

Joint CHICC (Young people and Senior Managers)

Wednesday 21 March 2018, River Room, Hertford Theatre, 6pm – 8pm

Minutes

- 1. Attendees**
- 2. Update from CHICC**
- 3. Carers and Teens**
- 4. Any other business**

1. Attendees

Apologies: Jenny Coles (Director of Children's Services); Lindsay Edwards (Interim AD Services for Young People); Sue Williams (Director Family Safeguarding); Sharrone Rogers (Team Manager, Fostering); Emily; Alicia; Alanan; Caitlin; Jade; Ben

The following people were present at the meeting:

Young people: Gemma; Sarah M; Peshraw; Courtney G; Jack; Shannon; Kelly; Paige; Alex; Preston; Victoria

Staff and Members: The following Hertfordshire County Council Staff and members were present:

Marion Ingram (Operations Director, Specialist Services)

Teresa Heritage (Lead Member for Children's Services)

Sue Lowndes (Head of Adoption & Fostering)

Jonathan Jack (Youth Engagement Manager)

Joanna Jacobs (Participation Worker)

Ellie Foster (Participation Support Assistant)

Nancy Burge (Participation Officer)

Mark Hinton (Participation Worker)

The meeting was chaired by Gemma and Nancy Burge

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. People introduced themselves and said what their role was. Everyone said something that made them happy. Answers included: music, travelling; studying; pets; babies and children in the family; eating!

2. Update from CHICC

The Participation Team gave an update.

- **Children's Service Awards** The previous evening had been Children's Services Awards. Nancy thanked some of the young people for nominating the Participation Team for an award – it meant a lot to be recognised! Jade, Kelly and Victoria had all spoken at the Awards. Some of the staff who were there gave feedback. Teresa Heritage said each young person spoke about something different and it was great to hear the progress the young people were making in their lives. Sue Lowndes said she felt very proud of the young people and it was the highlight of the evening. Marion Ingram said the young people were great and, as always, reminded her why she does her job.
- **Out of County** This year is all about reaching out for CHICC. We are running a competition for young people living out of county to write or draw something about where they live. There is also an online survey for out of county young people and we are hoping workers can suggest a few people that we can start to regularly visit to get the voice of out of county young people into CHICC. First ever Herts OOC day 1st June
- **Communication** The CHICC newsletter has been re-vamped and there is a young person's editorial board working with Mark on the newsletter. There will always be something for out of county young people and for care leavers in the newsletter. Next issue is being posted to young people in a week or so. We have facebook page : chiccmark – we need more young people to friend us! We have online surveys on CHICC pages of Hertfordshire website. Just search CHICC. Minutes of all recent meetings are also on the website
- **New groups** Jo and Mark have had an initial meeting with 3 young people in care who are LDD. One is 15yrs, 2 are 16yrs. The meeting went really well and all 3 young people want to carry on meeting. In time the group may grow and if the young people grow in confidence they can also come to Deputies/CLG meetings. A group for young people going through child protection process is also 'emerging'. The group is only at initial developing stages at the moment but it is likely it will meet monthly and do a mixture of 'consultation' and fun activities
- **Upcoming events and activities** Flyers were handed round for the Easter activities (Junior event 4 April, CHICC [youth] Club (10 April), Theatre Day 11 April).

3. Teenagers and Carers

We got into small groups to discuss draft guidance for carers of teenagers. The draft guidance was worked on by Alicia and Caitlin from CHICC, 2 carers and staff from Fostering, CLA Service and Participation. All the issues that the guidance addresses were raised at a previous Joint CHICC, where it was decided that this piece of work should be done.

Each of the 3 groups went through the draft guidance to see if they agreed with it, and made changes as necessary. The groups discussed whether there were any gaps that needed to be added to the guidance. Finally, the groups discussed what the next steps should be to make sure this work makes a difference.

See separate notes for full details of the discussions. The main points from feedback were:

- The guidance was mainly ok, although there were some interesting differences of opinion on some of the issues, amongst CHICC young people
- Some issues to be added to the guidance were: alcohol; pregnancy; front door keys; being allowed to be in the house on your own; dealing with mental health
- The guidance should link to websites and sources of information for carers and young people, including for example the YC website and also the Law where relevant
- Marion Ingram suggested that, as it will be difficult to get everything agreed by all carers, there should be some general guidance that everyone could agree with, and then all the details of issues could be given as examples. The general guidance would cover some basic principles like having open conversations, being positive, not judging and explaining why decisions are being made
- Next steps should include: getting the guidance into training modules and ilearn; encouraging carers and teenagers to sign up to agreements in the placement, where this is appropriate; CHICC making some films to put on youtube to show how to deal with some of the issues and to help with recruitment of teenagers

Actions

1. **Draft guidance to be developed to the next stage (including new issues identified and general principles for carers to sign up to with the issues as examples) and circulated to carers, young people and staff**
2. **Working group to meet again and decide next steps including embedding the guidance through training and (optional) placement agreements**

4. Any other business

We ran out of time to look at progress with actions from previous meeting and to do evaluation forms. Evaluation forms will be circulated after the meeting.

Next meeting is Wednesday 30 May, 10.30am to 1.30pm venue to be confirmed. This will include a session with the Juniors and the Deputies.