



Thursday 9th November 2017

Corporate Parenting Panel Update-

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

October Half term Activity Days

Over the October half term we held two Art Activity Days, one in East Kent (23rd October) and one in West Kent (25th October). We had 56 Children in Care in total attend these days which was set out in AM&PM sessions. They were very fun and messy! We had three art stations where they made a Decoupage box, Decorated their name which reflected their interests and hobbies. The final station was for our annual Art Competition where the theme was Autumn. We had 68 entries which is amazing!

Super Council

The Super Council had fun carving their pumpkins and writing about themselves for our new 'Welcome Book'. This was an action from our County wide event we had in the Summer where we looked at the barriers young people face that prevent them from joining a children in Care Council. We believe that being able to share some information about the councils with potential new members will encourage membership.

OCYPC

In this meeting our OCYPC members focused on writing their individual profiles to go into a 'welcome book' this will be for new members who have expressed interest in joining the Councils or for those who will be moving up a Council, this to make them feel more comfortable before they come along. The welcome book will contain information on all three of our Councils and their members.



YAC

Members of KCC's Young Adult Council have completed a virtual triathlon – running, walking, cycling and rowing from County Hall in Maidstone to Calais and back again. The virtual triathlon raised money for Canterbury's Umbrella Centre, which provides support for people with mental health problems. The Virtual School Kent Apprentices helped to organise and support council meetings for children and young people in care and care leavers.

It was amazing to see our young people and staff of Kent County Council take part and donate to such a great cause. One of the YAC Challenge Cards was for Senior Officers and Members to show more support to their annual fund raising activity, so it was great that everyone got behind this event this year by sponsoring the event, making cakes and joining in themselves.

It has been a busy month for YAC; they also met up last week for their monthly meeting where we looked at the findings from the CentrePoint Research Launch on care leavers and housing that we attended in the summer. The key recommendations for policy and practice that we helped come up with are now summarised in their report – [*Views from the frontline: what do young people need to move on from care successfully?*](#)

We are looking to support this research further by providing CentrePoint with some case studies from Kent and will be working on this project in upcoming weeks.

Other Work streams

- Encouraged membership of YAC and supported the VSK Post16 Awards Ceremony
- Work with Canterbury Christ Church University - On 19th October Sophia and Reece headed to Canterbury Christ church university to talk to



students studying the social work degree. They discussed their experiences in care and the unique position that they have within Kent County Council, they then had the students complete two activities' that would help them build their communication skills. Overall the experience was great and the students really benefited speaking to real service users.

- Commissioning work – We needed to widen our general framework of providers to increase the performance of making matches for placements and as a result our framework is now bigger, we needed to have a formal collaborative approach with Medway Council to reduce any potential competition for carers between the councils and make our demand more attractive to the market. We also want to create a small cohort of providers that were prepared to work in partnership with Kent and Medway helping us manage demand for placements and create more opportunities for placements to be made and to be successful. My involvement in this was to evaluate the Voice of the Child section, of Lot 2.