
Child and Youth Voice
Children Select Committee Update

Mental Health First Aid

1. A subgroup of the Wiltshire Youth Council has been working with the Healthy Schools Lead Nick Bolton to become trained as Mental Health First Aiders. The training is due to take place in October, after this has been completed the Youth Councillors will be able to use the skills they have learned to set up peer support networks and groups in their schools. The trained Youth Councillors will be able to offer advice to their peers and find out what the main issues affecting children in their schools are, these can then be fed back to the wider Wiltshire Youth Council group.

Healthy Schools Awards Auditors

2. Some of the Wiltshire Youth Councillors have been selected to audit schools that are taking part in the Healthy School's Awards. They will hold focus groups with students around health and wellbeing and ensure that pupil voice is heard throughout this process.

Shadow Youth Cabinet Members

3. The Shadow Youth Cabinet Members have now all met with their Cabinet Member counterparts and have started to form a work plan. The Shadow Youth Cabinet Members will meet in October Half Term to see how they can work together to fulfil their commitments and ensure that young people have their views heard in all areas of the council. Cabinet Members have been invited to part of this session and work with the Shadow Youth Cabinet.
4. The Head Secretary delivered a fantastic speech at the Keeping Salisbury Safe Event on 1st October about safety for young people.

Member of Youth Parliament

5. The Members of Youth Parliament will attend a debate in the Houses of Commons on 4th November to agree the final 3 issues that the Youth Parliament will focus on over the next year.

Wiltshire Youth Council Eco Day 2023

6. The Wiltshire Youth Council will be hosting an Eco Day Competition within schools, with the title being 'The most creative way to raise awareness about environmental issues'. Ideas that have been suggested include; art made out of recycled materials, hosting an eco-themed event and plastic reduction initiatives. Schools will promote what they have done on Eco Day via social media and the Wiltshire Youth Council will decide on the winners and present them with an award.

Youth Voice Residential to PGL

7. The Child and Youth Voice Team took 25 young people on a residential experience to PGL Liddington. The young people were from all the groups that we work with, including the Children in Care Council, Wiltshire Youth Council and young people that are on Child in Need/ Child Protection Plans. The young people enjoyed activities such as climbing, giant swing, archery, and water sports.

Children in Care Council

8. We are currently working with 64 children in Care and Care Leavers. We will soon be creating the Annual Survey of Children in Care and will be reviewing the Corporate Parenting Panel Priorities, to ensure that these are reflective of what is important to the children and young people that we care for.
9. We will continue to run fun activities to draw new members to the group and ensure that they have a chance to meet other children in care and share experiences.
10. We have consulted with Care Leavers about the Wiltshire Local Offer and will be presenting findings to the National Care Leavers Lead Mark Riddell in October.

Staying Close

11. We are supporting children in care and care leavers to shape the Staying Close Project, ensuring that children who leave residential children's homes receive excellent support to help them thrive when moving onto adulthood.



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FACT Transitional Safeguarding Project

12. The Child and Youth Voice Team's Youth Consultants have been heavily involved in giving their views about Transitional Safeguarding. Fran, a Youth Consultant gave a speech at the recent Transitional Safeguarding Conference and raised important issues around mental health, cultural identity and moving onto adulthood.

Care Experienced Parent and Baby Group

13. We are launching a new social group for care experienced parents and their children aged 0-5 years old. The sessions run every 2 weeks in Salisbury.
14. This group is inspired by Youth consultant and care experienced adult Emma Richards. Please see following paragraph from Emma.

Hello, I'm Emma & I am 24 years old. I had my first child when I was 15 and I was in care. Because I was in care my child was automatically in care with me. I found becoming a mum extremely scary, frightening and I had no one around me that had children who had been in care. This is why I'd like to make this group, as a chance for all of us to get together in a nice calm happy environment, for your children to socialise and you to socialise. I'm really passionate about making this group happen, I know how incredibly difficult and stressful parenting can be. I'd like this group to be a breath of fresh air for all of us. I know have a daughter she is two and keeps me on my toes I think it's so important for you to know you're not alone and I have been exactly where you are; I hope to see you at the group."

15. This is a pilot project and if successful we will look to replicate the group in other parts of the county.

Young Persons Fostering Panel

16. The Child and Youth Voice Team have now hosted 7 Young People's Fostering Panel Meetings. These meetings provide children in care and care leavers a chance to ask prospective foster carers questions during their assessment process. They also give the applicants a chance to meet young people who have lived in care and ask them questions. The participants provide feedback which is then shared with the main fostering panel and gives them a say in whether they get approved. These groups have proved to be immensely valuable for all involved and help to support fostering sufficiency.

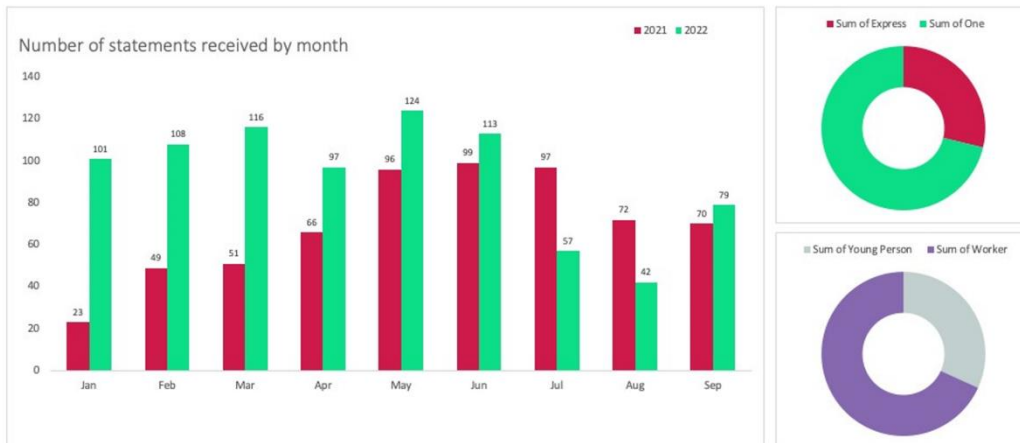
The National Review of Children's Social Care

17. The Child and Youth Voice Team has been collecting feedback from young people supported by social care in Wiltshire regarding their views about the Care Review. This information is being shared with officers who are formulating Wiltshire Council's position on the review recommendations.

Mind of My Own App

18. In September there have been 29 Young Peoples Accounts created and 4 Worker Accounts created.

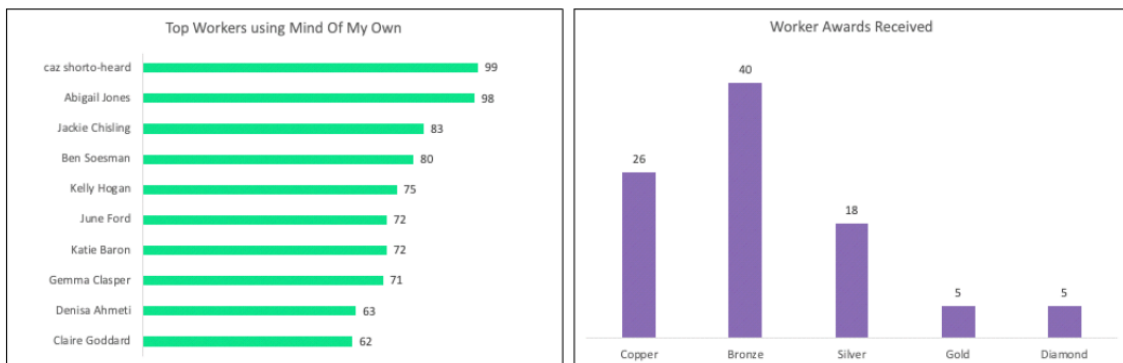
TOTAL USAGE



So far in 2022 only July and August have been worse performing months than the same period last year. Though August saw the lowest number of statements received, Wiltshire bounced back in September with almost double the number of statements

19. The Child and Youth Voice Team had noticed the dip in usage and arranged to visit social care team meetings to remind people of this fantastic resource. This has worked as the usage has exceeded last year.

PRACTITIONER USAGE



This data includes both worker account usage **and** when a child sends a statement to these workers. Caz and Abigail are the current top users of Mind Of My Own in Wiltshire.

Most current users are at a 'Copper' or 'Bronze' level

| One app Usage | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------|
| STATEMENT TYPE | SENT BY YOUNG PEOPLE | SENT BY WORKERS | TOTAL |
| Totals | 35 | 15 | 50 |
| Conference | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Foster Care Review | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| My Life | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| My Wellbeing | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Pathway | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Post Meeting | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Preparation | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Problem | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Share Good News | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| This is Me | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Worker Visit | 3 | 4 | 7 |

20. Foster Care Reviews in September came out as the most used statement type, this is a great example of how the app has been wholeheartedly adopted within service delivery. We are now advocating that workers use the 'This is Me Statement' this will create a pen picture of the young person in their own words!! Foster Carers have said they would love to receive this rather than the information shared from someone's else's perception.

21. It's great to see that the teams we have visited to talk about the app this month have been proactively using Mind of My Own and introducing it to young people they are working with.

| Team | No of Users | One Usage | Express Usage | Total |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| CIC North | 4 | 12 | 8 | 20 |
| CYPDT | 5 | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| SASS West 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| SASS North | 5 | 15 | 0 | 15 |