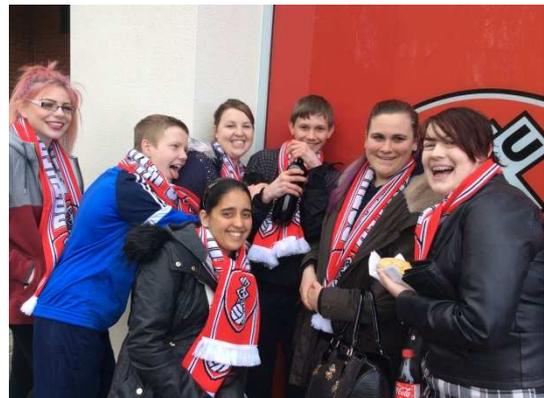


Rotherham Looked After Children's Council (LACC) – Corporate Parenting Panel - Update Report January to April 2016

This has been another exciting, busy and productive period for the Looked After Children's Council (LACC) who have been able to positively impact on things that matter to them and meet all of their core aims within this period. Working together on team building skills, increasing social capital, self-awareness and self-esteem building activities to build resilience and support forges better outcomes for vulnerable young people. The LACC have also engaged in a high volume of co-production work to shape Services for Children in Care. Here are some of the things we have been up to:-

RUFC v Blackburn Match - On

Saturday 30th April, the LAC Council went to watch the Rotherham United Football Club home game at New York Stadium. This was part of an ongoing Youth Voice Project called '*Rotherham Re-invented – Rotherham Proud*' where we are aiming to positively promote Rotherham for young people, increase ownership of the town and support positive identity with Rotherham for young people. These tickets were organised for us by



Gary Pickles and freely given by Jamie Noble (*Head of Community Rotherham United FC*) which we are very grateful for. Thanks Gary & Jamie 😊 Young people had a fabulous time and really felt part of something bigger than themselves and part of the Town. Here is what some young people had to say:

Hi I loved every second of it also being around you and the others who are now my friends. It was a close game and sick atmosphere I would love to go to other games like this or do activity it was a great game. Tell the man who got us the tickets thanks along side you who made it happen. Thank you for making stuff happen. (Ashley 13)

Had a fantastic day and I had lovely experience to watch football match at stadium with 11 thousand fans. It was GREAT 😊 (Kiran 17)

I thought today was brilliant. so fun great atmosphere, even if we didn't win he he 😊 (Abbie 18)

It was fantastic X (Charlotte 17)

It was great! :D (Courtney 18)

MASH Logo Competition – Young people welcomed a visit from Sam Perrins and Kelly White from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to the LAC Council in April. Young people had not heard of MASH before (only the potato kind) so were interested to hear about the service and given practical information like the MASH phone number and advice on when to use it. Young people enthusiastically engaged in designing MASH Logos to be submitted in the competition to be drawn in July.

MOMO App - LACC young people actively engaged with other young people from the Youth Cabinet and Young Inspectors in trying out the MOMO (Mind of My Own) demonstration app held at Riverside House. The App is a tool designed to collect the voices of young people for the local authority. The group tried out the app on their phones and ipads and feedback their opinions to inform further development of the tool to suit Rotherham young people.

Corporate Parenting Panel –

The LAC Council was invited to attend the Corporate Parenting Panel in March. The group worked well together and created a presentation to introduce themselves and all their Voice & Influence work at the meeting. They had a fabulous experience and were made very welcome by everyone.



The LACC have now been asked to participate in future CPP meetings which they have accepted and look forward to building a stronger relationship and working together to shape services for Rotherham Children in Care.

Commissioning of Foster Care Agencies - Working alongside Adrian Hobson, the LAC Council have been engaged in the commissioning process for the recruitment and selection of Foster Care Agencies for Rotherham Children & Young People. This was a huge undertaking with a very mixed ability group some of whom have Special Educational Needs, Mental Health Issues, Attention, Language and Comprehension challenges etc. Young people were active in scoring the 24 tenders and delivering an interview panel during February half term and were active in selecting the four main Foster Care Agencies they believe will give a good service to our looked after children and young people.

Virtual PEP – Young people from the LAC Council were visited by Lorraine Dale (Virtual Head) to discuss amongst other things the recently launched Virtual Personal Education Plans (PEP). Young people have accessed this through their social workers and gave constructive feedback to the visual design and questions contained within the package to inform improvements for the future.

Recruitment & Promotion of LAC Council –

Throughout January, young people have been looking at ways in which they can raise awareness of the many opportunities available in the LACC to other LAC across the borough and hopefully boost membership. LACC leaflets and information has been sent out to all LAC Designated Teachers in the 16 Secondary Schools across Rotherham asking for their help to spread the word about LACC with LAC young people within their schools. Also the group are creating posters to advertise the LACC which will be posted around Rotherham next week.



Youth Voice Training Days – Young people from the LAC Council came together with the Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament to form the Youth Voice Group, together they have enjoyed a series of training and development days/of activities, and youth training days where they learned about democracy, voting, including a session delivered by the Parliamentary Outreach Team and held mock elections.

Volunteering Opportunities – Young people from our LAC Council have also taken up other volunteering opportunities with youth groups they have been introduced to while working with Youth Voice. Some of these young people have joined Healthwatch and become Young Ambassadors, one young person has joined Rotherham Young Inspectors and another is volunteering with Grimm & Co. These increased social and educational opportunities will further help to develop life skills, confidence and self-esteem and ultimately outcomes for these young people.

Local Achievement Awards – In recognition of all our hard work and commitment to the LAC Council over the past 12 months, and in recognition to what an asset we are to the Voice and Influence of the Children & Young People's Services, including the LAC Summit, and our highly visible work in the community. The Early Help & Family Engagement Service held an event at Myplace and presented each LAC Council member with a Local Achievement Award to thank us and recognise our Voice & Influence work. We were proud to receive these awards as we work really hard.

Dragons Den Interviews - Courtney from the LAC Council joined Paige from the Youth Cabinet and Farren from the Young Inspectors in a collaborative piece of work where these three young people spoke to Managers, front line workers and Service users to find out how embedded good practice actually is. Valuable information from these interviews will be analysed by the Commissioning, Performance & Quality Team and utilised in future service improvement.



Holocaust Memorial Day Event

LACC young people researched and wrote a presentation around the HMD theme 'Don't Stand By' where they identified 8 strong historical and contemporary characters who stood up against oppression and changed the world because of it. They took part in the Holocaust Memorial Day event at the Town Hall delivering their presentation to a packed audience including the Mayor.

Designing Corporate Leaflets! - We have been actively engaged in the co-production of a number of information leaflets for young people since Jan 2016:-

- The group have supported Early Help & Family Engagement in creating their leaflet for looked after young people and created the title 'Caring for Cared for Young People'
- Have been consulted on the contents of the 'Going Missing' leaflet after we discovered during a discussion with Jean Gunn that 70% of young people who engage in the LAC Council have gone missing at least once.

LAC Voice Surveys – LACC Young people have been having their say during sessions and providing feedback to inform improvement of Rotherham Services this period:-

- **LAC Promise Survey** – Young people completed the LAC Promise Survey during the LAC Council session to feedback their thoughts about the LAC Promise and whether they have noticed any differences in their care as a result of the LAC Promise going 'Live'.
- **The BIG Youth Service Conversation** – The LACC members have completed this survey to provide feedback about where they access youth provision and library and leisure services in Rotherham so that C&YPS may better meet young people's needs.

LAC Voice Newsletter – The LAC Council have requested to reinstate their LAC Voice Newsletter which will spread the word of the LAC Council and encourage other young people to join in the fun. Part of the newsletter will feature a brief story written by a Looked After Young Person and we would like to share our first edition 'Simon's Story' with you to give you an understanding of the lives of these amazing young people who volunteer each week for the LAC Council:

MY LAC COUNCIL JOURNEY



About Me!!

How my Life changed

Things I Enjoy Now!

My Plans for the Future

I went to LAC Council and met a bunch of strangers and came out with a family

I come to LACC I've got people to talk to who understand what it's like being in care

I enjoy coming to LACC to make sure we get a better life for kids in care

LAC Council Guests - The young people would like to thank all of our guests who have visited the LAC Council over the past 4 months asking for our young people's Voices to Influence Services these adults are involved with, these are:-

Gary Pickles – Head of Children in Care
Ian Thomas – Strategic Director C+YPS
Jean Gunn – Missing and CSE Coordinator
Adrian Hobson – Operational Commissioner
Bev Pepperdine – Performance Assurance Manager
Jo Smith – CSE Support Services Co-ordinator
Lorraine Dale – Virtual Head
Samantha Perrins – Head of Service First Response
Kelly White - Service Manager CYPS

Thank You All 😊

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