

Report on Wiltshire Youth Voice activities

1. Introduction

This report offers a summary of activities for the new Wiltshire Youth Union (WYU), the Children in Care Council (CiCC), Care Leavers Forum, Members of the Youth Parliament and Youth Consultants Pilot during the period February 2019 – June 2019.

2. Meetings

The updated June to December 2019 meetings and activities are confirmed, with planning for more community-based engagement, and less meetings in council buildings. This includes WYU members having liaised with their schools and local communities to host meetings throughout the year, and the Care Leavers' Forum's aim of meetings being co-arranged with volunteer care leavers and Wiltshire Council PAs. 'Dispatches' include surveys, newsletters/news articles/updates.

Month	Children in Care Council	Wiltshire Youth Union	Care Leavers Forum
June	Tuesday 4 Jun County Hall, Trowbridge 5pm-6.30pm	Dispatch out to Youth Union	Tues 18 June Community Room Tesco Salisbury 6.00 – 9.00pm
July	Thurs 4 Jul Joint meeting - County Hall, Trowbridge or The Clarendon Academy, Trowbridge (TBC) 5.00-6.30pm		Dispatch to Care Leavers: Any updates Snap surveys etc...,
August	No Meetings		Email Invite out for next meeting
September	Tue 10 Sep County Hall, Trowbridge Shared Guardian Session (with Corporate Parents) 5pm-6.30pm	Thurs 26 Sep County Hall, Trowbridge or John of Gaunt, Trowbridge (TBC) 4.45pm-6.30pm	Weds 25 September Meeting room, High Street Chippenham, (access next to Town Hall/Valerie Patisserie) 6.00 – 9.00pm
October	Sat 12 October Fun Day Details to be confirmed	Dispatch out to Youth Union	Dispatch to Care Leavers: Any updates Snap surveys etc...,
November	Joint meeting for all – anti-bullying week (11-15 th) 5pm-6.30pm Thurs 7 Nov County Hall, Trowbridge or Hardenhuish School, Chippenham (TBC)		Email Invite out for next meeting
December	Tues 10 Dec CiCC Christmas Event Details to be confirmed	Thurs 12 Dec Youth Union Christmas Event Details to be confirmed	Fri 6 December Longfield Community Centre Weavers Drive, Trowbridge BA14 7DZ 6.00 – 9.00pm

3. Wiltshire Youth Union

The official launch of the Wiltshire Youth Union (WYU), a combination of the previous Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY) and Youth Safeguarding Board (YSB) will take place on 4 July 2019. The WYU includes member representation from the CiCC. The WYU will vote in its Chair, review and sign off new revised Terms of Reference (ToRs) and start putting together a 12 month work plan as part of the re-launch. Work to further develop the group will be taken forward with the branding team once voting has taken place on a new Logo. Members are committed to a refreshed identify which brings them together under one brand.

The WYU is interested to know what the Children's Select Committee (CSC) forward plan is and have extended an invitation to Jon Hubbard, the present Chair of the Committee to attend one of its future meetings.

4. Working in partnership

Here are examples of partnership working Wiltshire Youth Voice members/groups have been involved in so far during 2019;

4.1 Raising Awareness

Throughout January 2019, members of the WYU and CiCC participated in a council-generated online survey. This was facilitated to ascertain their views and opinions on a set of three questions posed by PCSO Alan Byrne (Schools and Youth Liaison Supervisor), as part of a 'sextortion' consultation.

The questions posed elicited a 50% response rate from the 30 young people invited to take part, and the following outcomes:

Q1. What would be the best form of communication from the Police regarding CSE and how to help prevent it?

- 60% said – social media campaign – use of created videos via Instagram and Snapchat
- 33.3% said - Drama presentation
- 6.67% said – Poster/Leaflet Campaign

Q2. What age range should it be targeted at?

- 40% said – 11-13 yrs.
- 40% said – 14-16 yrs.
- 13.33 % said – 8 -10 yrs.
- 6.67% said – 16+ yrs.

Q3. What would you want highlighted most?

- 86.67% said – identifying the signs of CSE

Free text responses from young people taking part in the survey included:

- "Younger people (8-10) are less aware but need to be"
- "Child Sexual Exploitation can happen at any age, the sooner the children know the better. However, it's my understanding that parents of very young children would object to them being exposed to content such as this, therefore 11-13"
- "8-10 is too young to understand properly but at age 11 kids start getting on to the internet and gaining independence so it's important they know the dangers etc"

Feedback from the survey has been used to influence and support the Police in the next stage of a combined County Lines, Knife Crime and Sextortion Awareness initiative. In May 2019, the WYU reviewed a draft script under development by the Police in conjunction with Swindon College. Comments noted by the WYU supported the editing of the script and a revised version was produced. Swindon College is now in the process of creating a trailer for the media campaign.

4.2 Recruitment

Members of the WYU, CiCC and the Care Leavers Forum want to have a say in who gets recruited by the Council. Lucy Townsend (Director, Families and Children's Services) requested the support of young people from WYU/CiCC for a young person interview panel for the Head of Service-Children in Care and Young People. Feedback from the young people's panel was included in the candidate scoring process. This process was replicated when recruiting for the new Head of Virtual School.

4.3 Consultation

As part of the WYU meeting on March 7, Healthwatch Wiltshire were given a 30-minute time slot to conduct a focus group around the NHS Long Term Plan.

The group took part in two activities and some of the questions asked are below:

1. Who should assess/diagnose/treat/support you?
2. Where would you expect this to happen?
3. How far would you travel?
4. Would you prefer to travel to see a specialist or receive support locally?
5. What type of care would you be prepared to wait for if the service was exceptional?
6. What additional information would help you to make choices? Is there enough information?
7. Who should provide information? Where and how would you like to access it?
8. How can communication be improved?
9. In what other ways would you like to be supported?

Healthwatch Wiltshire have committed to update Wiltshire Council and the WYU once the NHS has published its full report due Summer/Autumn 2019.

4.4 Environment

A member of the WYU supports the Climate Change strike that takes place in Bath each year as part of The Bath Youth Climate Alliance and, will be giving a presentation to the WYU to help raise awareness to peers of climate change on the environment.

The Bath Youth Climate Alliance is an organisation run entirely by people in full time education with a common aim to tackle the Climate and Ecological Crisis and to mobilise a younger generation to respond through means of peaceful protest. To date this local group has organised five main events, all being Youth Strikes 4 Climate aligned with the Fridays For Future movement and has staffed stalls at events to raise awareness.

The WYU will discuss, debate and vote during a group session to decide if they will adopt this issue into their 12 month work plan.

5. CiCC

The CiCC has completed its first Newsletter of 2019, which is now in the process of being circulated. It includes recognition of National Care Day, which was in February. The newsletter will be mailed out to children and young people aged 8+ with an invitation to join CiCC.

Appendix 1: CiCC Newsletter Summer 2019

The new adopted 'brand' to promote key messages and campaigns is underway. CiCC has launched its first campaign on Mental Health Awareness. Lego animated characters of CiCC have been created in conjunction with our Communications Team and their first video for Mental Health Awareness has been produced. It will be the start of a suite of videos to raise awareness on issues they feel need recognising

and that will support other young people living in care and beyond. Please access the link to view the first edit test video - <https://youtu.be/3CSojc1zaUQ>.

The CiCC wanted the opportunity to feed back some positive and negative experiences of their journey in care. The CiCC discussed the option of Bath University's offer to come in and do a session with the group and agreed to invite them. The CiCC worked in partnership with Bath University to put together the agenda for the Shared Guardianship Session on 19 March 2019.

Bath University facilitated a series of exercises with the group to generate discussion, capture feedback and promote learning. A report on these outcomes will be made available to Wiltshire Council so operational children's services teams embed the learning.

The CiCC took an active roll in the recent Ofsted inspection. CiCC members lead by its Chair facilitated a question and answer session with the Inspectors. The CiCC feedback to the Inspectors their views on the services they have received

6. Care Leavers' Forum

All Care Leavers' Forum external venues are booked for 2019, with a meeting time of 6.30-8.30pm to support as many young people as possible to attend. The first two Care Leavers Forums took place on 29 March and 18 June, in Trowbridge and Salisbury respectively.

Care Leaver feedback from these forums included:

- How can we promote the forum – so that those Care Leavers who would/can come along know where and are supported to do so?
- Not all Care Leavers can or would want to come to a forum – how can we get more of those Care Leaver voices heard?

The Interim Head of Children in Care (Deborah Barlow) has committed to promote the forum within operational teams and the wider community.

Actions will be taken forward to future forum meetings to ensure that all those who wish to can fully participate and have their voice/views heard. This will include exploring alternative methods and replicating best practice taken from other youth voice forums, such as the use of Survey Monkey and remote electronic voting options. This will be developed in conjunction with Care Leavers.

7. Your Voice Survey

The deadline for completion of the Your Voice Survey 2018 was extended until 7 February 2019, due to the impact of the roll-out of the Liquid Logic case management system, to maximise responses.

A total of 77 young people took part in the survey, with 3 being interviewed after for further information. As part of that, 20 young people choose to complete surveys online, and 57 of them completed a paper-based survey.

Key Findings:

35% of young people don't know why a worker is involved, especially at the beginning

90% of young people felt listened to

90% of young people feel their worker had made them happier about things and have helped them and their family.

What else we found out is really important to the young people that participated are:

- The importance of quality peer support
- Being listened to and treated as an individual with individual concerns, anxieties and needs
- The importance of having the right foster family-good, kind, long-term and well matched
- Having the right social worker whom the young person can bond with, trusts and respects
- Young people being included rather than information ‘for and about’ them going from social worker to foster carer instead of directly to them.

Appendix 2: 2018 Your Voice Consultation Report Final

8. Elections to the UK Youth Parliament – 2019

The voting for this year’s elections took place between 11 and 27 February 2019. The new term of office commenced on 1 March 2019, and our newly elected MYPs for the three represented Wiltshire’s areas are:

- Wiltshire East – Heather Newton
- Wiltshire North – Declan Kiely
- Wiltshire West – Aanya Verma

The MYPs will be looking to arrange visits and introduce themselves to the Wiltshire Members of Parliament (MPs) and Councillors.



9. Wiltshire’s Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs)

The MYPs have committed to support and take forward the two priority campaigns for 2019 which were voted in following a debate in the House of Commons in November 2018. They are:

1. Tackling Knife Crime and...
2. Votes at 16.

Also, as Wiltshire MYPs they have agreed a set of their own local priorities which they would like to progress in partnership with elected members:

- Reduce or abolish university fees
- Tackle climate change, in particular by increasing the availability of electric car charging points
- A curriculum for life
- Free public transport for children/young people in full-time education
- Improve mental health services by addressing concerns raised by young people who have experience with the system
- Mental health awareness

The MYPs have been actively supporting Wiltshire Youth Voice by participation in Wiltshire Council recruitment panels and attendance at the CSC. They will also as part of their role co-chair the WYU.

10. Youth Consultants – Pilot Project

Wiltshire Council is working in partnership with Community First to develop a new role for Wiltshire, one which demonstrates a local commitment to co-production and youth engagement. Community First will recruit between 6 to 8 Youth Consultants on Wiltshire’s behalf for a 12-month pilot. The consultants will ideally be between 16 and 24 years of age and be able to identify and engage with young people. Young people with experience of children’s services are particularly being encouraged to apply.

The Youth Consultants will make links with the WYU, CiCC and Care Leavers Forum and establish a relationship and develop their role. The ambition for the new Youth Consultant role is to increase the reach of youth voice activities, participation, engagement and co-production opportunities, and to enhance the validity of messages to decision makers. As informed youth voice representatives they will give advice and guidance to assist officers and councillors in planning services and understanding community assets and service provider markets.



The WYU and CiCC were consulted over the implementation of the new Youth Consultants project and they offered input in the role and the branding of the pilot scheme.



These groups will also play a major part in the recruitment of Youth Consultants and within its training process.

The window for application submission is open, with a closing date of 5 July 2019. Interview dates for shortlisted applicants are planned in for Mid-July.

Appendix

1. CiCC Newsletter Summer 2019:



Children In Care
Newsletter [Online Ve

2. 2018 Your Voice Consultation Report Final



2018 Your Voice
Consultation Report F