

## Rotherham Looked After Children's Council & Lil' LAC CLUB –

### Update Report for December 2018 - Corporate Parenting Panel

#### Summary

The LAC Council and Lil' LAC Club have been busy having fun, socialising and working together achieving fabulous results by continuing to help shape Rotherham Services and engage in Rotherham Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade. The LAC Council are very proud to have collected their Pride of Rotherham Awards, and applaud our LACC member Kiran for winning Young Volunteer Of the Year 2018 Award. The group have collected their consultation fees from the NHS LAC Health Assessment Consultation and have shared their Xmas Crafts Activity Session with some 'friends' of the group. 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 these outcomes that we would like to share with you;

#### LAC Council Shaping Services

##### Muslim Foster Carer Project – Kiran, a senior LAC Council

member has put forward suggestions to improve lives for Muslim Children in Care. After highlighting inequalities in opportunities for religious celebrations between children of Muslim faith and those of Christian faith at the Corporate Parenting Panel take over day earlier this year where Kiran shared how she experienced loneliness and isolation living as a Muslim LAC in a non-Muslim household. The LAC Council asked for an Eid party for Muslim LAC every year, for Muslim children to be paired with Muslim Foster Carers, and for those Muslim LAC living with non-Muslim Foster Carers to be given the opportunity to participate in Ramadan and Eid with a Muslim 'Host' Family. Kiran's experiences and suggestions to improve the Service for Muslim children and young people are being heard at the newly formed Muslim Foster Carer Project who are building their action plan around Kiran's suggestions. This is a very exciting project for the LAC Council who are feeling very positive about co-producing improvements with Social Care.



## LAC Council Award Winners

### Pride of Rotherham Awards 2018

In October the Pride of Rotherham Awards (PORA) were held at New York Stadium to celebrate the success of our Looked After and Leaving Care Young People. The annual event had a Hollywood/Bollywood Theme and guests were invited to dress up accordingly. This was a fantastic event which generated great excitement as 210 children and young people were individually nominated by Teachers, Social Workers, Support Staff etc for something they had done that warranted special recognition over the previous year. Social Care management contributed to the fun by delivering a creative Bollywood dance performance to the squeals and laughter of an appreciative audience. Alongside other nominations, all of our LAC Council and Lil LAC Club members were nominated for the community award for their contributions to the LACC & Lil LACC. Each young person received an Oscar type trophy and certificate.



### Young Volunteer of the Year 2018

We are very proud to include the news that LAC Council member Kiran Meharban has scooped the Young Volunteer of the Year Award at the Community Achievement Awards in November. Kiran was nominated due to her unwavering commitment and dedication to volunteering with the LAC Council for the last 3 years. This opportunity has seen her successful involvement with Destination Poland Project fund raising, The LACC Bin Liner Campaign and the Muslim Foster Carer Project! Kiran is a valued member of the group who welcomes all new members, is patient, caring and non-judgmental. Kiran's LAC Council peers spoke on film to say why Kiran deserves the award and how much they value, respect and care for Kiran, with one member talking about how Kiran has helped him accept himself as being Muslim and gay, and another saying simply *'We just love her'*

The DVD was shown at the Awards ceremony was held at the Carlton Park Hotel, Sharon Kemp presented Kiran with her glass trophy and bouquet of flowers. There wasn't a dry eye in the place as Kiran accepted her Young Volunteer of the Year 2018 Award. Well Done!!





## Community Engagement

### Remembrance Sunday 2018

12 Members of the LAC Council joined Mayor Buckley and Chief Exec Sharon Kemp at the Town Hall for the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service at the Minster. The young people were filled with pride and excited to be part of this special day. LAC Council member Brogan was voted by his peers to lay a Poppy Wreath of remembrance and gratitude on behalf of the group.



### Fundraising

This year the LAC Council have been actively pursuing funding to support LACC activities and session refreshments. This has included writing to supermarkets and asking to engage in bag packs to raise money, contacting Rotherham Tesco's to ask for donations of end of day bread/pastries. Unfortunately, these have not been successful to date due to the enormous competition in local requests for support.

However, the group have been very successful in obtaining funding for activities through the Community Leadership Fund and CIDON Construction who have paid for group activities, Day trips, and almost 100 Suitcases for LAC when they move placement. Another avenue the group are exploring is their ability to raise funds through using their unique position and expertise of being a Looked After Child within the care system by engaging in consultations and delivering training to Foster Carers and Social Workers which will improve practice with Looked After and Leaving Care young people.

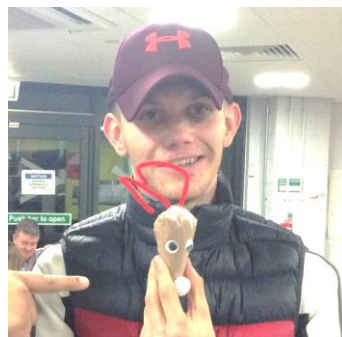
This year the group engaged in a number of workshops to give their voices to issues arising from NHS LAC Health Assessments to support improvements in the service. The group received a consultation fee of £400 in November, handed over by Paul Theaker, Commissioning Manager, NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group. Paul came to the LAC Council to feedback results of the consultation and let the young people know that their ideas are being taken seriously and considered.



## Christmas Crafts with the LAC Council

Every year the LAC Council hold their Christmas Crafts session to let off some creative steam after all the hard work throughout the year with their projects and campaigns to make sure the voices of some of our most vulnerable children are heard. The group invite 'friends' of the LAC Council, to come along and join in the fun. This year we had the pleasure of our CEX Sharon Kemp, Strategic Director Jon Stonehouse, Steve Simpson and Jane Galloway from CIDON construction.

The young people had lots of fun showing the adults how to make homemade gifts like snowman soup, xmas tree decorations, snowflakes and Rudolf Chocolate. This is a very special time of the year when our group come together have lots of fun and create gifts and cards for people they care about most.



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**



## Lil LAC Club -Activities



### Xmas Crafts



Our Lil LAC Club (Lil LACC) are going from strength to strength, meeting up at the group and building on friendships with other LA Children. We continue to actively recruit new members to the LIL LAC Club to give as many children the opportunity to have fun, meet and make new friends and play games together in a safe welcoming environment. The children have been engaging in creative seasonal crafts, making cards and homemade gifts for people they care about the most. They have their Xmas party later in December where Father Christmas is due to make an appearance **ho ho ho!**

**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

Sharon Kemp – Chief Executive RMBC

Jon Stonehouse – Strategic Director

Paul Theaker –Commissioning Manager, NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

Cllr Alan Buckley – Mayor

Sandra Buckley - Mayoress

Jane Galloway -Procurement Manager CIDON Construction

Steve Simpson – Director CIDON Construction

LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Volunteers

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

**Thank You All 😊**

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