

Wiltshire's Children in Care Council Annual Report
April 2016 – March 2017

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Introduction

Wiltshire's Children in Care Council (CiCC) is coordinated by the Voice and Influence Team, based within Commissioning, Performance and School Effectiveness. The Voice and Influence Team help fulfil the Council's aim that no policy, or service related to children and young people is developed without first seeking their views; and that participation and involvement becomes 'the businesses of every service and organisation that works with children and young people.'

CiCC currently covers the age range 12 – 25. With young people aged 12-18 known as Care Ambassadors; and those aged 19-25 as Care Leaver Ambassadors. We currently have ten CiCC members – an increase of four from when the last report was written. Please see appendix 1 for a profile of current CiCC membership.

The work of the Children in Care Council in Wiltshire over the past year has influenced a range of decisions and working practice within the local authority. This report provides a summary of CiCC activities over the last twelve months, highlights key messages and outlines priorities for future development.

Messages from CiCC members

What CiCC have said	What we're doing
We would like less, but more interactive meetings.	CiCC agreed on a new model/way of working for their meetings. The agreed model is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 formal meetings a year with just CiCC members ➤ 1 joint themed meeting with the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY) and Healthwatch Young Listeners ➤ 2 activity sessions per annum – to which the corporate parents would be invited ➤ 2 shared guardian sessions per annum
We would like CiCC lanyards so that we can easily be identified as members of CiCC from professionals and other young people.	This is currently being looked into and costed up.
We need more members.	During 2017/18 we will continue to advertise the Children in Care Council to increase membership. There are several ways that we will look to do this, which include (but not limited to):

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Word of mouth from current participants ➤ Article in the newsletter for foster carers ➤ All Independent Reviewing Officers being asked to promote the service ➤ Social workers and Personal Advisers being asked to promote the service ➤ Recruitment information sent out in the regular children's services bulletins ➤ Notifications to be sent to all Independent Fostering Agencies, Residential providers and Leaving Care Providers
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Activities during the last 12 months

- Provided training at the induction for new staff within Children's Services.
- Joined numerous job interview panels for children's services staff.
- Represented Looked After Children at the Wiltshire Youth Summit - one member of CiCC has since been invited to sit on a CAMHS participation group, and another has been asked to sit on a Police Youth Advisory Board.
- Met with the new advocacy provider, and helped to design a child/young person friendly leaflet about the service.
- Helped to run an activity day at Braeside in Devizes, which resulted in two new members being recruited to CiCC.
- Helped to launch the anti-bullying charter in November of 2016
- One member of CiCC travelled to the Treasury, to carry out work experience with the Permanent Secretary, Tom Scholar.

Priorities for future development

Although there are now more members of CiCC than there were when the 2015/16 report was written; we still need to look at recruiting new members, to ensure we are more representative of the wider group of looked after children and young people in Wiltshire.

During 2017/18 the team will be trialling a new open forum model within local community areas. The aim of this trial is to engage more children and young people across the county from all different peer groups. This will include (but not limited to):

- Children in Care Council members
- Wiltshire Assembly of Youth members
- LGBT members
- Healthwatch Young Listener members
- School Councils

Please see appendix 2 for more information on the open forums. Please note that standard CiCC meetings will continue to run alongside this open forum.

Appendix 1 – Profile of CiCC members

As at 1 February 2017 there were 457 children and young people in the care of Wiltshire Council (59 more than when the 2015-2016 report was written). CiCC is currently made up of 10 active participants (an increase of 4 young people from when last year's report was written) who have regularly engaged in forums and events during 2016/2017. The youngest member is 12 years old and the oldest is 19. The average age is 16.6years (which is lower than last year when average age was 17.6yrs) There are five females and five males.

Nine members of CiCC are White British, whilst one member is Black African and is an unaccompanied asylum seeker. Other ethnicities are not represented.

Outlined below is how the demographic of CiCC compares against the wider looked after population in Wiltshire:

Age of CiCC cohort compared to overall LAC population

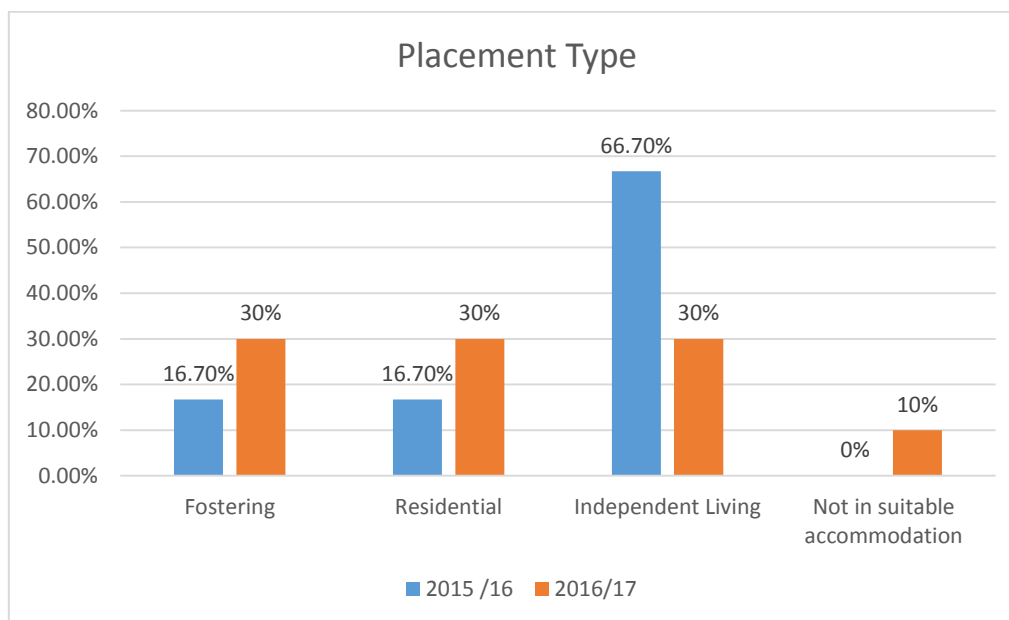
Age	Wiltshire wide	CiCC
Primary age (0-11)	194 CYP 42.5%	0%
Secondary age (12-16)	210 YP 46.0%	3 YP 30%
Post 16	53 YP 11.6%	7 YP 70%

Positively, we now have a representation of 30% in age bracket 12-16, compared to 16.7% when the 2015/16 annual report was completed. We also now have 70% representation in the 16+ age bracket a reduction on the 83.3% the following year. This shows we have a much wider representation in CiCC now than in previous years.

The table below shows the type of provision that the members of CiCC are placed in:

Fostering provision	Residential provision	Leaving Care provision	Care	Not in suitable accommodation
3 (30%)	3 (30%)	3 (30%)		1 (10%)

The graph below shows how this compares to the 2015/16 cohort of young people.



The group does not have representatives in the following types of placements:

- Kinship care
- Foster care through an independent fostering agency
- Host family

There are two members in the current cohort in CiCC who are placed out of county (one in as residential provision and the other in a leaving care provision); the remaining 8 are placed within the geographical boundaries of Wiltshire Council.

No members of CiCC have a disability.

During 2016/17, as well as the standard CiCC meetings; members have also been involved in a high ropes activity day at Braeside, joint meetings with the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (including the launch of the anti-bullying charter), Wiltshire’s Youth Summit, and have restarted the Shared Guardian Sessions.

Appendix 2 – Open forum meeting dates

	What	Date	Where	Who	Comment
1	Constituency meetings	28.03.17 04.04.17 06.04.17	County Hall Monkton Park Bourne Hill	Open access (Invitation to young people from constituency – WAY, CiCC, CAMHS participation group, school councils, LYNs, Barnardo’s ...)	Led by Member Youth Parliament Publicity/promotion by MYPs, Area Boards/LYNs
2	Whole WAY	21.06.17	County Hall	Open access	All welcome
3	Online meeting	20.07.17	Online	Open access	All welcome
4	Constituency meetings	27.09.17 28.09.17 03.10.17	County Hall Monkton Park Bourne Hill	Open access (Invitation to young people from constituency – WAY, CiCC, CAMHS participation group, school councils, LYNs, Barnardo’s ...)	Led by Member Youth Parliament Publicity/promotion by MYPs, Area Boards/LYNs
5	Online meeting	17.10.17	Online	Open access	All welcome
6	Anti-bullying week ‘Big Conversation’	15.11.17	County Hall	Open access	All welcome