

**Report on Wiltshire Youth Voice activities**

**1. Introduction**

This report offers a summary of activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY), Youth Safeguarding Board (YSB) and the Children in Care Council (CiCC) during the period December 2018 – January 2019.

**2. Youth Union**

Members of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth, Youth Safeguarding Board and Children in Care Council remain committed to the proposal for a refreshed identify which brings them together under one brand – the Wiltshire Youth Union. Work is being taken forward with the branding team to work with young people to create the brand re-launch the youth forum in Summer 2019.

**3. Meetings**

The 2019 meeting and activity dates have been confirmed, as below. Progress has been made in planning for more community-based engagement, and less meetings in council buildings. This includes 'Youth Union' members liaising with their schools and local communities to host meetings throughout the year, and

Month	Children in Care Council	Wiltshire Youth Union	Quarterly Care Leavers Forum Meeting Schedule 2019
January	Dispatch out to CiCC with Meeting Dates January CiCC Newsletter	Dispatch out to Youth Union with Meeting Dates	Dispatch out to Care Leavers by PA's sub-group for dates/venues/times
February	Tue 5 February County Hall, Trowbridge 5pm-6.30pm	Thurs 7 February County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm – 6.30pm	Email Invite out for next meeting
Youth Elections – 11-29 February			
March	Tue 19 March Shared Guardian Session (with Corporate Parents) 5pm-6.30pm	Thurs 7 March Youth Union/UKYP Induction 4.45pm-7.15pm	TBC Date, venue, time
April	Tue 9 April County Hall, Trowbridge (or Five Rivers, Salisbury) 5pm-6.30pm	Dispatch out to Youth Union	Dispatch to Care Leavers: Any updates Snap surveys etc...
May	Thurs 2 May Joint meeting - County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm-6.30pm		Email Invite out for next meeting
June	Tuesday 4 Jun County Hall, Trowbridge (or Aspire House – TBC) 5pm-6.30pm	Dispatch out to Youth Union	TBC Date, venue, time
July	Thurs 4 Jul Joint meeting - County Hall, Trowbridge 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 Shared Guardian Session (with Corporate Parents) 5pm-6.30pm	Thurs 26 Sep County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm-6.30pm	TBC Date, venue, time
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 <sup>th</sup> ) 5pm-6.30pm Thurs 7 Nov County Hall, Trowbridge		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	TBC Date, venue, time

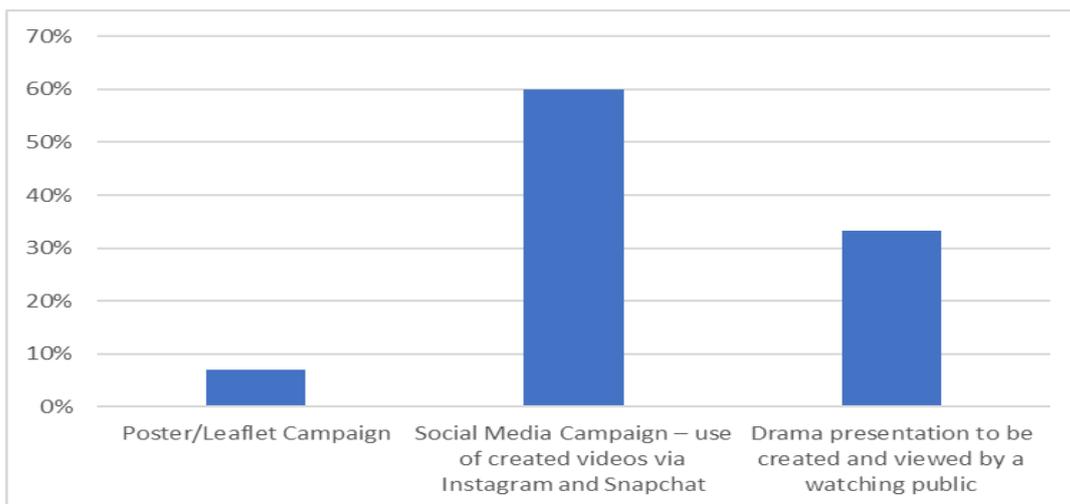
Care Leavers' Forum meetings being co-arranged with volunteer care leavers and two Wiltshire Council PA's. 'Dispatches' include surveys, newsletters/news articles/updates, and community-based engagement.

#### **4. Working in partnership**

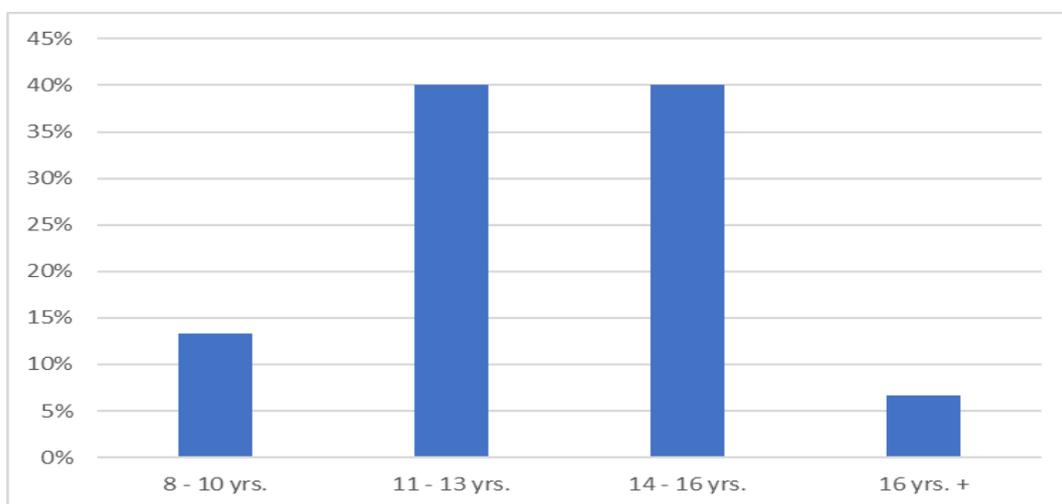
Members of the Wiltshire Youth Union, and CiCC, participated in a council-generated online survey throughout January 2019. This was facilitated to ascertain their views and opinions on a set of three questions posed by PCSO Alan Byrne (Schools and Youth Liaison Supervisor), at Police Headquarters in November 2018, as part of a 'sextortion' consultation. There was over a 50% response rate to the survey, the results of which will be used to influence and support the next stage of the Police initiative.

The questions posed elicited the following responses:

a) *What would be the best form of communication from the Police regarding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and how to help prevent it?*



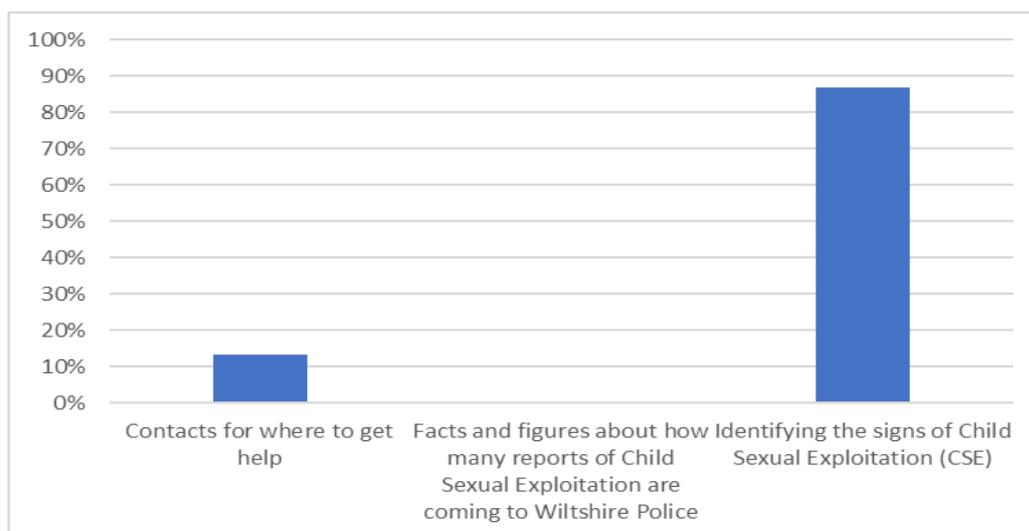
b) *What age range should be targeted?*



Free text explanations 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”

c) What would you want highlighted the most?



Youth Voice feedback from this survey has also been captured within our November 18 to April 2019 'You Said, We Did' report.

### **5. CiCC**

The CiCC is in the final stage of completing its January Newsletter which will be in circulation soon. Included will be recognition of National Care Day. Members discussed and have voted to adopt a new 'brand' for their promotion of key messages and campaigns. CiCC will be launching its first campaign in the spring on Mental Health Awareness. 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.

### **6. Care Leavers' Forum**

The Care Leavers' Forum is moving forward and, with input from care leavers, external venues are being booked. The meeting time and duration reflected the views of those that attended the initial forum meeting for a later evening meeting 6.30-8.30pm. This was to support as many young people as possible to be able to attend. The first Care Leavers Forum this year is booked for March and will discuss meeting agenda formats; Terms of Reference; Chair/Co-chair decisions and the possibility of a Forum Action Plan.

Care Leaver feedback in November 2018 included:

- Meetings to be held outside of Wiltshire Council premises – a small sub-group has been tasked to find venues
- Care Leavers are keen to co-chair the meetings; with the option of a Wiltshire Council Personal Assistant (PA) as co-chair
- Care Leavers App (discussed by Martin Davis) - Care Leavers fed back that they thought this could be a useful tool

Work on introducing a Care Leavers App to Wiltshire is underway. This will allow all Care Leavers to access information easily and could link into the relevant Wiltshire Council Care Leavers Webpages.

### **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. The survey was further promoted by Heads of Service, the Children's Champions Working Group, and operational teams. A draft report is in the process of being produced and findings will be reported to Children's Select

Committee and Corporate Parenting Panel.

### **8. Wiltshire's Members of the Youth Parliament (MYP)**

As a result of attending the Children's Select Committee on 8 January 2019, our present MYP for Wiltshire East, Joel Mutagayika, was interviewed by the Wiltshire Times, The Gazette and Herald and our Communications Team. Joel spoke passionately about why he became an MYP and sent out a positive message to other young people to do the same. Exert from Gazette and Herald interview:

*Joel said: "Being a part of the youth parliament you just have to believe in yourself. I have stood up in front of a room of councillors at a children's select committee discussing big issues like the NHS and I have to believe that what I say will have a ripple effect and might change the way that one person is thinking".*

Links to interviews:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/articles/member-of-youth-parliament-joel-mutagayika>

<https://www.gazetteandherald.co.uk/news/17393768.youth-parliament-member-supports-tough-approach-to-tackle-drugs-in-county/>

### **9. Elections to the UK Youth Parliament - 2019**

The election process has now started with the window for voting between 11 and 27 February 2019. The results will be announced shortly after this date. The new term of office commences on 1 March 2019, and newly elected MYP's will be looking to arrange visits to officially introduce themselves to our Wiltshire councillors and MPs.

