

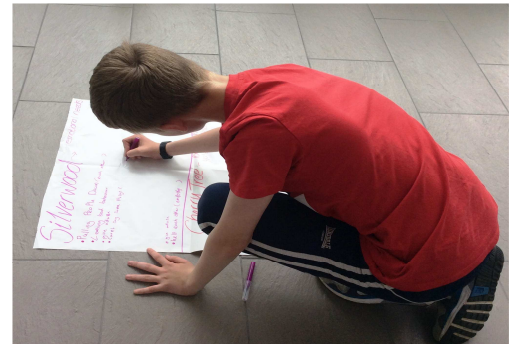
Rotherham Looked After Children's Council (LACC) – Corporate Parenting Panel - Update Report July to End October 2016

This has been another exciting, busy and productive period for the Looked After Children's Council (LACC). In September alone the group met 8 times to cover all their community and consultation commitments. The LACC has positively impacted and given their voices in consultations to enhance services including the NHS Health Care Consultation, Fostering Review, Children in Care Residential Consultation, Get in Gear: Accessibility for Public Transport for Young People Consultation and my Three Houses Consultation. They have engaged in community events of Rotherham Show, Pride of Rotherham Awards and a Celebratory event for EID. They have participated in an educational Residential at Filey and engaged in Youth Voice training 'Don't Hate Educate' and they have made strides in fundraising for their Destination Poland Project. The myriad of experiences and opportunities 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:-

CONSULTATIONS – Looked After & Leaving Care VOICE

Cherry Tree & Silverwood Residential Consultation

In July, the LAC Council held 2 workshops to discuss the issue of Rotherham Residential Accommodation with particular emphasis on the proposed closure of Cherry Tree House and Silverwood House. 12 Looked After and Leaving Care young people engaged in the consultation and generated discussions firstly around Residential Care in general then secondly moved on specifically to voice their opinions around Cherry Tree and Silverwood House. Information from these consultation workshops were recorded and recommendations from the young people's conclusions drawn up in the LAC Council Residential Care Feedback Report. (Report available)



NHS Healthcare Consultation – Catherine Hall and Karen Holgate from the CCG to discuss healthcare in Rotherham. Our young people engaged in this discussion giving positive feedback as well as constructive feedback on a number of related themes including the current School Nurse system, Health Passports, Telephone Contacting, Initial Health Assessments and the Mental Health and Wellbeing of LAC.

As a result of this consultation a meeting with senior managers from the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) has been arranged to consider raising the profile of School Nurses by putting poster/displays of school nurse contact details – Picture and availability in line with LAC Council suggestions. Also, Coram BAAF have altered the Health assessments forms to reflect the LAC Councils suggestions to include emotional wellbeing as well as physical health. The group wanted assurances that health professionals were well trained and understood the impact of being in care on young people and wanted School nurses to be trained in Mental Health as many are not. Karen and Catherine felt this was a really positive meeting. Saying '

It was a privilege to meet such knowledgeable young people and I hope we can translate their thoughts into actions in the near future'

Get In Gear: Accessibility of Public Transport For Young People Consultation

– The LAC Council supported the Rotherham Youth Cabinet with their South Yorkshire Transport Consultation. LACC young people gave their opinions and Voices to the questions posed about public transport and LACC members shared their experiences and perceptions of buses, bus drivers, harsh rules and expensive prices and the LAC Council suggested there should be additional training for drivers around vulnerability of some young people and a feedback system to track efficiency and effectiveness of drivers behaviour towards passengers. Due to the high volume of information from the LAC Council a separate section has been developed for the Transport Report which was launched at Rotherham Town Hall 26th October. With the LAC Council asking to have included the statement below which relates to a time when a member had run away from his foster carer and wanted to travel on a bus back home but he didn't have any money. The bus driver refused to let him on the bus without his fare, this young person spent more time on the streets due to his lack of bus fare home.

'We are a child Centred Borough but drivers leave children on the street when they can't afford the bus'

Childs Voice Digital Solutions Trial & Consultation – The LAC Council alongside Rotherham Youth Cabinet and a Young Inspector engaged in trialling an app called my Three Houses designed for 6 to 8 year olds to capture their voices using digital solutions. The LAC Council members role was to physically trial the app and provide feedback to the Commissions performance and Quality team who would take this information further. The LACC young people found the 'app' confusing and frustrating, and provided sheets of negative feedback generally saying the app didn't make sense and was far too difficult to fathom out how to work it.

LAC Council Voice in Improving Rotherham for young people

The LACC welcomed a visit from Sharon Kemp (Chief Exec) and Ian Thomas (Strategic Director) early in September. Sharon and Ian consulted with the group as to how they thought young people would like to use their town centre. Asking, where would young people like to go? and what would they like to do? In addition, it was a great opportunity for the young people to meet their Corporate



Parents again, engage in conversations and ask them questions about things that really matter to

young people. It was a fun visit with young people chatting excitedly about the forthcoming Destination Poland Fundraising Events.

OFSTED – Video Conferencing Interview

In October, OFSTED came to the LAC Council by way of a Video Conferencing Interview between the OFSTED inspector Graham and 4 of the youngest group members. The young people did a fantastic job in the face of this very challenging medium whereby young people had to speak with the OFSTED inspector through the computer screen. The use of language, complex questions, and length of interview in asking 31 questions was a little overwhelming for such a mixed ability group, however, they tried their very best to answer the questions. Michelle Hill had organised the link up to OFSTED and come along with her laptop. Having observed the interview and the young people's responses to the process Michelle provided feedback to OFSTED about the meeting, and made suggestions to improve the practice in future.

Fostering Review

Also, in October the LACC actively engaged in the in-house Fostering Review Consultation with Adrian Hobson. As Looked After young people are one of the key stakeholders in the Service Adrian wanted to ask the LAC Council their views on how good/bad the service is and what if anything could be done to improve this. The group enjoyed the discussion around questions Adrian posed and shared their views. Following completion of the review, Adrian intends to feedback to the group what has happened as a result of their Voice & Influence.

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL EVENTS



New York Stadium Tour - The LAC Council were treated to a New York Stadium Tour by Jamie Noble. Young people had great fun walking through the private rooms of Rotherham United Football Club, seeing where the players shower, train, have physiotherapy and hold press conferences. Jamie shared stories of football strategies and play with the group. This visit is part of our ongoing project to positively engage vulnerable young people with Rotherham and support increasing connectedness with their town and communities to support resilience and improve outcomes.

EID Celebration – EID Mubarak in July the LAC Council held an EID party at Riverside for us all to celebrate this special day in the Muslim calendar together with our Muslim young people in care Manny and Kira. EID is a very important time for our Muslim LACC members who equate the importance of EID to the importance of Christmas day to Christians. It was a truly special day in many ways as people pulled together and supported us in our hurried preparations, some staff on floor one of Riverside House generously worked with myself and Kelly helping printing and laminating of EID Mubarak Posters so we could display them around the break



out area, a Foster Carer Andrea Shepherd selflessly had stayed up cooking through the night to prepare a feast for the party including Halal curries, spiced rice, naan breads, samosas, drinks, special dates and fruits to eat it was fantastic effort all around. Muslim workers from Early Help advised and supported our understanding of what we needed to do to make this a special EID party for our young people. The spirit of EID was everywhere as workers in Riverside who had heard what we were trying to do for our Muslim Looked After Children came along and asked if they could help.



Rotherham Show Sept 10th & 11th

For the fifth year running the LAC Council have volunteered to engage in the Rotherham Show delivering Voice & Influence activities. This year we continued our theme around being 'Rotherham Proud' a project by young people to promote their town. The LACC were invited by our Mayor Lyndsay Pitchley and Assistant Chief Exec Shokat Lal to join them on the walk around the show and for lunch afterwards. The group had a fun day and took the opportunity to promote their Destination Poland Project

walking around in their Destination Poland T Shirts, and giant flag collecting money in their buckets, LAC Council members were even interviewed live on Radio Sheffield to promote Rotherham Show and the LAC Council. Despite the incessant rain our young people's spirits couldn't be dampened and everyone had a fun time collecting over £100 for Destination Poland!

Pride of Rotherham Awards – All 12 of

Rotherham LAC Council members were nominated and awarded a trophy and certificate in the Pride of Rotherham Awards a special event held at New York Stadium for Rotherham Looked After and Leaving Care Young People. LAC Council members received awards for Education, Sports & Leisure, The Arts and Positive Contribution. All our Voice & Influence volunteers were also nominated under 'Positive Contribution', highlighting the high volume of LAC VOICE consultations and co-production work they have engaged in over the past 12 months. It was an inspirational celebration event for looked after and leaving care young people who felt very proud to receive their golden star trophies and certificates.



Fixers – Rotherham Proud DVD Development

As part of the LAC Councils ongoing commitment to promoting Rotherham in a positive way and challenging negative stereotypes of their town, they have been working collaboratively with other young people as part of the Youth Voice Group and the charity 'Fixers' to develop their ideas to create a Rotherham Proud DVD. The group have held a number of meetings and are due to have scripts ready and start their filming on Saturday 26th November at various places across the borough.

TRAINING DAYS & EDUCATIONAL RESIDENTIAL

Youth Voice - Residential Filey

The LAC Council alongside UK Youth Parliament and Youth Cabinet visited Habershon House in Filey for their Youth Voice Residential for 3 days in the summer break. Young people had great fun, engaged in team building activities, beach sports, murder mystery activity and developed their ideas for the Voice & Influence Youth Voice Rotherham Show contribution, 'Rotherham Proud' Project & Destination Poland Fundraisers.



Don't Hate Educate Training



In our August Youth Voice Training day young people from LAC Council, Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament all come together to share and work collaboratively on common projects such as Rotherham Proud, Rotherham Show etc. The group were treated to training around our 'Don't Hate Educate' programme delivered by Ashley from the UK Youth Parliament. The LACC later in October held a specific session around 'Don't Hate Educate' as part of our

'Black History Month' delivered by Tom Jackson from the UK Youth Parliament. This training is to tackle racism and religious discrimination, particularly against people who are Muslim and Jewish. These sessions aim to help young people speak out about racism and religious discrimination. The LACC young people will be engaging in creating posters to support their learning and share the message with their peers.

DESTINATION POLAND FUNDRAISING - ONGOING PROJECT

The LAC Council young people have been heavily involved in fundraising £9,000 for their Destination Poland Project. Destination Poland is a Voice & Influence project; it includes the educational journey of fundraising and residential trip to take 14 Looked After & Leaving Care young people to Poland in April 2017. This journey is part of their ongoing anti-fascism work and goal to reunite a LACC member with his Polish heritage. Alongside, the LAC Council fundraising at Rotherham Show and Foster Carers raffling off prizes to raise funds, young people have been heavily supported by our Chief Exec Sharon Kemp, our Strategic Director Ian Thomas, and Cllr Steele in 2 large events in September.

Rotherham Together Partnership Marathon – The LACC took part in the Rotherham Together Partnership Marathon on



the 15 September. Armed with their Destination Poland t-shirts, buckets and running shoes, they joined over 30 senior professionals from Rotherham Council, South Yorkshire Police, Rotherham Fire and Rescue, Safe at Last, Rotherham Voluntary Action Service, NHS Rotherham CCG, RDASH, and REMA to run around the track and field at Herringthorpe Stadium to complete the 26 miles collectively.



Ten Mile Walk - Two days later armed again with our t-shirts, buckets and Polish Flag the LACC joined Director of Children's Services at Rotherham Council and Cllr Steele at Thrybergh Country Park to complete a 10 mile circuit on a sunny Saturday.

Overall, the events have raised awareness throughout the borough and raised an online total of £1,777 with the addition of £260 offline donations. Fundraising continues, you can follow progress here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/destination-poland>

Oh, they were great! I really enjoyed the 10 mile walk in the countryside!!

Marathon and 10 mile walk was great events for LACC and I had lots of fun there, really enjoyed them. Thanks to all people for fundraising with us 😊

Goodbye & Thank You to LACC member Abbie –

Abbie Reid joined the LAC Council when she was only 13 years old and has been an active participant for 5 years representing the LACC on Corporate Parenting Panel, and engaged in high volume of Voice and Influence consultation work to give her voice to help shape Children's Services in Rotherham. Abbie selflessly engaged in numerous community events throughout the years getting up early on weekends to ensure Children in Care are represented and have a presence and a voice in Supporting Rotherham Show, Anti-Fascism agenda events including Holocaust Memorial Days, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Sunday Services and Parades. Abbie was a popular member, flamboyant and colourful who brightened up any room and young people want to recognise Abbie's vast contribution to the LAC Council and thank her for all her Voice & Influence contributions, and most of all for being a true friend! We are really proud to see Abbie going on to study Creative Writing at the University of Bedfordshire. Thank you Abbie 😊 <3



LAC Council Guests - The young people would like to thank all of our guests who have visited the LAC Council or invited us to visit them over the past few months. These are:-

Sharon Kemp – Chief Executive RMBC
Ian Thomas – Strategic Director CYPs
Cllr Brian Steele – Hooper Ward
Toni Paxford, Tom Jackson – Rotherham Youth Cabinet
Jamie Noble – Head of Community Rotherham United
Catherine Hall - Head of Safeguarding Rotherham CCG
Karen Holgate – Rotherham CCG
Bev Pepperdine - Commissioning, Performance & Quality
Ashlea Harvey – Young Inspectors Co-ordinator
Ashley Gregory & Tom Jackson – UK Youth Parliament
Adrian Hobson – Commissioning Performance & Quality
Michelle Hill – Commissioning Performance & Quality
Graham Reiter – OFSTED Inspector

Thank You All 😊

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