

Rotherham Looked After Children's Council (LACC) – Corporate Parenting Panel - Update Report MAY – JUNE 2016

This has been another exciting, busy and productive period for the Looked After Children's Council (LACC). The LACC has positively impacted and given their voices in consultations to support the Children in Care Strategy 2016, Libraries & Customer Services Survey, and developed the Have Your Say Children in Care Annual Peer Consultation. The group have worked together to host a careers event at the LAC Council and supported our local Armed Forces Day community event. The myriad of experiences offered at the LAC Council for our Children in Care are designed to increase social capital, self-awareness and self-esteem to foster resilience and support better outcomes for our young people. Here are some of the things we have been up to:-

Rotherham's Got Talent 2016 – We are excited to say that two of our LAC Council members Nicky and Manny were entered into the Rotherham's Got Talent Contest this year. They had their auditions on 23rd May where Nicky (17) sang a song in a cappella and Manny (13) delivered a contemporary piece of dance. Unfortunately, as the quality and quantity of auditions was so high this year neither got through to the finals, however, both boys were asked to apply again next year. We look forward to participating again in 2017 ☺



Rotherham Military Community Veterans – The LAC Council held an open evening in June for any Rotherham young person in Care who was interested in a career in the Armed Forces. Our special guests for the evening were two Armed Forces Veterans named Mac and Paul and an Armed Forces Trainer called Geoff who prepared young people for a life in the military. These three men belonged to the Rotherham Military Community Veterans Centre and spoke to the group about their experiences and benefits and drawbacks of a life in the military. This was a fun, informative and at times emotional evening as the men spoke about their personal experiences across the world. Young people felt a great sense of respect for the men and took opportunities to ask practical questions that could help them decide if a career in the forces was right for them.



Armed Forces Day

- Upon invite from our Mayor Cllr Lyndsay Pitchley, on Saturday 25th June the LAC Council participated in Armed Forces Day in Rotherham. The group had a fabulous and varied day as they were treated to refreshments in the Town Hall, followed by a private meeting with the Mayor in her parlour.

The group had a great time having their pictures taken at the Mayors large desk as they pretended to be in charge of Rotherham. The LACC watched the Yorkshire Regiment Freedom Parade assemble and march from the Town Hall to All Saints Square and listened to the Christian and Muslim Blessings, this was another first for the vast majority of the group who had never heard any readings from the Koran before.



Later the LACC were taken by coach with other invited guests to have lunch at the McKay VC Barracks. Here young people sat amongst the soldiers and were treated to meat pie and mushy peas followed by chocolate pudding which was gratefully enjoyed and devoured – some of our young people joked with the soldiers that they wanted to join the forces right now if this was the type of food that was on offer!!

Young people had wonderful opportunities to speak with veterans and serving members of the Yorkshire Regiment who were assigned our group for the afternoon. We spent time with our Assistant Chief Executive Shokat Lal, who was very welcoming and complimentary about the LAC Council commenting on their enthusiasm and interest during the day. Here is what some of our young people fed back to us:-



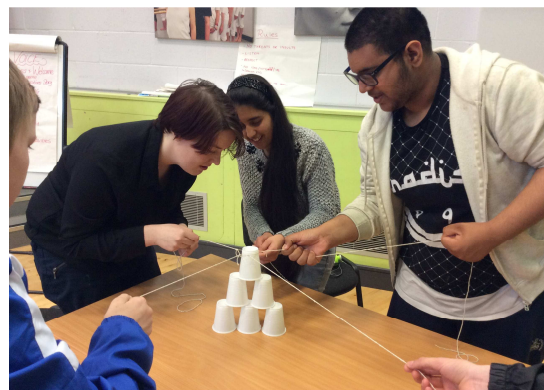
Hey, Lisa I really enjoyed Saturday it was amazing and meeting the Veterans was just the best, and getting to know their service in the army and getting to eat with the soldiers was really awesome. And to top it off was the man at the end with the card tricks. Kelsie aged 17

Hi Lisa, I would like to say that I got the experience and privilege of meeting and talking to the soldiers and learning more about a Career that I may go into. Nicky aged 17

Yeah, I liked listening to all the soldiers stories, especially that veteran who we met at the end. Some of the

Children in Care Strategy 2016 – The LACC was visited by Gary Pickles (*Head of Children in Care*) again in May who came to consult with the young people about the 6 themes running within the Children In Care Strategy. It was a productive evening as young people fed back what they thought on each theme and gave their Voices to the development of the Children in Care Strategy. We look forward to reading the finished article.

Youth Voice Training Day – During the half term break young people from the LAC Council came together with the Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament to form the Youth Voice Group for a training day. Together the group engaged in team building activities, problem solving activities and were supported in working together to plan their joint residential for a three day trip to Habershon House, Filey. The group also explored ideas to work with the Fixers 'one voice' project and started to develop their plan. Young people had a fun day 😊



Have Your Say – Children in Care Annual Peer Consultation – LAC Council young people have engaged in developing their annual Children in Care Peer Consultation feedback process 2016 by choosing the questions for their 'Have Your Say' survey they believe are the most important to them. (see appendix A) With the support of Social Care and Early Help Managers this Peer Consultation Tool will be sent out to all children and young people aged 10+ living in Foster Care and Residential Homes from Rotherham. The closing date for completed surveys is 25th July. We are hoping to reach as many young people as possible and the LAC Council will analyse the feedback data and make recommendations to improve the Service based on their collective voices which will go to Ian Thomas our Strategic Director to inform future planning. At the recent Regional Children in Care Council Staff meeting in Leeds, the group asked for Rotherham's Annual Have Your Say Peer Consultation Survey and Voice & Influence Process that accompanies it to be distributed across our regions CiCC's to share Rotherham's good practice.

Libraries & Customer Services Consultation – The LAC Council was visited by Elenore Fisher and Zoe Oxley to engage the group in discussions around perceptions of Rotherham Libraries and engage our young people in the Libraries Consultation. This was an exciting visit with the group getting on board and putting forward suggestions for increasing the interest in Libraries by the Children in Care Community. Some of the ideas included having an online book club, older Children in Care being reading mentors and reading books for the younger children and having a Children in Care Book Day at Riverside Library.

Pride of Rotherham Awards – Young people have been busily putting forward their ideas and giving their VOICES to support the Children in Care Celebration event that will take place at New York Stadium on 29th September. Supporting this aspirational

evening is an exciting opportunity for our young people to help shape their own event for Children in Care which will recognise the personal achievements of our children and young people living in care. The LAC Council have chosen a golden 'shooting star trophy' to be awarded at the event to all awardees. This trophy choice generated much discussion and the final vote went to this Trophy as it was a positive symbol for Children in Care who are all stars already and can also reach for the stars in the future life journey.

LAC Council Guests - The young people would like to thank all of our guests who have visited the LAC Council over the past 2 months asking for our young people's Voices to Influence RMBC Services, these are:-

Gary Pickles – Head of Children in Care
Samantha Perrins – Head of Service First Response
Kelly White - Service Manager CYPS
Zoe Oxley – Manager Planning & Regeneration
Elenore Fisher – Customer & Cultural Services Manager
Rowan Greaves – University Student
Lynne Thompson – University Student
Geoff Smales – Rotherham Military Community Veteran Centre
Paul Burrows – Rotherham Military Community Veteran Centre
Mac Mckenny – Chair Rotherham Military Community Veteran Centre

Thank You All 😊

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@LACCRotherham



LACC Rotherham

APPENDIX A



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

If you are a looked after child aged 10—21 years, please complete this form and give us your feedback. Your voice is very important to us! The LAC Council will analyse this information in confidence alongside other 'Have Your Say' forms from other young people in care. We will let you know what happens as a result of your VOICE. ☺



Have Your Say



Please hand/post this completed form back to:
Lisa Du-Valle at the LAC Council or
 Eric Manns Building
 Opposite Town Hall
 Moorgate, Rotherham

Tel: 01709 822130 or Mob: 07748143388
 Or hand in to your social worker to give to Lisa.



Name:	Age
Address: (optional)	
Ethnicity:	Male Female 5 Or Gender Neutral

Q1. What thing do you like best about being in care?
Please explain 😊

Q2. Do you feel that you are part of your foster family?
Yes No Don't Know?

Please explain😊

Q3. Does your Social Worker listen to you and then act
on what you have told them? Yes No Don't Know?

Please give an example 😊

Q5. Who in the care system has made the biggest difference
to YOU and WHY? Eg, foster carer, social worker, etc

Q6. Is there anything else you would like to say?

THANK
YOU! 😊