

Child and Youth Voice Children Select Committee Update



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Author: Joe Sutton, Child and Youth Voice Lead Worker

Wiltshire Youth Union

Young Carers Consultation

The CYV Team has completed its consultation with young carers in Wiltshire and will be supporting them to present their findings in a meeting with Wiltshire Council Leaders on 5th November. The report is available on request after the 5th November.

Wiltshire Youth Council

The Wiltshire Youth Council project is progressing at a good pace. There is now a steering group which meets monthly to discuss the progress of the project. The branding and school resources are now complete. The Leader and Deputy Leader have created a video with the aim of inspiring schools and young people to sign up. We have attended the WASSP meeting and received fantastic feedback about how we can include Wiltshire's special schools. Full council have been notified about the scheme and so have the Communities Directorate and Area Boards. The challenge now is to ensure that we have all 28 mainstream secondary schools signed up.

Members of Youth Parliament

We continue to support our current cohort of Members of Youth Parliament and will be accompanying them to a regional conference on the 30th October. The conference will focus on creating the next national Make Your Mark Survey and highlight the priority areas for young people that will be included in the survey. Wiltshire will be sharing the Make Your Mark Survey on the Wiltshire Youth Council electronic ballots. This is to ensure we get the maximum amount of take up in the questionnaire and the information can be broken down by schools and communities.

Other Community Connections

Staff from the team have linked in with the Local Youth Worker Network and have informed projects in Wiltshire of how they can put forward Special Advisors to the Wiltshire Youth Council.

Children Social Care

Children in Care Council (CICC)

We have listened to the feedback from the children in care who attended the PGL residential weekend in September. They told us that they did not want to have children in care council meetings that were too formal, and they would prefer to do activities and have more fun. We have taken this on board and are now working towards creating a 12-month schedule of fun, diverse activities that they can take part in. Staff members from the CYV team will support the participants to build trusting friendships with each other and then introduce creative workshops to ensure we are hearing what our looked after children are telling us about their experience of care.

Dragons Den Walkabout

The CYV Team and CIC Teams have worked collaboratively to give Wiltshire care leavers the chance to scrutinise Wiltshire's local offer. On Monday 25th October care leaver participants listened as the local offer was pitched to them, they were then given the opportunity to formalise questions and observations that were put to the CIC Team managers. A report of what was discussed will be made available to those who wish to read it. The report will be shared with Mark Riddell from the Department of Education when he visits Wiltshire to discuss the local offer.

Star Awards and Fashion Show

The Wiltshire Star Awards will be taking place on Friday 25th February 2022, this is an event that celebrates the achievements of children in care in Wiltshire. Planning is going well and details such as the venue and catering have been finalised. As part of this event, we will be linking in Tumaini Children's Charity and Kandu Arts to support children cared for by Wiltshire to put on a fashion show for everyone attending. A group of young people attended a planning session in the October half term holidays these young people will form the core group that will take part in the project.

Mind of My Own App

Mind of My Own is an award-winning app designed with young people for children and young people. It helps children and young people communicate their views in a way that suits them. They can create their own accounts, which can be used on any device at any time and is fully accessible in over 100 languages! Having a voice is empowering for young people and the Mind of My Own app helps them to share what's important and can help workers understand what is going on in their lives. It's also a very good way for workers to better evidence young people's views and show them that they are being listened to.

The CYV Team has been training social care teams on how to use the app effectively and ensuring that professionals are telling young people about this fantastic tool that children can use to express their views and say how they are feeling.

Wiltshire Council were recently awarded the Digital Champion's Award as Wiltshire was the top user of Mind of My Own in Q1 out of the 85 local authorities who also use the app! This is a fantastic achievement and we're not stopping here – encouraging all staff in all teams to make full use of the app to ensure we are listening to our children and young people.

Fostering Positivity Podcast

The CYV Team is supporting care experienced adults to create a podcast which enables them to tell their stories in a positive way. The podcast has been created for service users and professionals alike. By understanding the impact that historic decisions have had on real people's lives, we can learn to make more informed choices in the future. Recording for the first season of 8 episodes has been completed and it is now being edited by one of our fantastic youth consultants.

Find the podcast here

https://open.spotify.com/show/3gwaaNI5QRYDkNM1JfEQfa?si=AcuImBHCQXuxHGrREUJn_A&dl_br anch=1&fbclid=IwAR3-PWuplB-k8CQdFlaeqEhv1RARUGqsb_OjPo571A2F6PWgFDWNHDrfM_Y&nd=1

Advice and Guidance

The team has offered advice and guidance on other initiatives in Children Social Care including -

- Providing advice on the Care Leaver App and Care Leavers Local Offer
- Delivering Language Workshops with the Principle Social Worker

- Support with fostering panel ensuring that the views of those that have lived experience of being in care have a say on who becomes a carer

Future activities

Most of the work going into the next period will build on progress to date and further develop the above-mentioned activities. In addition, we are planning on working closely with the Fostering Team to enable more children in care to be involved in the training, support, and assessment of new foster carers. This will enable our prospective foster carers to better understand the needs of children in care and will also give children in care a say on who becomes a Wiltshire carer.