



Monday 29th January 2018

Corporate Parenting Panel Update-

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

Team Update

Our Participation Team is growing which is great as we have more capacity to connect with more children and young people. The team is led by Jo Carpenter, and we now have 2 Participation Support Officers who have joined the team, Andrea Wood and Sarah Newman as well as a new Apprentice Tom Byrne. We are also recruiting for 2 new care leaver apprentices, so if we recruit it will make our team up 10 people.

We have brought along our calendar of events for this year for you, so please feel free to add any dates to your diaries! More dates will follow!

We would like to draw your attention to our planned Talent Show on Thursday 12th April in the lecture theatre here at Sessions as you all will be invited to attend – feel free to come along with your talent!!

February Activity days

- NK/WK Monday 12th February 2018
- EK/SK Wednesday 14th February 2018 (32 spaces split into AM & PM session)
Days will consist of baking sessions where we will be making cakes and some food hygiene and safety training.

East Kent Girls Group Proposal

The aim of this project is to empower the participants and raise their self-esteem alongside giving them useable and practical information. It aims to facilitate a sense of belonging, provide opportunities to make friends with other young people in care and provide a safe environment in which worries and concerns can be shared without judgement. The beauty and hair sessions will aim to heighten their self-worth, confidence and give them the opportunity to feel pampered

This will be a targeted project focussing on girls in care between the ages of twelve and seventeen living in the East Kent region who may be vulnerable in some way, such as to loneliness, if older, at risk of becoming NEET or possible child sexual exploitation.

It is anticipated that the programme will be available for 20 girls at one time and will consist of a 6-week programme delivered in partnership with the CiC specialist Nurses and Canterbury College. If deemed successful, the programme will be rolled out in other parts of the County.



Recruitment & Selection Update

The Participation Team is offering Recruitment & Selection Training for young people aged 14 and over to help provide the skills needed to interview. Young people will receive a recognised qualification in 'Interviewing Skills for Service Users'. Being involved in interviews is a great experience. They can learn more about what employers are looking for when employing new staff which can help them when they are being interviewed. It can help young people gain confidence and then the opportunity to learn new skills, such as how to ask questions, listen and communicate clearly. They can also put the experience on their CV. The next training sessions will be held on Thursday 15th February 2018 at Oakwood House.

OCYPC & Super Council

In the summer at our County Wide Children in Care Council celebration event, young people were given the task to think of what were the barriers for children and young people getting involved in our Children in Care Councils?

They all came up with good suggestions as to why this was - the most common theme that came up was that children and young people may not be sure exactly what a children in care council was. They may also be nervous about coming along and meeting other young people that they don't know. They decided to have their own 'biographies' in a scrapbook for potential new members to look through before they joined to make them feel more comfortable. The scrapbook is being completed with information on all three of our councils and will contain staff and young people's own information written by them as to why they come to their specific council and fun facts.

The next meeting for Super Council and OCYPC will be held on Friday 16th February 2018.

Focus Groups

In addition to our children in Care councils we have also started running young person's focus groups once a term after school. This is a way to reach more young people and ensure we are getting wide and diverse opinions from children and young people and not just using the same pool of voices.

You don't have to be a council member to attend, but the groups can encourage sign up. Each focus group has a topic and the young people also get to do an activity and have something to eat.

In December they met with some Elected Members to talk about their experiences at school and how they received additional support via Pupil Premium+ funding. They also made some Christmas decorations.

On the 18th January, 11 young people aged between nine and eighteen met with the Young Lives Foundation in Maidstone, to discuss the leaflets YLF give out to children and young people explaining their role as an advocacy service. The discussion started by finding out what the young people already knew about advocacy before asking them for their opinions about the current leaflets that are given out. The young people spent a lot of time discussing the content and design and came up with lots of fantastic ideas about how the leaflets could



be improved in the future. They felt that it would be useful to have more than one leaflet so they could be targeted at younger and older children more effectively, should use brighter colours and include real quotations from young people who have benefited from YLF's help. They are looking forward to seeing the new designs incorporating their ideas. After this, all the young people took part in an art activity, painting money pots or building 3D models which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Finally, we finished off the meeting with pizza!

MOMO

Things are now moving along with MOMO, the App that will help our young people get in touch more easily with us and the workers. More training is being planned for front line staff and the apprentices are looking at ways to promote MOMO to young people.