

Introduction- This two-part report offers a summary of the continuing conversation between the Children’s Select Committee and Wiltshire Youth Voice – a collective summary of youth voice input from Wiltshire Youth Union (WYU), Children in Care Council (CiCC), Care Leavers Forum, Members of the UK Youth Parliament and Youth Consultants Pilot.

Part One
Wiltshire Youth Voice
Response to questions from Children’s Select Committee report dated: n/a
As this is first issue of the new report format there are no outstanding responses due for the Children’s Select Committee from Wiltshire Youth Voice.
Wiltshire Youth Voice Report: October 2019 – December 2019

1. Meetings

The Youth Voice Meetings Schedule for 2020 has been confirmed. CiCC and WYU members have committed to continue to engage with and encourage youth voice participation within local communities.

Youth Voice Meetings Schedule – 2020			
Month	Children in Care Council (CiCC)	Wiltshire Youth Union (WYU)	Care Leavers Voice Meetings
January	Tuesday 21 County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm – 7.00pm	Dispatch out to WYU	Teams promote Care Leavers Meeting Dates
February	Dispatch out to CiCC	Thursday 6 County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm – 7.00pm	South Care Leaver Meeting Please contact your PA for details
Member of Youth Parliament Elections – 3 – 14 February			
March	*Tuesday 10 Shared Guardian Session (with Corporate Parents) County Hall, Trowbridge 5.00pm-7.00pm	Thursday 12 Youth Union/UKYP Induction County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm-7.15pm	Teams promote Care Leavers Meeting Dates
April	Tuesday 21 County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm - 7.00pm	Dispatch out to WYU	North Care Leaver Meeting Please contact your PA for details
May	Thursday 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity Joint meeting - County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm-7.00pm		Teams promote to Care Leavers Meeting Dates
June	Tuesday 30 County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm-7.00pm	Dispatch out to WYU	South Care Leaver Meeting Please contact your PA for details
July	Tuesday 7 World Chocolate Day Joint meeting - County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm-7.00pm		Teams promote to Care Leavers Meeting Dates
August	Summer Holidays - No Meetings		North Care Leaver Meeting Please contact your PA for details

September	*Tuesday 22 Shared Guardian Session (with Corporate Parents) County Hall, Trowbridge 5.00pm-7.00pm	Thursday 24 County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm-7.00pm	Teams promote to Care Leavers Meeting Dates
October	Saturday 10 CiCC - Fun Day Details to be confirmed	Dispatch out to WYU	South Care Leaver Meeting Please contact your PA for details
November	Tuesday 17 Joint meeting – Anti-bullying week (14-18 th) County Hall, Trowbridge 4.45pm -7.00 pm		Teams promote to Care Leavers Meeting Dates
December	Tuesday 8 CiCC /WYU Shared Christmas Event Details to be confirmed		North Care Leaver Meeting Please contact your PA for details

NB. 'Dispatches' include surveys, newsletters/news articles/updates. * Dates pending confirmation.

2. The Wiltshire Youth Union

The WYU facilitated their youth voice forum on 7 November 2019 at County Hall, chaired by Declan Kiely, MYP for Wiltshire North. It was a packed evening, with agenda items and discussions chosen by its members to tie in with the Anti-bullying week (11-15 November 2019) theme.

The forum was attended by guest speaker, Julie Upson (Children's Partnership, Quality Assurance Lead), Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP). Julie facilitated a discussion with the members in relation to domestic abuse to provide context for the multi-agency domestic abuse audit that was currently being carried out. As part of the audit, they were gathering the voice of those who had experienced domestic abuse to inform their lines of enquiry for the case audit. Being able to gather the broader voice and view of young people enabled it to be a more holistic overviewⁱ.

The WYU have now completed and signed off their revised membership handbookⁱⁱ, including their new strapline '*Empowerment through Youth*', application form and new expression of interest document for youth voice Input. The WYU wanted to create a clearer way of capturing the work they support and hope to ensure that their youth voice and feedback is acted upon. The SVPP were the first to utilise the WYU's new process for youth voice input. The new process has also been utilised by Public Health, with a request for youth voice input to be booked into the WYU's forward planner for 2020.

Members discussed the new report format for the Children's Select Committee and noted, that they were pleased they will be able to read the responses to the questions they ask and also respond accordingly. Members unanimously voted for the new format. Members also discussed and agreed some initial questions for the Children's Select Committee.

Discussions took place regarding the WYU 2020 meeting dates and venues – it was acknowledged by members and WC officers that issues had been experienced with external venues in 2019, the main problem being the lack of internet access. The members voted to have this year's meetings at County Hall. However, the WYU members will still actively explore options for alternative meeting venues and groups. Members have volunteered to support this by visiting groups to promote the WYU.

As part of the ongoing liaison with other organisations to promote and increase inclusion, the WYU also warmly welcomed some new young members to the November forum from the partnership work that is underway with the Army Welfare Service.

3. Raising Awareness

Here are examples of partnership working Wiltshire Youth Voice members/groups have been involved in since October 2019;

- City of Westminster – MYP's input requested to support the creation of the City of Westminster's new Members of the Youth Parliament portfolio.

- Chippenham Town Council – Youth Voice input and support, Chippenham Town Council are in the process of creating a Chippenham Youth Council.
- Final filming of the 'Roving Reporter' video by CiCC members to help raise awareness of the responsibilities of Corporate Parents. CiCC members are looking forward to seeing the finished film to review, feedback and sign off.

4. CiCC

CiCC would like to thank the Corporate Parent Panel Chair, Cllr Pauline Church and members for supporting their request to change the meeting times of the Corporate Parent Panel to a later timeslot. CiCC discussed and have agreed for the majority of their forum meetings in 2020 to be scheduled for the same day as the Corporate Parent Panel, at County Hall, but with a time slot between 4.45pm-7.00pm. CiCC members are hoping this will support a greater opportunity for communication between CiCC and the Corporate Parent Panel.

Members attended a Post 16 Options Event (Careers Event for Looked After Children) to staff a stand for CiCC at the Civic Centre in Trowbridge, on 21 October 2019. CiCC members once again positively engaged with the public and the other young people at the event to promote their forum.

The annual CiCC Fun Day took place on 2 November 2019 at the Corsham Campus with a jam packed itinerary that included the climbing wall, and a very robust game of hockey between some of our young people, WC officers and carers. Feedback from our young people and carers was positive, but it was noted that some carers were not aware that this was an annual event. The plan in 2020 is to ensure that all carers are informed, and CiCC will be working closely with operational teams to do so.

The CiCC Your Voice Survey for 2019 went live between the 25 November and 22 December. All the survey questions were reviewed and revised prior to the launch. The annual survey is for any child and/or young person to complete who has received a service from a Wiltshire Council worker in that year, they may have accessed a service at some point during that year, even if they do not now. The feedback is to be captured from a young person's perspective. The survey data analysis will be underway in January 2020. The data and information captured will be reported in the survey's final report, which is planned for March 2020.

CiCC members developed and edited the Christmas edition of their Newsletterⁱⁱⁱ. CiCC members discussed and offered a regular 'spot' in their newsletter to Cllr Pauline Church, as Chair of the Corporate Parent Panel. CiCC hope that this will allow the Corporate Parenting Panel an additional opportunity to ask CiCC members and other young people supported by the Council their views. CiCC have suggested the Corporate Parent Panel ask one question in each newsletter.

The CiCC Fun Day and Joint Christmas Event invitations to Corporate Parents and WC Officers will be sent out soon.

CiCC and the WYU this year discussed and agreed to have a joint Christmas Event. They voted for a Laser Quest Experience. The event took place on Thursday 5 December, in Swindon. Members of both CiCC and the WYU attended and were joined by Wiltshire Council officers, Martin Davies (Head of Service Quality Assurance and Performance) and Jen Salter (Head of Support and Safeguarding). Feedback from our young people was positive and, they enjoyed being together in one group.

5. Corporate Parent Panel – Strategic Priorities

CiCC members have reviewed and given positive feedback on a new set of proposed Corporate Parent Panel Strategic Priorities. On 29 October 2019, members of CiCC met with Councillor Pauline Church, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills, Councillor Stuart Palmén and Lucy Townsend, Director of Families & Children's Services. The existing priorities were discussed and CiCC members gave their views on what the new ones should be. A wider consultation with young people supported by the CiCC is being planned for the next stage of the process.

6. Care Leavers Forum

In 2019, the first phase of Care Leavers Forums were put in place. These had been developed to reflect feedback gathered from a Care Leavers task group, which captured views on when, where and how they would like the forums to be facilitated. Meetings were to be held quarterly, outside of Wiltshire

Council offices, at venues around the county, with a 6.00-9.00pm timeslot. Throughout 2019, the forums were advertised and promoted through regular communications, operational teams and PA's.

With low numbers of Care Leavers actually attending the forums, and with additional feedback from Care Leavers via their PA's and operational team meetings, a review of the forum format was put in place. As a result of the review a revised format is being piloted for 2020, with more localised smaller groups. There will be 6 meetings planned with Care Leavers over the 12 month period, divided between the two team areas and arranged by an identified PA Lead for Care Leavers from each team. This will be supported by Commissioning's Youth Voice Lead. The aim is to support an increase in capturing and actioning Care Leavers feedback.

On 26 October 2019, to celebrate Care Leavers Week, some of our Care Leavers kindly agreed to meet with Michelle Donelan, (Minister for Children and Families) to discuss their journey through the care system and what they feel the need now as a Care Leaver.

7. British Youth Council Annual Sitting of Parliament – 8 November 2019

Wiltshire's 2019 MYPs, Heather Newton, Declan Kiely and Aanya Verma took part in the British Youth Council Annual Sitting of Parliament on 8 November, in London.

The annual session was chaired by the newly elected Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP and Deputy Speaker, Dame Eleanor Laing MP over the course of one day.

The Make Your Mark ballot, which forms the basis for the final MYP voting, saw more than 825,000 young people taking part this year and, is one of the largest consultations of young people in the UK. Wiltshire also had a record number of votes cast this year with, over 14,000 young people completing ballots.

The five issues prioritised were (narrative taken from the voice of young people):

1. **Protect the environment** - We believe that we have a responsibility to protect the environment from the effects of climate change for the next generation; and that the Government should look towards carbon neutral alternatives.
2. **Put an end to knife crime** - Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic.
3. **Mental Health** - Mental health services should be improved with young people's help; and should be available in schools.
4. **Tackling hate crime** - We should be educated on how to report hate crime. We believe the Government should invest in creating safe spaces that promote unity in communities.
5. **Curriculum to prepare us for life** - Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics.

The two new campaigns have now been announced following the UK Youth Parliament's debate and MYP voting:

- **Put an end to knife crime** - Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic
- **Protect the environment (climate change)**- We believe that we have a responsibility to protect the environment from the effects of climate change for the next generation; and that the Government should look towards carbon neutral alternatives

Wiltshire's top two priorities voted for locally in the Make Your Mark ballot were:

1. **Protect the environment**
2. **Put an end to knife crime**

The priorities of Wiltshire young people therefore reflects and supports those of the wider UK youth voice.

8. Elections to the UK Youth Parliament - 2020

The Wiltshire UK Youth Parliament 2020 Election process is underway. The first stage of application and manifesto submission has been completed. Subsequently, we have five candidates standing this

year for election. The list of candidates will be published on 10 January 2020. The voting window for elections will take place between 3 February and 14 February 2020. The new term of office will commence on 1 March 2020, and the three newly elected MYPs will represent: Wiltshire East, Wiltshire North and Wiltshire West.

Please keep an eye out for our campaigning candidates and support them to reach as many young people as possible. Newly elected Wiltshire MYP details will be published on or about the 27 February 2020.

9. Youth Consultants – Pilot Project

Youth Consultants have completed their induction, and will access any additional on-going training they require to support their work.

They are now receiving regular enquiries for Youth Consultant input. The Youth Consultants have completed their report for the first piece of work requested by Wiltshire Council on the development of the Council's SEND Strategy. Wiltshire Council officers will continue to work with the Youth Consultants to identify areas of work requiring youth voice feedback, input and support. The Youth Consultants are keen to learn more about the Council's teams and services, and positively contribute to improving the experience for young people.

The Youth Consultants will continue to attend our Wiltshire Voice Forums, such as the Wiltshire Youth Union and the Children in Care Council. They will also regularly attend meetings such as the Corporate Parent Panel and Children's Select Committee, plus any other relevant meetings required.

NB. A verbal update of the Pilot work plan will be supplied by a representative Youth Consultant who will be attending the Children's Select Committee.

What Wiltshire Youth Voice would like to ask the Children's Select Committee.....

Questions:

1. Wiltshire Youth Voice would like to ask and invite members of the Children's Select Committee to present their area of work and visit their forum
2. Wiltshire Youth Voice would like to ask that work continues in arranging a joint WYU/Children's Select Committee meeting at a later timeslot to allow members of the WYU to attend.

Part Two

Children's Select Committee

Response to questions from Wiltshire Youth Voice report dated:

Children's Select Committee Report:

What the Children's Select Committee have been doing.....

What the Children's Select Committee would like to ask Wiltshire Youth Voice

Outstanding Actions – Wiltshire Youth Voice / Children’s Select Committee	
Wiltshire Youth Voice: Outstanding Actions	
1	
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Children’s Select Committee: Outstanding Actions	
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Appendix:

i Expression of Interest: JU/SVPP



JU Expression of Interest Form.pdf

ii WYU Handbook



Wiltshire Youth Union Handbook - Fir

iii CiCC Christmas Newsletter 2019



Children in Care_Christmas News