

## **Youth Voice Update for Children's Select Committee**

Updates for the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY), Youth Safeguarding Board (YSB) and the Children in Care Council (CiCC)

### **Strategic Youth Engagement**

Over the summer members of the YSB, CiCC and WAY attended a strategic youth engagement event held at Devizes school; this was held in partnership with Wiltshire Police.

The event was very low key, and the purpose of which was to look at the development of a strategic partnership approach in terms of youth voice/youth engagement activities, and allowed CYP the opportunity to help shape and develop future services.

There were 18 young people who attended the event, and they represented:

- Children in Care Council (CiCC)
- Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY)
- Youth Safeguarding Board (YSB)
- Police Cadets
- CAMHS

Young people from Motiv8 and Youth Action Wiltshire were also invited but were unfortunately unable to attend.

These young people were supported 6 adults from across Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police.

There were clear messages that came out of the event, which included.

- Young people would rather speak with/engage with a youth worker than workers from the council, Police or partner agencies.
- The council and Police are too formal, if you want YP to engage you need to build relationships with them and ensure they are in a relaxed environment
- You need to go to where YP are, i.e. youth clubs, sports clubs, schools
- Young people do not want to use social media as a form of communication with workers. Although sometimes they will use Facebook messenger
- Generally young people do not read their emails
- Young people want to use text messaging as their main form of communication
- CYP people should be involved in all decision made about them and their lives, although they might not always have the end decision
- All YP are equal, have a right to be heard and should be treated as individuals
- Most young people do not want to complete surveys
- There were conflicting views on when events should be held
- It is important to have food at events for young people
- To incentivise involvement in activities, young people would like to gain access to experiences they wouldn't normally do. For example, being able to see Police dogs
- Young people would like to gain qualifications for the work that they complete

As a result of this information and further work that will be carried out, the relevant Senior Commissioning Officer (who supports voice/participation work) will be looking at how we strengthen

and develop our offer to CYP, and what this could look like in the future. This is also an ideal time to look at this work given the importance given to co-production throughout the FACT workstreams.

## **WAY**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>, Joel Mutagayika (Member of Youth Parliament) and Rebecca Richards (member of WAY) attended the British Youth Council Annual Conference, which this year was held in Nottingham.

The main aim of this weekend was to look at the policy motions proposed by MYP's from across the country, to produce a brand new Youth Parliament Manifesto. MYP's and all the school who have signed up to the "Make Your Mark" campaign will now have the opportunity to vote on the 10 most important issues to them within that manifesto. These 10 issues will then be debated at The House of Commons by MYP's on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> November in front of John Bercow .

At the time of writing this update, Wiltshire had 14 of its 25 secondary schools signed up to campaign, and so we are hoping that within Wiltshire we will surpass the 7,000 votes that were placed in 2017.

## **CiCC**

CiCC meets again on Sep 8 2018 and has issued an invitation to other children and young people living in care to join them for a Healthy Fun Day on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

This will be an opportunity for children living in care to come together as well as a recruitment opportunity for CiCC. CiCC sent its second newsletter to children living in care aged 8 and above in July, please see attached.

## **Staffing update**

Both Judy Edwards and Leanne Field have been successfully appointed to Acting Lead Commissioner posts for a period of 6 months, covering portfolios around Mental Health and SEND respectively. As such the Senior Commissioning Officer posts will be backfilled, and so this will mean a change in worker for all YP supported in the above groups for a period of time.