

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

Update Report for September 2019 - 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 through their Total Respect Training, Presentations around their Caring Language campaign to Designated Teachers and Corporate Parenting panel. The group continue to engage in Community Events by participating in the Armed Forces Day and Rotherham Show Weekend and have welcomed Sharon Kemp (CEX), Peter Douglas (Head of Virtual School), and Kat Thorne & Karen Davis to their evening Voice & Influence sessions. The LAC Council are also raising funds for their group activities through delivering Total Respect training, from CIDON Construction and Tesco Supermarket. The group have enjoyed Activity days over the summer including a Flamingo Land visit, a 3 day residential to Kingswood and have interviewed for the position of Independent Chair of the LSCB. The LIL LAC CLUB are continuing to welcome new members and have fun packed sessions, making friendship bracelets, cards, game playing, music and dancing. 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 Voices Shaping Services

Total Respect Training x Two

The LAC Council training team are fulfilling their priorities for 2019/20 and have delivered 2 Total Respect training days to a broad mix of Corporate Parents in April and July including Social Workers, Head of Service, Managers, RMBC Councillors & PA's. The young people delivered interactive activities to shift attitudes and stereotypes about young people living in care to very receptive audiences who individually made promises to improve their practice reflecting what they had learned during their training. The training was a resounding success as participants fed back:-



'the exercises and interactive content were very meaningful and the video & poems really moving & powerful' (Social Worker)

'It was brilliant, best training I've ever been on' (Social Worker)

LACC Caring Language Campaign with Designated Teachers

Another example of how the LAC Council is using their Voices to shape Rotherham Services is through education of Teachers. As part of the LAC Councils 'Caring Language Campaign' they aim not only to distribute and raise awareness of their Language that Cares Glossary and change the current use of Care Language by professionals in Rotherham but they also identified issues with Teachers and other professionals who were exposing students care status to other young people and adults.

To rectify the issue and spread the word of language change with Teachers the LAC Council attended the Designated Teachers meeting at Rockingham. The group delivered their presentation highlighting how teachers were exposing their Care Status and sharing with them how terrible this makes Looked After Young People feel. The LAC students shared that once the Teacher has exposed them as Looked After Children they are often bombarded with very personal questions from other students which are embarrassing and place the LAC in difficult positions when asked questions like *'Why are you in care?'* *'Didn't your Mum and Dad want you?'*

The Designated Teachers were very positive and receptive towards changing practice and all 26 made their promises to change or improve practice when they returned to their Primary or Secondary Schools. The LAC Council will visit the Designated Teachers later in the year to check on their progress.

Independent Chair Interviews for LSCB

Members of the LAC Council formed an interview panel with members of the Youth Cabinet to interview candidates applying for the post of Independent Chair for Local Safeguarding Children Board in August. The panel created and delivered their own questions to challenge the candidates' views around Young People's Voices, Rotherham and their own life experiences. Young people scored each candidate individually and through discussions agreed overall scores for responses to their 7 questions. Results of which were delivered to Human Resources to contribute to the overall recruitment process.

Community Engagement

Sun shines on Armed Forces Day 2019



The LAC Council were invited by our Mayor Jenny Andrews to participate in the Rotherham's Armed Forces Day celebration on 29th June. Hundreds of people flocked to the town centre to remember those who have given their lives for our country and to give thanks to veterans and

active servicemen and women. The young people had a fabulous time joining in the fun. It was one of our young people Kaylen's 14th Birthday and she was treated by the Events Team who presented Kaylen with a huge Unicorn birthday cake. Kaylen said she would never forget this Birthday

Rotherham Show 2019

14 Young people of the LAC Council set up their stall at Rotherham Show over the weekend to raise awareness about Looked After Children's groups, recruit new young people and engage with the community. The LAC Council stall was visited by our Mayor Jenny Andrews and her entourage. Over 200 people visited the LAC Council stall and our young people painted 180 Festival Glitter faces of children, adults and RMBC Council members including Cllr Ian Jones and his wife. The group had lots of fun engaging with the community and creating a hand paint tree with smaller children who visited the stall. Well done LAC Council!



Fundraising

This period the LAC Council have continued to raise funds for their activities through delivering Total Respect Training to RMBC professionals twice.

They have also received a £600.00 check from our generous supporters CIDON Construction Barnsley to pay for the LACC CIDON Day trip to Flamingo Land for August.

The LAC Council and Lil LAC Club have also benefitted from a further 2 trolleys of Tesco supermarket food which has supplied refreshments for our children and young people.

Thank you 😊



LAC Participation Activities

Flamingo Land Theme Park

LAC Council and some members of the Lil LAC Club went on an amazing adventure to Flamingo Land Theme Park in August. The trip was part funded by Cidon Construction. The young people supported each other going on scary thrill rides such as Pterodactyl, Velocity, Mumbo Jumbo & Navigator and enjoyed the award winning Zoo. The activity supports relationship building between the children and young people to help build and strengthen the protective factors of Social Capital.



Children in Care Councils Regional Residential to Kingswood



Members of the LAC Council joined their LAC peers from across the Yorkshire and Humber region to spend 3 days together at Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre. The residential saw our young people engaging in a full programme of camp fire singalongs, Archery, Zip-Wire, Buggy building, Climbing, Building a bridge alongside Voice & Influence debates each evening around what the Children in Care Councils regionally should focus on next. Unlike other LAC Councils across the region, the Rotherham LAC already have their campaigns planned for the year but have agreed to do joined up work where-ever they have the capacity or interest in doing so. The residential was a great success with friendships forming across the region.

LAC Council Guests

Peter Douglas (Head of Virtual School)

The LAC Council invited Peter Douglas to visit them during a Voice & Influence Session. The groups agenda was to discuss their Language that Cares Campaign with Peter and discuss how we could work together to support Rotherham Teachers in adopting the new Language Glossary and be aware that what they say in class can negatively impact on Looked After Children when they expose their care status to other students. The LACC members enjoyed meeting Peter and were happy to look forward to working more closely in future.

Sharon Kemp (Chief Exec)

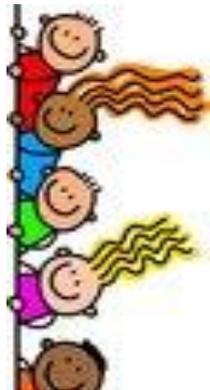
Sharon Kemp joined the LAC Council for a chill n chat session where she supported the young people in creating a body map to show the skills and qualities young people feel Foster Carers & Social Workers should have when working with Looked After Children. This body map will go to helping with the Fostering Review. Sharon also enjoyed engaging in a game of foosball with Brogan.



Kat Thorne & Karen Davis (Educational Psychologists)

The LACC welcomed a visit from Kat Thorne & Karen Davis to discuss the Virtual Schools Conference 2020 for professionals working with Looked After Children. Our visitors asked the group whether they would like to be involved with the design & delivery of it, choosing the Conference theme and how much involvement the young people would like to have. The group are busy in discussions to clarify what they would like to do and how involved they would like to be. As soon as the LACC achieve clarity between them we will feed this back to Kat & Karen.

Lil' LAC Club -Activities



The Lil LAC Club members are continuing to enjoy making friends, playing, learning how to take turns and share the games with each other. We are very happy to have recruited a few new children and are committed to giving as many Looked After Children from Rotherham the opportunities to have fun, make friends and play together in a safe welcoming environment. We have been very busy this quarter. Some of our boys have engaged in football workshops delivered by our



Social Work Students Hannah & Steve.



Members of the LIL LAC CLUB have also engaged in numerous team building exercises, board games & puzzles, arts & Crafts activities including making friendship bracelets and friendship cards.

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

Sharon Kemp – Chief Executive RMBC

Peter Douglas – Head of Virtual School

Kathryn Thorne – Educational Psychologist

Karen Davies – Educational Psychologist

LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Volunteers

Thank You All ☺

Contact Name:

Lisa Du-Valle

**LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Lead
Children in Care**

Tel: 01709 822130 or Mob: 07748143388

Email: lisa.duvalle@rotherham.gov.uk



@LACCRotherham



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