



Thursday 1st June 2017

Corporate Parenting Panel Update –

On behalf of the Children in Care Councils and Young Adult Council

Easter School Holidays

- 5th April – Rare Breeds Centre 25 young people attended
- 7th April – The Hop Farm 35 young people attended
- 10th April – Wingham Wildlife Park 20 young people attended
- 11th April – YAC Gliding Day 7 young people attended
- 13th April – Kent Museum of Life 25 young people attended

OCYPC

We had 12 OCYPC members attend and two foster carers came to talk about what it's like to be a carer from their point of view. The young people and the foster carers talked about:

- Overnight stays
- Reviews (home/school, churning, what can make it better, timing)
- MoMo app (Gemma quickly discussed about the app, and that is coming out soon)
- IRO Film (Jo briefly talked about what the film includes)
- Pocket money/Savings account
- Differences between birth and foster children
- Holidays and respite

We then discussed with the young people what they think about OCYPC:

Why is the OCYPC important to you?

- 'The OCYPC is important because people in care tell you what they feel like and you can try and help them.'
- 'So we can socialise with other people.'
- 'It's important to me because it gives me a chance to change things that affect me and other children in care and I get to meet others who are in care.'
- 'So I can talk about my problems that I have in my care placement.'

Why do you like coming to OCYPC?

- 'My carer says I have good views.'
- 'To get some air and not be sitting indoors all day'.
- 'To tell children or carers around the table at the meetings about our views'.



Why is it important that Kent has a Children in Care Council?

- 'To stop Children in care being treated differently'.
- 'To get things changed for Children in care and for them to get their voice heard'.
- 'So that Children in care get to have a say in decisions made about them.'
- 'So we can talk about our feelings'

What would you tell other Children in care about OCYPC?

- 'To tell them what we say to people in care around the table and what for activities we do'.
- 'There are snacks'.

We then decorated eggs and had an Easter egg rolling competition, which got a bit messy!! All the young people went home with an Easter egg, some even went home with two if their egg rolling skills were up to scratch!

Super Council

We had 16 Super Council members attend and they discussed what the Super Council means to them:

Why do you like coming to the Super Council?

- 'Because it is fun'.
- 'The people here'.
- 'I get to meet other people and share my opinion'.
- 'Learning'.

Why is the Super Council important to you?

- 'Talk about feelings'.
- 'That you get your voice heard'.
- 'You make friends'.
- 'The memories that you can hold on to'.

What would you tell other Children in care about Super Council?

- 'You do lots of activities and get food'.
- 'You make lots of friends'.
- 'We're all the same, no-one is different - we are all in care!'
- 'We do lots of activities and it is very, very fun and we make lots of new friends!'
- 'Because you get food and you make friends'.
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We then had an Easter craft activity session making masks, Easter tree decorations and bookmarks!





Young Adult Council

At April's meeting, 5 young people attended to take part a focus group looking at the issues around why children and young people go missing and to also have a look at the proposed new CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) Risk Assessment Toolkit and offer their comments. The group were amazing and gave excellent feedback and were very insightful. As a result, changes are now being made to the CSE Toolkit, allowing a young person to comment on it when appropriate, and changes to the return interview process allowing young people more time to talk about why they ran away. Changes were also made to the training that is given to staff that support young people to make it more young person focussed.

At May's meeting 9 young people attended and the group had a bite-size session on interview skills and then looked at the charities that they would consider fundraising for over the coming year and also the types of challenges or activities they would do to raise money. These will be looked in to and a decision will be made at June's meeting.

There are no current Challenge Cards outstanding.

Whitsun Half Term Holiday Activities

- Team building activity day at Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre – to build relationships between members of the Super Council and OCYPC by way of a first steps approach to encourage some older Super Council members to move up to the OCYPC.
- Nelson Park Riding Centre – horse riding
- Team Tutsham – horse riding
- YAC June meeting

Save the Date!!

Monday 31st July 2017 will see our annual Countywide Children in Care Council event at Oakwood House, Maidstone – invitations to be distributed to Corporate Parenting Panel at today's meeting. Last year was a lot of fun and the young people, as always, are delighted to see their Corporate Parents and spend the day with them.

