

Report to	Southern Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	9/12/2021
Title of Report	Children in Care Council – Activities in 2022

1. Wiltshire Council is the Corporate Parent of all children and young people in its care, whether they be fostered, being prepared for adoption or as unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
2. Currently we have over 400 children and young people in care in Wiltshire.
3. Just as we are putting in place a Youth Council to act as a representative body for all young people in the County, we already have a Children in Care Council (CiCC) which serves to ensure the voice of all children and young people who find themselves in the care of this local authority.
4. Past experience has proven that simply inviting CiCC members to attend in person or online meetings leads to poor attendance and therefore poor representation and dialogue. And so, the proposal for 2022 is to devise a menu of interesting activities to bring the CiCC together. The activities would take place monthly and more regularly during the summer holidays, and included with the fun engagement, would be facilitated dialogue around the more serious matters at hand.
5. The hope is that each Area Board would look to offer up a free or funded activity to populate the CiCC 2022 programme.
6. One option to offer up from this Area Board could be one of its 2 hr (previously funded) Bubble Football sessions which remain available from the 2020/21 commissioned activities (worth £400). We know that bubble football is a very popular activity with young people.
7. Other options to offer up are:
 - (a) Free Community Journalism Skills Workshops from My Salisbury
 - (b) Forest School Sessions by the Chase & Chalke AONB team
 - (c) Royal Navy Youth Engagement Team South West – yet to confirm, but they offer free engagement sessions i.e. cookery, team building, assault courses

Recommendation

That the area board pledge a small (£400) offering of 1 spare bubble football session to the Children in Care Council for its 2022 programme of activities, in recognition of its wider corporate parenting responsibilities.

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