

Rotherham Looked After Children's Council & Lil' LACC CLUB - Corporate Parenting Panel - Update Report May & June 2018

Summary

The LAC Council and Lil' LACC Club have been busy having fun, socialising and working together achieving fabulous results by continuing to help shape Rotherham Services which in turn will benefit Looked After & Leaving Care Young People through their consultation work with Rotherham Contact Service Review. The LAC Council has also actively participated in the Regional Children in Care Council Seminar in Leeds, engaged in the Voice of the Rotherham Child Event, appointed their own Treasurer and Vice Treasurer to manage money for the group, have interviewed candidates for the Strategic Directors post and are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded the Diana Award for their 'Outstanding Contribution to Society'.

The numerous experiences and opportunities offered to young people at the LAC Council and Lil' LACC are specifically designed to increase social capital, self-awareness and self-esteem, to foster resilience and support better outcomes for our vulnerable young people. Here are some of the things that we have been doing to achieve those outcomes that we would like to share with you;

LACC Voice – Shaping Services in Rotherham

Diana Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Society'

We are proud to announce that the Rotherham LAC COUNCIL has been given national recognition and awarded the prestigious Diana Award in recognition of their 'Outstanding Contribution to Society' through their Voice & Influence projects including the 'Bin Liners are NOT Suitcases' Campaign. The Diana Award judges thought their story was 'truly inspirational', said Tessy Ojo, CEO Diana Award 2018.



The LAC COUNCIL has been invited to an award ceremony in September at Leeds College of Music to pick up their award. In addition, each award holder has been invited by Earl Spencer, brother of Diana to visit Althorp House the childhood home of Princess Diana.

Improving Contact with Families - The LAC Council are continuing to share their ideas and put forward their voices to improve their experiences through the Contact Service Review to ensure their voices are heard within the review process and ongoing monitoring of the service for children and young people. The LAC Council members have put forward a number of suggestions to re-name the project and have created the 'LAC Voice' form which will

LAC VOICE -development



ask how the child/young person has experienced their meeting with family, and how could their experience be improved in the future. This ongoing Project will continue to work with LAC Council to ensure the child's voice is at the heart of the process and contribute to successful outcomes.

Voice of the Rotherham Child Event- In May, the LAC Council was invited alongside 80 other young people from Rotherham to engage in the Voice of the Rotherham Child Event. Chicken-shed a London based drama/dance performance group came and delivered their performance around risk for young people and explored in a number of activities what Rotherham young people perceive as risk in their world and how they could reduce that risk. Together they looked at adult stereotypes of young people and worked to turn those around in a positive 'rap' which young people and chicken-shed performed together. This was an exciting evening where our young people engaged in arts & crafts making colourful masks and a giant jigsaw expressing their feelings around who would potentially listen to them if they needed someone to talk to.



The voices of Rotherham young people at the event will be analysed and presented to the Centre for Excellence who funded the project.

CICC Regional Seminar @ Leeds Civic Hall 30th May - In May, the young people also participated in their Regional Children in Care Council Seminar held in Leeds Civic Hall. Ian Walker joined us and the group had an opportunity to update young people from across our region on their 'Bin Liners are NOT Suitcases' Campaign and how it has changed Policy and Practice in Rotherham. The LAC COUNCIL played their DVD 'Precious Things' that had been launched at the Bin Liner Event at RCAT in February. Following the Seminar all young people went across to have a game of Bowling and get to know each other a little more. This was an exciting and eventful day that has helped our young people push themselves and speak in front of a room



Leeds Civic Hall

Interview Panel for Strategic Director- 4 members of the LAC COUNCIL engaged in the interview panel for the new Strategic Director for CYPS held at New York Stadium. The young people created their own questions and delivered them to candidates and fed back their views on each candidate. This was an exciting opportunity to put the voices of Looked After Children to the Strategic Director and raise awareness of things that are important to LAC and ask what would the prospective SD's do about them should he/she be successful. By meeting the young people panel all the candidates recognised the importance Rotherham places on young people being front and centre in supporting key decisions. This was also an ideal opportunity for the young people to feedback how the interview process with young people may be improved for future interviews too. Congratulations Jon Stonehouse😊

LAC Council Treasurer and Vice Treasurer- The LAC Council held peer interviews with LACC members who put themselves forward for the annual positions of Treasurer and Vice Treasurer. 6 Candidates delivered presentations outlining why they would be most suitable for the post which was heard, discussed amongst the panel and voted on afterwards by their LAC Council peers. We would like to introduce Kaylen as the LACC Vice Treasurer and Manny as the LACC Treasurer who will work together to keep an eye on spend and future spend for the LAC COUNCIL and Lil LAC Club. Well Done Everyone for taking part!

Lil LAC Club -Activities

The Lil LAC Club (Lil LACC) are our youngest participation group aged 6 to 11 years. The children meet up every two weeks to play games and make new friends in a safe welcoming environment and have fun. The children have been engaging in creative games together to get through mini courses wearing Goggle-Eyes and Frisbee hats to make the course more difficult. The children have worked together in teams to create 'Paper Jackets' and 2 team members displayed their teams creative designs by moonwalking to Michael Jacksons Thriller across the floor. The LIL LACC also enjoyed a trip to McDonalds.



LAC Council Guests - Young people from the LAC Council would like to thank all of our guests, friends, volunteers and supporters who have visited the LAC Council. These include:-

Ian Walker – Head of Service Children in Care
Chickenshed

Steve Simpson – CIDON Construction

Jane Galloway – CIDON Construction

LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Team

Thank You All 😊

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