



Child and Youth Voice, Children Select Committee Update – March 2023

Wiltshire Youth Council

Deputy Members of Youth Parliament

We have held interviews to select 3 deputy Members of Youth Parliament out of our contingent of Wiltshire Youth Councillors. We have successfully recruited 3 Deputies who have been supporting the work of the MYP's. All 6 MYP's and DMYP's are attending a regional conference called Youth Con which is Bristol on Saturday 4th March.

Eco Week 2023

Eco Week is an event organised by both the Child and Youth Voice Team and Wiltshire Youth Council to promote being eco-friendly and positive changes regarding climate change. The date of the event is 6th March until 10th March 2023. During Eco Week we are asking participating schools to get involved with a range of different activities that contribute to being eco-friendly. Each participating school will make decisions on how they would like to contribute to Eco Week and post these on social media using the hashtag; **#wycecoweek**. So far, we have 14 schools signed up to take part including 6 secondary schools.

Young Person Debating Competition

The Wiltshire Youth Councillors have decided that they would like to host an interschool debating competition to bring to the forefront issues that affect them and their peers and the differing views that young people may have in respect to these issues. The aim will be to look at issues from differing point of view and think about innovative solutions that can be used to solve them. The Youth Councillor's hope to hold the competition in the Council Chamber in the last week of the summer term.

Elections

The CYV Team will be facilitating the next round of Wiltshire Youth Council elections in July 2023. We have moved the date to ensure that young people who have been elected get 2 years in office from September 2023 to September 2025. Students eligible to stand will be year 8 to year 11.

Social Care

Children in Care Council (CiCC)

In 2022 we held CiCC activities in the community these included, water sports, football, drama workshops and much more. By doing this we managed to have on average 20 young people at each session. The children in care have made meaningful friendships and they are growing in self-confidence and self-belief. In 2023 we want to enhance the voice feedback element of the CiCC. We are planning on doing this by hosting the sessions in one regular youth centre space and having a designated time slot for key discussions around themes that resonate with them. There will still be fun activities at the youth centre, and we will also plan trips in the school holidays which will keep them engaged.

Voice Consultants

The Child and Youth Voice Team recognises that to achieve meaningful and positive change, people who have been supported by Families and Children's Services must have an active role in co-production. Voice Consultants are sessional paid employees of Wiltshire Council, who use their first hand lived experience to provide feedback about how things can be improved, train Wiltshire Council's workforce, recruit excellent staff members and foster carers and give support to others who need help which is overseen by a full-time member of the CYV Team. Wiltshire Council has corporate parenting responsibilities to care experienced young people to support them to succeed in their futures; these roles are designed to provide first-hand experience working for the Local Authority, helping them to build their confidence, skills and knowledge. Wiltshire Council in return gains valuable first-hand knowledge that will enable us to shape delivery of services around the needs of our service users.

Mystery Shopper Integrated Front Door

The secret shopper task was created as part of the Support and Safeguarding Service Delivery Plan. The Child and Youth Voice Team and Integrated Front Door (IFD) were to provide an opportunity to gather the views of young people and collate them to influence and inform service development.

The Child and Youth Voice Team approached young people within the Children in Care Council, and Voice Consultants asking that they come up with scenario's that they would feel comfortable acting out in a telephone conversation with staff members from the IFD. The participants did a fantastic job and provided excellent feedback about how the service can be improved. The exercise will be repeated in the future to test that meaningful change has taken place.

Family Voice

The Child and Youth Voice Team's remit has expanded to include reaching the views of families. We have recruited a Family Voice Worker to coordinate this work. The purpose of the Family Voice Worker's role is to strengthen the engagement and participation of families that are supported by Wiltshire Council in the design and

development of services. This work ensures that families are at the centre of the quality assurance framework.

Motivational Interviewing

The Child and Youth Voice Manager has been delivering Motivational Interviewing training to the Families and Children's Services directorate.

Training aims

To develop the confidence and skills of practitioners to apply motivational skills with families, to support positive changes and improve outcomes for children.

Training objectives

- Understand the foundations and principles of motivational interviewing and their application in working with families
- Gain a practical understanding of the cycle of change
- Explore skills in using motivational interviewing techniques
- Be able to work creatively and effectively with practitioners from different disciplines using the common language and approach of motivational interviewing

Meet Your Leaders

The Child and Youth Voice Team has hosted a Meet Your Leaders session. 3 voice groups CiCC, Wiltshire Youth Council and the Family Advisory Board presented an update on the work they have undertaken. They then had the opportunity to ask the leaders questions.

The questions included;

- When families leave social care, it is 'like falling off a cliff edge'- this is why schemes such as PAUSE are so important to help families recover. Participant asked could more PAUSE funding be applied to reach additional families, including those who do not meet the current criteria and women after children are removed from their care?
- What support will you be offering care leavers with their mental health and well-being, and ensure they have access to the same social activities after they leave care?
- What extra support is being made available for young people who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis?

The leaders provided feedback in the session and also had actions to take away to work on.

Interviewing New Staff Members

The Child and Youth Voice Team have been heavily involved supporting young people to be part of interview processes.

Foster Carers – The team continue to facilitate young person interview panels for prospective foster carer applicants.

Director for Families and Children – The team hosted a young person's panel for the permanent position of Director.

Head of Quality Assurance – A Voice Consultant contributed well towards the discussions on the main panel and had a meaningful say in who was appointed.

ASYE – The team have now supported 2 more rounds of ASYE Social Worker Interviews by setting up young people interview panels.

Full Council

One of our Voice Consultants, Cora, helped bring the Corporate Parenting report to life in the last Full Council Meeting.

You can see the young person's input using the below link

[Full Council, 21 February 2023, 10.30am - YouTube](#)