

## Rotherham Looked After Children's Council February 2022 Update Corporate Parenting Panel

Frustratingly, December and January LAC Council sessions have been once again interrupted by the Corona Virus Pandemic with the rapid spread of the Omicron strain within our local community. Sadly, this meant that the LAC Council Christmas Party had to be cancelled and we had to return to Virtual Meetings throughout January. Over half of the group opted out of sessions as they dislike engaging virtually. However, we did manage to hold a few sessions in December namely the Christmas Craft session and a visit to New York stadium before we were disturbed by the corona-coaster once again.

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 over the past two months to achieve these outcomes within the current restrictions:-

### LAC Council Voices Shaping Services & rebuilding the future

#### Capital of Culture Consultations

In December the LAC Council was visited again by Sarah Christie and the group engaged in their ongoing support by exploring ideas for Rotherham's Capital of Culture 2025 based on their previous visit to the National Videogame Museum and discussions around theatre and performing arts. The young people had great fun creating images of their ideas and putting forward their suggestions for future visits to explore areas of cultural interest to them.

#### Festival Committee

The young people of the LAC Council are currently involved at the very early stages of co-production, shaping and design of a Summer Festival for all Looked After and Leaving Care young people. This festival is a very exciting project for them, as our young people excitingly explore ideas for what the festival should look like, what they want to happen there, including music, games, Bar BQ and opportunities for consultations with their community to inform the Corporate Promises and LAC campaigns for the following year.

## LAC Council Participation Sessions



### Rotherham United Community Trust

The LAC Council were invited by the Graduates within the Rotherham United Community Trust to engage in a Movie Night at New York Stadium. This was a fun night with a Muppet movie, lots of games and food, all organised by the graduates as part of their course requirements. Here are some of our young people enjoying the event.



### Christmas Craft Session



Young people engaged in a fun filled Xmas Craft Session in December Creating Xmas Cards, Gingerbread houses, Holly wreaths, Rudolf & Snowman Soup Gifts for friends and family. This was intended to be the build up to our Xmas party the week after, but unfortunately due to the exceptionally high numbers of Covid in the general population we had to cancel the LAC Council party and reschedule it for February half term when we hope numbers are lower.

Merry Xmas & Happy New Year to all our LAC COUNCIL family & friends.



### LAC Connection Sessions

During January Virtual LAC COUNCIL sessions, we engaged with managing issues shared by our young people including dealing with disappointments brought forward again by the pandemic, using our time effectively by talking together about stress management strategies and techniques, with young people supporting each other and sharing their individual preferred techniques to deal with challenging times of stress within their lives. These sessions given over to talking about young peoples lived experiences are essential to show caring for each other, offer comfort and promote connectedness with each other.




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 two months These include:-

Thank You All! 😊

Sarah Christie – Programme Manager, CCoC 2025  
Matt Ellis – Voice & Influence Early Help  
Rotherham United Community Graduates  
LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Volunteers

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