

**Children in Care Council Meeting 'Our Voice'**  
**28th January 2021 from 5pm**

**Attending:** Emily, Rhianna, Lawson, Aaron, Ella, Paige, Tristen, Ebony, Libby

**Staff:** Ruth & Tim

**Visitors:** Patsy Burrows

**Apologies:** Levi, Declan

**Hello & Welcome**

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

**Quiz by Lawson**

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

**Cook Box Challenge**

The young people had been sent boxes containing ingredients to make Rocky Road tray bakes and their carers had scored these on cards. The winners with 10 points were Emily, Rhianna, Lawson, Aaron, Paige, Ebony and Libby. Everyone who took part will be sent a small prize of a rainbow lanyard. Ruth to send out rainbow lanyards to all

**Progress of Foster Care Council short video clips**

Ruth asked the group how they were doing with their projects? Libby is going to do 'Carers the difference they make' and Ebony is going to do 'How I coped with Covid 19'. Lawson and Aaron have sent their short clips to Ruth.

Ruth to send new set of cue cards to Ebony.

**Hello to Patsy Burrows**

Ruth welcomed Patsy who has the responsibility for the Fostering Service and Residential settings.

Patsy would like the young people to be involved with the foster carer training programme and recruitment process. The group agreed to do this. Patsy to give Ruth more information on how and when the young people can help.

### **Queries from last meeting around contact and placements from young people**

At the last meeting we had a couple of queries from our young people about their lack of contact with parents/siblings/grandparents and lack of upcoming placement information.

Social workers for each individual young person with a query were contacted by the Children's rights team and the cases discussed. Each young person was contacted by their social worker and the reasons explained in a clear way the young people understood and accepted. All young people now report they are having contact (virtually/phone) and placement information has been shared and has been discussed and agreed.

At this point in the meeting young people were reminded about putting only appropriate content in the chat as some of the comments were getting silly.

Ruth and Tim to reiterate the importance of appropriate, safe language to be used in the chat function during the meeting. Ruth will have an agenda item on 'chat comments' at the next meeting.

### **Response from the Corporate Parenting Group re Contact v short breaks**

Rhianna who is the Corporate Parenting Group representative for the children in care council gave a response from Corporate Parenting Group re *contact v short breaks* which was a question the group had asked in response to some of the young people not having face to face contact with families but could go on short breaks.

The board could not comment on individual cases, but at the moment short breaks would continue with the appropriate risk assessments in place with short break carers. Virtual contact would continue for the time being, with some face to face sessions being run by community care workers in centres, again with the necessary measures in place.

### **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. The group had a think about what needed to be on the card, and agreed for it to be generic, not just for children in care and not to make the card holder identifiable as a child in

care. Ruth will take away their suggestions and work on the actual design with Emily.

Ruth to meet with Emily to design new card from young people's input at this meeting.

### **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. Ruth agreed to send out post cards asking if they had any questions or issues in the very near future to the group for them to complete and return.

Ruth to send out virtual or actual post cards to young people asap.

### **Any other business for the Corporate Parenting Group?**

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 the next children in care council meeting scheduled for the 25/03/21 and the focus of that meeting will be the Corporate Parenting Group Action Plan.

Ruth to set up a working group with R & E to look at the plan to get it more young people friendly ready for the next children in care council meeting in March.

### **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 25/03/21 at 5 pm via TEAMS.

Our activity for the next meeting will be 'sewing' watch this space. Ruth to send out next activity in the post in readiness for the next meeting.

**The meeting ended at 6:45pm**