A wallet sized card with useful

information on for young people and a link to the 'coming into care booklet'.

Ruth to had met with Emily to design new card from young people's input at this meeting. Emily shared her design with the group. The Group liked the design. Ruth asked them about the link to the 'coming into care booklet' but they did not want this to identify them as 'in care' to their peers. Ruth to liaise with Lena and Ali Noble in relation to making this accessible without identifying young people being in care.

The Big Ask Consultation from the Children's Commissioner

Ruth informed the group about the Children's Commissioner launching the [Childhood Commission](#), a once-in-a-generation review of the future of childhood from the 19th April. This review will identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their full potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

The first stage of this work is gathering the views, opinions and experiences of all children. The Children's Commissioner will carry out the largest ever consultation with children in England, called [The Big Ask](#), to find out what children's concerns and aspirations about the future are.

Ruth will send out the link again to the group in the next week to complete the survey when live.

Forward to Fostering

Ruth informed the group that the name they had put forward to the Commissioning department for when young people come out of residential care into foster care had now been changed from 'step down' to 'forward to fostering'.

Date of the Next Meeting:

The meeting was energetic and engaging with lots of work completed. The next children in care council meeting is scheduled for 27/05/21 at 5 pm via TEAMS.

Our activity for the next meeting will be 'a construction challenge' with plasticine watch this space! Ruth to send out next activity in the post in readiness for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 6:45pm