

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**  
**Corporate Parenting Panel Update-**  
**On behalf of the Children in Care Councils and Young Adult Council**

Meetings with the Super Council and the OCYPC took place in the February school holidays.

### **Super Council**

In this meeting we explained about the new App MOMO Mind of My Own that is now available to use, and members watched a demonstration about how it works. And how to use it.

Super Council members thought that MOMO sounded like a really good idea.

Some of their comments were:

*'MOMO would be good to use if you are worried about something'*

*'MOMO could be used to tell your social worker some good news'*

*'It would be good to use as sometimes it is hard to say how you are feeling out loud'*

The Super Council member also discussed what they would like the aims of their council to be this year for 2018. They said the following:

To help promote MOMO to other Children in Care

To encourage membership of the Super Council

To have a trip for just Super Council members

To make a Super Council year book

### **OCYPC**

At this meeting Family Group Conferencing attended to speak about Life Long Links as they wanted to seek the young people's views of the 'tool' that is filled in by a young person at the beginning and the end of the project if they are involved. Some of the things that were said by the OCYPC were:

- It looked too professional and formal
- Too many tables
- Would be helpful to have an easy read version
- Have a glossary for words that young people can look at
- Have an example of a filled in form to show the young people
- What about if the worker changes

The members said they would like to see the final version when it's completed. FGC have since reported back to us that they found the OCYPC members opinions really helpful and their feedback will be used nationally in redesigned the feedback tool.

They also took part in an 'make your voices heard' activity. They had to come up with "The most important things that Children in Care should be listened to about"

OCYPC Members said:

- for social works and carers to listen to what the children want and feel
- Children in Care should have fair pocket money
- Asked are they happy where they live
- Asked who they want to have respite with
- Help with their education
- Is their social worker good at working with them

### **Young Adult Council Update**

At our last YAC meeting we looked at how Specialist Children's Services can continue to measure themselves to ensure we are ensuring that we continue to listen to them. We looked at different surveys that are out there to see which ones we thought captured all the

questions that young people should be asked. YAC liked Coram's Bright Spots surveys for children in care and care leavers.

YAC also discussed their aims for 2018. They would like to organise another fundraiser later in year and be more involved with the other children in care councils. We have a meeting tonight where we will be looking at the Stigmas associated with being in care, as this has been an occurring theme at all 3 councils. We plan to film some of discussions with YAC as part of the film we are currently making about stigma. We plan to show the final show piece at our Talent Showcase on the 1st June.

The Children's Commissioner invited a few young people to meet with her and Nadhim Zahawi, the Children's and Families Minister at the House of Commons yesterday evening to talk about their views and experiences of the care system. Chelsea, one of our younger apprentices and Rob a member of YAC attended along with Jo Carpenter. Chelsea and Rob plan to provide a full report in the next Children in Care newsletter, but both felt it was a really good experience. They gave a very balanced view about the positives and negatives of being in care, and really represented Kent well.

There was great interest in the care leaver apprenticeship scheme from other local authorities who expressed interest in setting up similar schemes.

### **East Kent Girls Group Update**

The programme is now in it's fifth week and is running successfully in conjunction with the Children in Care Nurses and Canterbury College Hair and Beauty Team. We have a group of girls between the ages of 13-17 from the East Kent area, who didn't know each other initially but and are seen as a cohesive group.

Session one covered healthy eating and nutrition. We have also had a session on mindfulness and wellbeing, which was really well received. The latest session was delivered by a representative from Barnardo's which looked at healthy and unhealthy relationships.

The hair and beauty department are offering basic treatments such as hair styling, manicures and pedicures each week which the participants enjoy, and gives them a sense of pride in their appearance and a confidence boost.

The participants are forming a good bond with each other and are interacting well with each other as well as with the professionals delivering the sessions. The participants appear to be enjoying both the hair and beauty sessions and the informative sessions too. We will report back further outcomes and plans to carry out this model in other parts of the county at the next CPP.

### **Recruitment and Selection Training Update**

As we reported at the last meeting, we are aiming to train as many young people who want to be part of our 'Recruit Crew'. We ran a very successful training session in February, where a further 10 young people were trained.

As part of the training session, they learnt about what is expected of them as service users when attending an interview panel, the interview and selection process and equality and diversity issues, how unconscious bias can influence perceptions. They also created interview questions, took part in a mock interview and assessed the 'candidates'.

All the young people were awarded the LASER qualification, 'Interview Skills for Service Users' which they can now add to their CVs. They were excited about the possibility of sitting on real interview panels in the future and influencing the decision-making process for recruiting professionals who work with young people in care.

The next Recruit Crew Training has already been booked and will take place during the May half term in Whitstable.

## **Focus Groups:**

We are now running termly Focus Groups to ensure we are hearing as many young people voices as we can, not just those who are members of the children in Care Councils. Most recently ran a consultation and workshop for the redesign of the Kent Cares Town website. Young people of all ages created some artwork that will included in the new websites design and gave us lots of feedback around what they would like to see on the website. The new website will be launched in September at the VSK Awards Ceremony.

## **Participation days and events over Easter Holidays**

### **Performing Arts Activity Day Wednesday 4th April 2018: 10am-3pm**

Aylesford School & Sports College - Teapot Lane, Aylesford ME20 7JU

### **YAC Bowling Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018: 5pm-7pm**

Lockmeadow, Hollywood Bowl, Barker Rd, Maidstone ME16 8SF

### **Performing Arts Activity Day Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018: 10am-3pm**

Community College Whitstable - Bellevue Road, Whitstable CT5 1PX

### **16+ Activity Day Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018: 1pm-8pm**

Kingswood, Grosvenor Hall, Kennington, Ashford, TN25 4AJ For Satnav please use TN24 9JZ

### **Super Council +OCYPC (West Kent) Tuesday 10th April 2018: 1pm- 4pm**

Arrive at 1pm at the Infozone, 3 Palace Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 6NF

At 2:30pm we will be moving to Lockmeadow, Hollywood Bowl, Barker Rd, Maidstone ME16 8SF until 4 pm

### **Super Council +OCYPC re-launch (East Kent) Tuesday 12th April 2018: 1pm- 4pm**

Arrive at 1pm at the Quarterdeck youth centre, 15 Zion Place, Margate, CT91 1RP

At 2:30pm we will be moving to Bugsy's tenpin bowling, Ethelbert Crescent, Clintonville, Margate, Ct9 2DY

Please feel free to pop along to any of these days, we will have lots of children and young people of all ages attending. You would be very welcome.

- The Virtual School Talent Showcase will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

Please add the 1<sup>st</sup> June to your diaries (after CPP meeting) We want to share all the great things that our Children in Care are achieving, their talents, hobbies and accomplishments. We will also be looking at the subject of the Stigma of being in care or being a care leaver.

Please come along to the Lecture Theatre on the 1<sup>st</sup> June.