



**CHILD AND YOUTH VOICE TEAM UPDATE FOR CHILD SELCT COMMITTEE**  
**25/06/2021**

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**Brief update on recent key activity:**

1. We have successfully recruited two new 'experts by experience' youth consultants. This is a voluntary role (although vouchers are provided to reimburse time and expertise for pieces of work completed). One of the consultants is currently studying estate management at university but was in the care of Wiltshire Council. This young person experienced being placed with carers who are of a different cultural background. They are active on social media platforms and networks relating to care experienced young people and their cultural needs. This young person is being supported by the CYV Team to start a podcast called 'fostering positivity' where she hopes to share her positive experiences and the things she has learnt to educate carers and workers. They will also be assisting with training of foster carers and staff on the cultural needs of young people. The other young person recruited is an expert by experience of the youth offending team child and adolescent mental health services as well the young people's service. They will be helping us with supporting workers in these teams develop their understanding of the needs of these young people (through being involved in training) and also supporting us with our mental health consultation.
2. The Chair of the Wiltshire Children in Care Council has continued to be a much valued member of our team (on a voluntary basis) and has been assisting us with training of staff and interviewing new members of staff within children's services in the past four weeks. She has successfully completed her Level 2 in early years childcare and is starting her level 3 in September. Following a successful CYV Ambassadors meeting in June the Chair of CiCC has been offered some work experience / voluntary consultancy work with the early years' service. This will enable her to develop her understanding of early years childcare and also enable her to share her knowledge of children and young people within the care system to the early years staff at the council.
3. We have had two recent children in care council meetings which were held face to face. This was much welcomed by CiCC because many of the young

people had not met each other in person having been meeting via Microsoft TEAMS. The first meeting involved a social meeting in Trowbridge (attended by 3 young people) and the second was a young people's inspection at Aspire House (Wiltshire Council's emergency registered children's home). This involved four young people inspecting the children's home against our new impact document. Two care experienced consultants had inspected the children's home earlier in the year and had made several recommendations. The young inspectors were able to assess whether the changes had been made (which they had) and gave advice on making the décor and facilities more inclusive and child and young person friendly. The registered manager of the children's home has been delighted with the support from the consultants (which has been shared with and appreciated by the reg 44 visitor and named OFSTED inspector). The young consultants have given advice on meeting cultural needs, meeting skin, hair and hygiene needs, ensuring the rooms are suitable for those with sensory needs and adding in simple 'welcome packs' and food / activity options to make the home more welcoming and inclusive.

4. We have held our first CYV Ambassador network meeting. This was attended by a number of Community 'Ambassadors' (who are experts in important issues and in a position to support our children in care and young people with important issues). We had Ambassadors from across the community including, faith communities, an Olympic athlete, scouting, housing, substance misuse, health watch, expert in tackling racism, expert in climate change, representative from a local vets, experts in mental health, expert in LGBT+. This means CYV and CiCC have a network of experts to assist them with issues that are important to our young people.
5. We have been working hard to network with several groups within the community. We have met with young people from groups including the CAMHS Youth Forum, Young Healthwatch, and the Salisbury Creative Arts. We have also arranged to attend Sarum Academy in Salisbury to talk to students there about mental health.

#### **Looking forward – planned key activities:**

6. Our primary focus for June, July and August is our mental health consultation. This is involving two big pieces of research into the mental health needs of young people in Wiltshire. Our young people will be sharing the results in a 'meet the leaders session' in July. The first survey is being undertaken in partnership with the university of Bristol. This has involved CYV Team inviting all children in care aged 10-18 who are permanently in care to take part in the research. Bristol University will be collating and analysing the data for us and we will have an opportunity to take part in further follow up studies. The second survey is a questionnaire designed in partnership with our young people which is being shared and promoted by all of our community partners to enable as many local young people to take part as possible and give their

views on mental health support. We will be able to share the results of this survey at the 'meet the leaders' session. We will also be visiting a number of youth and community groups over the next few weeks to promote the survey and enable young people to share their views on a one to one basis. We have managed to recruit two of the 'youth consultants' (who were previously commissioned) to assist us with this on a voluntary basis. They are keen to remain involved with the project on a voluntary basis.

7. We are in the process of organising our first CiCC residential. This will be a weekend activity camp at a 'PGL' centre for our CiCC Members (we have 8 members currently) and also places for 8 other children in care who want to come along.
8. We have started planning our second consultation which will focus on young carers. We have worked closely with the Young Carers Team at Wiltshire Council, the Commissioner for carers and the commissioned providers for the services that support young carers. We have made plans to visit young carers in the summer holidays, attend a young carers assessment and send out a survey, with the hope of finding out what young carers would like to see change in Wiltshire.