

Rotherham Looked After Children's Council & Lil' LAC CLUB October Update- Corporate Parenting Panel

Summary

The LAC Council Voice & Influence and participation sessions are back up and running and our children and young people have been busy having fun, socialising and working together achieving fabulous results by continuing to help shape Rotherham Services through their voices being heard in the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, NHS Consultation, actively engaging in the Children's Capital of Culture Consultation, working together to review and update the Rotherham Corporate Promises and working on the ongoing Voice & Influence Strategy. Young people have been engaging in Participation activities over the summer school break including, the Skeggy Vegas trip, Art Focused workshops, Communication Games, Taste Test & a trip to Clifton Park Museum and grounds.

The numerous experiences and opportunities offered to children & young people at the LAC Council, Lil' LAC Club and the wider LAC population through Voice & Influence Campaigns, participation activities & community events are specifically designed to empower, increase social capital, raise self-awareness and self-esteem, to foster resilience and support better outcomes for our vulnerable children & 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 & rebuilding the future

Independent Review of Children's Social Care

Rotherham LAC Council have given their views to be heard in a national consultation of children in care into the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. The young people engaged in a menu of engagement activities over the summer including 'Care is...', where young people are asked to give 6 words (positive and negative) to describe Care plus 'Design a Social Worker' where young people created a body map together and wrote the Skills and Qualities that they feel is important in a Social Worker. These Skills and Qualities include:-

- Don't assume you know what I mean, check that you do by asking open ended questions
- Stick up for me (don't join in with the negative stereotype of me)
- Make us feel we are your priority
- Be reliable (do what you say you are going to, come when you say, answer my texts/calls)
- Be Caring, Loving & Kind

Rotherham LAC Council voices work has now been fed back to 'A National Voice' alongside 300 LAC voices from across 19 other local authorities to contribute to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

Consultation on LAC Nurses Trial Questions

The Looked After Children's Nurses are compiling a questionnaire to gain feedback regarding their involvement with LAC to ensure young people have an opportunity to share their thoughts with the team after their health assessments. The LAC Council have given their voices to the trial feedback questions making suggestions to improve the questions and communicate their feelings about the statutory health assessment to give nurses a greater understanding of their consent experiences.

Children's Capital of Culture Consultation

In September, the LAC Council were invited to a Children's Capital of Culture (CCoC) Consultation event at Rotherham Civic Theatre. Sarah Christie introduced the idea of the CCoC taking place in Rotherham in 2025. Young people were excited to view the presentation of all the potential 'Go See Visits' locally and across the country including the National Videogame Museum, Theatre Deli, Yorkshire Sculpture Park & Saltaire to name a few. The group will start their 'Go See' venue visits in the new year. These visits will enable our young people to think more creatively about possibilities to show off Rotherham for the Children's Capital of Culture.



Corporate Promises

The LAC Council have been reviewing the Corporate Promises that they co-developed a few years ago. Importantly, for our young people to see real progress on the Corporate Promises they need to be visible to them so the group have been working on identifying areas within the 9 promises that are not only connected to their 3 priorities for the next year but also suggested practical support to fill identified gaps in support for example:

**I am your worker and I promise I will...
help you to live in a safe place where you are protected from harm**

'Make sure we have someone to talk to after hours when the SW/ PA's have gone home'
(LAC Council members)

Importantly, an addition to the Corporate Promises measurers, young people have recognised and highlighted good relationships are key to successful working with young people and have added to Corporate Promises:-

Take time to build a positive relationship with me, hear my voice, my choice, my feelings & emotions, make me feel important & valued, recognise the power imbalances between us, get to know who I am not what my notes say, understand what is important to me as this will guide you to keep your promises to me.

Currently this Corporate Promises work is in draft form and should be completed within the next few months.

Voice & Influence Strategy

LAC Council members are actively engaging alongside other youth groups, and adult facilitators in Rotherham CYPs's, the Voluntary & community sector in the co-production of the Rotherham Voice & Influence Strategy. This is an ongoing piece of voice & Influence work that is to be shaped by our diverse tapestry of children & young people to ensure this work is truly co-produced in partnership. Well done everyone 😊

LAC Participation



LAC Skeggy Vegas Trip

In August the LAC Council & Lil LAC Club were joined by other LAC from across the borough to go on our annual LAC Skeggy Vegas Trip. The trip is part funded by CIDON Construction Barnsley and the LAC Council Budget. We also recruited 6 fabulous volunteers who gave up their day to support the young people to have a fun filled experience, without whom the day could not have gone ahead. Much to the young people's embarrassment we travelled on the slowest 'sharabang' still road worthy and were glad to arrive at warm sunny Fantasy Island!!



Young people enjoyed being together, going on the Fantasy Island Roller Coaster rides and sharing a meal together outside at a young person friendly 'chippy' who welcome us each year.

Summer Sessions - Young people have engaged in numerous participation sessions over the summer exploring art painting on canvas, glass & card, creating with plasticene, playing communication games, having fun with the blindfolded taste tests & Agree Disagree discussions and a museum visit.

Art Focus with Paint & Plasticene



every mind matters

Museum Visit



Communication Games



Blindfolded Taste Tests



Thank You All! 😊

Children and Young people from the LAC Council, Lil LAC Club and those who have engaged in LAC participation online sessions & events would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of our friends, volunteers and supporters over the last 6 months. These include:-

Sarah Christie – Programme Manager, CCOC 2025
Steve Simpson – Director CIDON Construction
LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Volunteers

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