

Presentation of Priority 5 & Voice & Participation Annual Report

Wiltshire Council

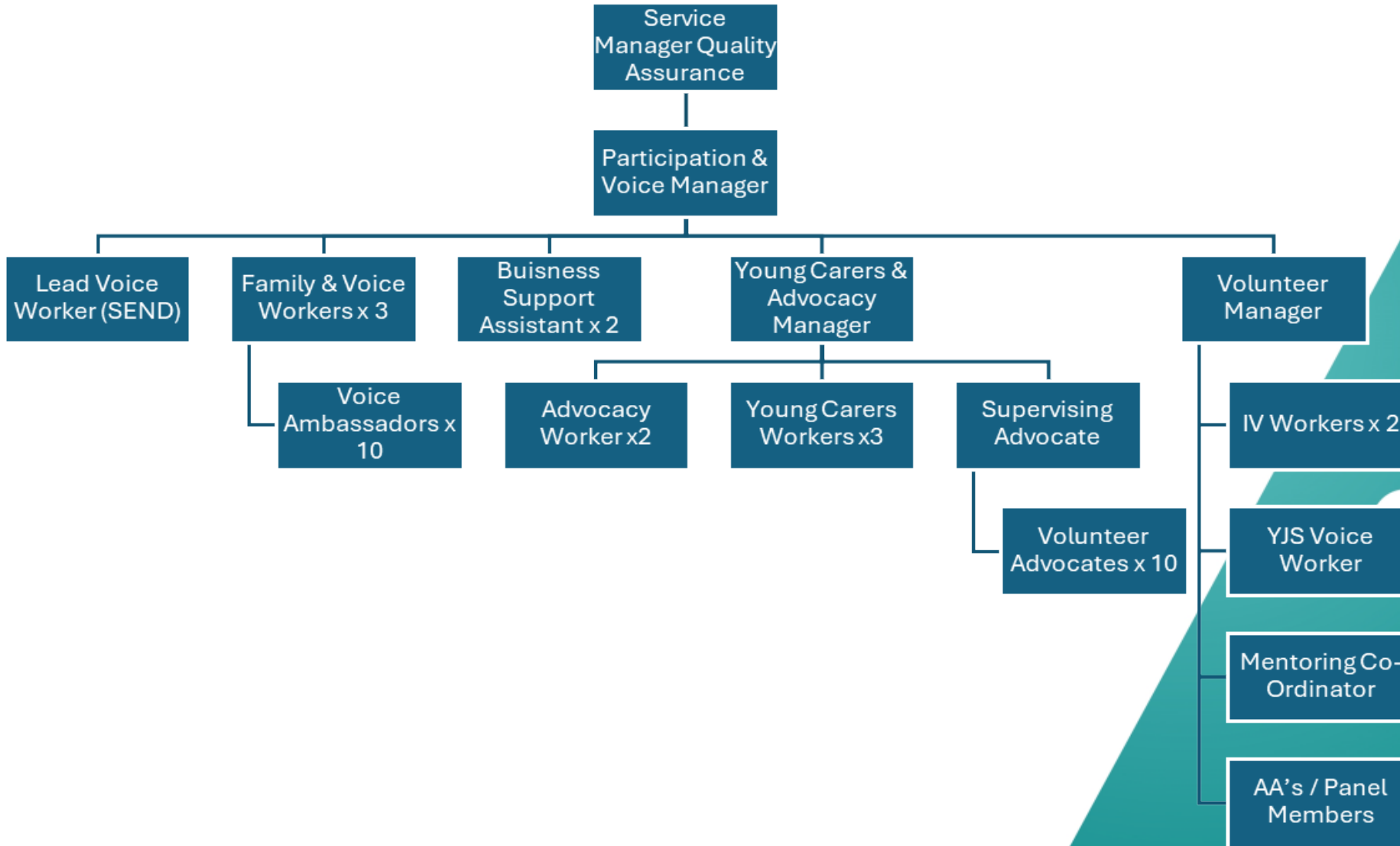


Organisational Context

- Voice & Participation Services sits **with Quality Outcomes Services** alongside other Sector Led activity, quality assurance and safeguarding provision including Conferencing & Reviewing Services, Auditing and Partnership Arrangements.
- This Service is separate from operational social work provision and is focused on support and challenge to ensure effective provision to children and their families. This enables independent scrutiny and collaboration through restorative challenge and support and independent voice.
- **Voice & Participation Team**; and is responsible for providing independent voice to our young people and families.
- Alongside employed advocates and voice workers the Service supports volunteers, ambassadors and sessional workers.



Organisational Structure: Voice & Participation



Service Delivery & Impact

'A significant and ever-growing number of children, parents and carers are actively involved in an extensive range of meaningful participation activities and forums which have informed strategic plans and led to positive changes in operational practice and service development. These include the creation of a new care leavers' young parent group, a young people's fostering panel consultation group, parents designing the Wiltshire 'family promise' and the creation of the new family advisory board.' (Ofsted, 2023)

- Children In Care Council
- Youth Council & Youth Democracy
- Voice Workers – Young Peoples
- Mind of My Own & Bright Spots Annual Survey
- Family Voice & Family Advisory Board
- SEND Voice
- Volunteering & Mentoring – appropriate adults, Independent Visitors, Mentors
- Voice Ambassadors – Sessional Workers with lived experience
- Advocacy Provision
- Young Carers Voice & Advocacy
- YJS Voice & Panel Members



What are we proud of

Primary Mentoring was carried out in 11 schools across Wiltshire by 13 mentors. 53 children were supported over a total of 736 sessions.

Independent Visiting Scheme has 80 successful matches; with 24 new matches this year following 30 referrals to the team

The new **Families and Children Volunteer Team** have recruited 44 new **volunteers** across various roles (some of these volunteers are undertaking more than One role)This resulted in us having 26 new Independent Visitors, 10 Appropriate Adults, 10 Panel Members, 3 Primary Mentors and 6 Community Mentors.

Recruited a **SEND Voice and Participation (V&P)** Lead to ensure a joint up approach between Wiltshire Council and Partners to attaining the views and involving them in coproduction activities.

Mind of My Own - 147 young persons' accounts were created on the app. A total of 647 statements were exchanged between young individuals and social workers.

The team was a finalist of the CYPN **Social Care Team of The Year Awards** & The Child and Youth Voice Worker Cameron Draisey Won the Frontline Award for Young People.

43 different children in care participated in **CiCC sessions** with 31 new members recruited, reflecting the growing interest and engagement



Areas of focus moving forward

- Maintaining momentum with **Mind of My Own**
- Development of **Young Carers Voice**
- **SEND Voice** to drive strategic plan
- Delivery of **Independent Advocacy** Provision from July 2024
- **Bright Spots Survey** results dissemination to shape operational and strategic priorities for 2025/26
- Increasing the Number of Volunteers by Facilitating a Recruitment Campaign
- Strengthen our Youth Democracy offer to ensure activate participation in Youth Council

