

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel 8 November 2017</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Children in Care Council Update</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Barbara Peacock, Executive Director of People Department</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People &amp; Learning</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b>	
A caring city: Provide safer, high quality, integrated healthcare and social care services close to home with a focus on maternity, children and young people, and mental health services. Corporate Parenting.	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b>	
To be confirmed.	
<b>FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO: N/A</b>	

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 Corporate Parenting Panel to note the report, which is an update.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Croydon Children in Care Council was relaunched in October 2017 to provide looked after young people in Croydon with an opportunity to be heard and to make a positive impact in the borough.
- 2.2 The format of the CiCC is currently designed to establish two new cohorts of 8-12 yr. olds and 13-18 yr. olds to who will participate in activities and discussion with the intention of shaping the service they get, engaging them in decision making about their lives, giving them access to senior managers and supporting their ambitions when moving on from being a looked after young person in Croydon.
- 2.3 The official launch of the CiCC took place on Tuesday 24 October.

### **3. DETAIL**

#### **3.1 Actions taken to date**

- 3.1.1 The Youth Engagement Team are leading on re-establishing the CiCC and recruiting looked after young people to join. The membership of the group is based on young people voluntarily participating and in some cases, particularly the younger cohort, with the support of those who look after them.
- 3.1.2 The approach to recruiting young people is based on targeting looked after young people known to the Youth Engagement Team directly and by enlisting support from schools, social work units and the Virtual School. Further recruitment efforts have targeted looked after young people known to existing partners.
- 3.1.3 Advertising has been created with Croydon Design.

#### **3.2 Recruitment update and inter-departmental support**

- 3.2.1 One young person has agreed to be a peer volunteer, she is a past member of the Youth Cabinet and Youth Forums, she is 18 years of age and living independently after leaving care.
- 3.2.2 One young person signposted from Shpresa (a voluntary sector organisation supporting Albanian unaccompanied minors commissioned by Croydon Council) but it is likely there will be further attendees encouraged by his attendance.
- 3.2.3 There is a commitment from John Ruskin College to support young people to attend the relaunch and future sessions.
- 3.2.4 10-15 young people have been identified to attend from existing projects or Youth Forums/Cabinet.
- 3.2.5 Since embarking upon recruitment there has been a positive response from within social care and other parts of the organisation. Permanence 1 and 2, Leaving Care, Fostering and Business Relationship teams in particular have all actively supported recruitment efforts.
- 3.2.6 Permanence 1 unit 3 and 4 are approaching young people directly to support recruitment. To date, unit 3 has 5 young people who we expect to join CiCC from the launch. Permanence 2 and Leaving Care are also supporting this work by connecting looked after young people to the CiCC through workers in their respective strands.
- 3.2.7 Fostering and Business Relationships teams have facilitated the Youth Engagement Team attendance at the foster parent's monthly forum and are

directly contacting foster parents to help recruitment to the CiCC. In addition to social care, the Virtual School have also approached looked after young people directly and will have visibility at the launch.

### **3.3 Official Launch and Next Steps**

3.3.1 Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 2-5pm at the TMRW Hub on Croydon High Street.

3.3.2 Focus on young people being present and engaged in activities.

3.3.3 At this first session young people reviewed The Pledge established by the Corporate Parenting Panel, hoping to 'youth proof' it and make it more accessible.

3.3.4 Members of Youth Cabinet attended the launch to support new CiCC young people and give a presentation on their work and ideas for joint projects in the future.

3.3.5 Senior council leadership attended and shared aspirations for young people and the CiCC.

3.3.6 Comms and press support were in place to push advertising and 'good news' stories.

3.3.7 CiCC will look to design their own logo in the first few months.

3.3.8 Early projects for CiCC to work on include developing a 'welcome to care package' for all children and young people entering the care of Croydon council.

3.3.9 The aim is to have a number of Croydon Takeover Challenge 2017 (November 24<sup>th</sup>) places filled by looked after young people.

3.3.10 School holidays day events for looked after young people (particularly 8-12 yr. olds) will be in place from early 2018.

3.3.11 Future plans for 2018 are to develop a young volunteer's programme for care leavers to support their younger peers.

3.3.12 It is expected that the launch will establish a foundation from which participation in the CiCC will grow. Recruitment will remain a priority in the coming months.

3.3.13 Since embarking upon recruitment there has been a positive response from within social care and other parts of the organisation. Permanence 1 and 2, Leaving Care, Fostering and Business Relationship teams in particular have all actively supported recruitment efforts.

3.3.14 Permanence 1 unit 3 and 4 are approaching young people directly to support recruitment. To date, unit 3 has 5 young people whom we expect to join CiCC from the launch. Permanence 2 and Leaving Care are also supporting this work by connecting looked after young people to the CiCC through workers in their respective strands.

3.3.15 Fostering and Business Relationships teams have facilitated Youth Engagement Team attendance at the foster parent's monthly forum and are directly contacting foster parents to help recruitment to the CiCC. In addition to social care, the Virtual School have also approached looked after young people directly and had visibility at the launch.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 Corporate Parenting Panel to note the report, which is an update.

#### **5 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1 Not applicable

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER**

6.1 Not applicable

#### **7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

7.1 No adverse impact.

#### **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.1 Not applicable at this stage.

#### **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

9.1 Not applicable

#### **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

10.1 Not applicable

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Emily Collinsbeare, Youth Community Engagement Team Manager

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None