



Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Council

Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 8th October 2020

Worcestershire's Young people Participation



Children in Care and Care Leavers Groups



Big Voices - Activities for Children and their foster Families



Who Cares We Care - Children in Care Council



Speak Out - Care Leavers Council



Big Voices Activities

- ▶ Big Voices are activity based sessions for Looked After Children from birth to around the age of 11 (depending on their need and preference). These sessions allow us to consult with younger children in a fun way to gain their views and wishes in order to help shape our services.
- ▶ We use a variety of techniques such as through play, being creative or asking direct questions about what they like or what they would change.
- ▶ These are also a great opportunity for children in care and their foster families to meet with others who are Looked After by Worcestershire.



Worcestershire's Young People's Forums



Who Cares We Care

Open to Children in Care from the age of 12 up until they leave care.



Speak Out

For Care Leavers from the age of 17 up to 25

What do the groups do?

Represent
Worcestershire's
Children in Care
and Care Leavers

Attend regional
and national
events to talk
about local and
national issues
and trends.

Provide training
and workshops
for professionals

Consult with
Children in Care
and Care Leavers
about their views
and experiences.

Provide our
expertise and
advice on
projects across
WCF which will
impact other's in
similar situations

Give feedback on
services

Contribute ideas
and experiences
to other services
relevant to
children in care
and care leavers



What have we been up to?

Throughout the year...

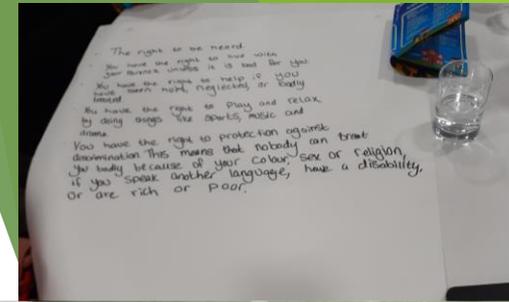
- ▶ Met up and kept in touch to share our views and experiences.
- ▶ Fun and Social Sessions
- ▶ Provided our expertise on projects some teams within WCF are working on.
- ▶ Promoted our groups and opportunities.

August 2019

- ▶ Young People interviewed Rob Morrison Chairman of WCF for Togethernews article (fostering newsletter).

September 2019

- ▶ Group members spoke at WCF Annual Conference where we asked Children's Social Care staff to sign up to a pledge.





Continued...

October 2019

- ▶ Attended a West Midlands Regional Event for Looked After Children.
- ▶ Met with professionals, Children in Care and Care Leavers across the country at a Participation networking event in Leeds.
- ▶ Planned and hosted Corporate Parenting Fair 2019

December 2019

- ▶ Supported the PCC with commissioning of a new service.

January 2020

- ▶ Represented Worcestershire at National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum in Coventry

March 2020

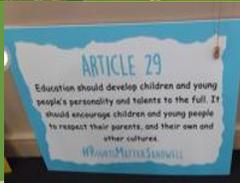
- ▶ A Personal Advisor visited a meeting in March and spoke to us about the Benchmarking Forum.

June 2020

- ▶ Young Person attended Virtual Corporate Parenting Board meeting on June 4th.

July 2020

- ▶ Created a video for Children and Young People about Participation



What do young people like most about being in our Children in Care and Care Leavers Councils?

The fact that you get to meet people who have the same experience you have and help make being in care better for us and others. I enjoy making memories with the friends I have made

Taking part in the Commissioning process for the Police and naming the service

Everything, can't pick one thing, getting involved and visiting parliament."

Socialising, Chairing meetings Cutting the cake at the Who Cares We Care 10 year party celebration

Making a change

Coming to meetings and socialising. Getting involved and having our voices heard on interview panels and Conferences where Social workers signed up to a pledge

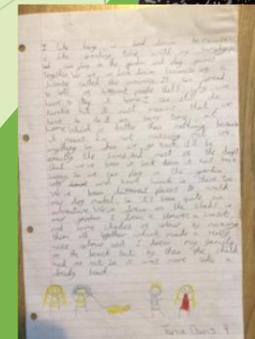
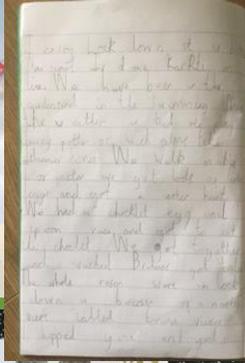
Some things we would have liked to have achieved but have not been able to this year

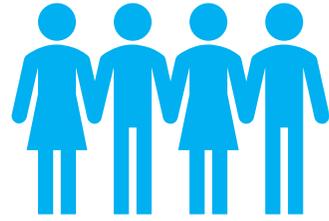
We have all had to do things differently this year and sadly this has meant we have had to cancel or postpone some of the things we were planning for this year, including;

- ▶ Early Years Celebration
- ▶ Looked After Children's Fun Day
- ▶ Attending Regional and National meetings such as the All Party Parliamentary Group
- ▶ Hold an open event for all young people and professionals to meet our groups and find out information.
- ▶ Run a workshop with Foster Carers at their annual conference to talk about what it is like to be a Child in Care or a Care Leaver.

How do we involve all of our Children in Care and Care Leavers?

- ▶ Work closely with teams who support Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
- ▶ Consultations with wider Children in Care and Care Leavers
- ▶ Host open events and activities for all of Worcestershire's Looked After Children and Care Leavers
- ▶ Different opportunities for Children in Care and Care Leavers such as interview panels, commissioning work and individual projects.
- ▶ Keep everyone updated on what's going on;
- ▶ Articles in Care Leavers Newsletter and Togethernews (fostering Newsletter)
- ▶ Social Media





Our young people's panels have helped to recruit various roles so far including:

- ▶ Early Help Staff
- ▶ Edge of Care Workers
- ▶ Participation and Engagement Team Manager
- ▶ Social Workers
- ▶ Virtual School Head
- ▶ Team Managers
- ▶ Group Managers

I really enjoyed being involved with the recruitment side of things, knowing that I'm having a positive impact (albeit rather small) on the lives of children in care-Young Person

I felt that the young people took the role very seriously in that they wanted to make sure that they selected the right person who they felt would do a good job for them
- Interviewee

I learnt about the style/form of interview questions that we will be doing in future and the format of the interviews themselves - YP attending training.

Worcestershire's Young People's Panel Training



Aspirations for the future

Increase members and Young People's involvement in projects

Continue to build links and work closely with Teams across Worcestershire Children First.

Build closer links with CPB Councillors and young persons representatives.

Training package for young people who would like to get involved in projects.

Young People would like to continue to work together with professionals on projects which affect them and their peers.

Launch Participation webpages for young people

Participation and co-production training for professionals.

Young People's Achievements

I am continuing to work in my business and administration role and am settling into my new flat.

I have continued my learning virtually throughout lockdown and am now back at college studying Level 2 Work based Animal Care

I have started University, I'm really enjoying myself. I feel like I'm covering fascinating material, which helps.

I have been working full time painting and decorating. Working to get my cherry pickers license and CSC Card

Making a difference

Started second year of College. NHS Volunteer. Involved with lots of interviews for Worcestershire Children First. Speak Out projects and CPB."

Having a little boy, who is now nearly 7 months old. He is just cutting his first tooth. I have applied for a college course Gels and Nails that starts soon.

Back at School, Surviving lockdown, Riding my bike with my friends

How to contact the Participation Team

By Email:

youthvoiceteam@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

By Phone:

01905 843815

Thank you for your time

Any Questions?