

# **Joint CHICC (SMALL) Young people and Senior Managers**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Hertford Theatre, 6.30pm-8.30pm**

## **Minutes**

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- 1. Attendees**
- 2. Update from CHICC**
- 3. Progress with actions since June Joint CHICC**
- 4. Bright spots Survey**
- 5. Ideas from other CHICCs**
- 6. Any Other Business**

## **1. Attendees**

**Young people:** Alanan; Shannon; Valerie; Kelly; Alicia; Alex; Preston; Jade; Sam; Ellie L; Luke; George

**HCC Staff/Members:** Ellie Foster (participation support assistant); Joanna Jacobs (Participation Worker); Jonathan Jack (Youth Engagement Manager); Mark Hinton (Participation Worker); Sarah Baker (Head of Children Looked After); Marion Ingram (Operations Director, specialist services); Jenny Coles (Director of Children's Services); Teresa Heritage (Lead Member for Children's Services); Nancy Burge (Participation Officer)

**Other staff:** Justine Cox (Senior Advocate, NYAS)

**Apologies:** Lindsay Edwards ( interim AD, services for young people); Lynn Knowles (Head of commissioning, CYP)

The meeting was chaired by Alanan (with support from Nancy Burge).

## **2. Update from CHICC**

A list of activities since last joint CHICC was circulated. 77 young people had attended one of the events over the summer. Mark Hinton gave feedback about the events. They were well attended, very much enjoyed by young people, and very well supported by staff.

Other activities included involvement in 7 interview panels, several presentations at various events and being involved in Young Commissioning work.

Teresa Heritage congratulated the young people who spoke at full council and said they had been very confident and had informed Members very well. Members would like to see more of CHICC young people.

Alanan, Luke and Nancy Burge explained they were involved with an education project. This was one of the topics chosen by young people for the workplan in 2017. CHICC is working jointly with Virtual school to look at how we can support young people who will be sitting their GCSEs in 2019. The campaign group is drafting a survey to inform the campaign, to find out how young people feel about their education and what support they get. We would like to get everyone together for an event in the summer of 2018 to show the young people how much we are all behind them, in the spirit of teamwork.

Valerie asked what happened with the interviews for the interim director's post. Jenny Coles explained it wasn't appointed to in the end and Sue Williams is coming back earlier than expected. Going forward, Jenny and Participation Team will make sure young people are advised of interview panel outcomes as soon as possible.

### **Actions:**

- 1. Participation Team to ensure young people are informed of outcomes of interview panels as soon as possible afterwards.**

### **3. Progress with actions since June Joint CHICC**

We looked at progress with actions from the June Joint CHICC (the meeting where we had table discussions on different topics).

#### **a) Relationships with workers**

Sarah Baker gave an overview of progress with actions relating to relationships with workers. Profiles for under 10s and over 10s were completed now (these were circulated) and Sarah hoped that by December joint CHICC all social workers will have completed one and given it to their young people. Top Ten Tips for workers have been completed and are awaiting printing. The last 2 pages have been used to re-enforce young people's messages about the importance of relationships with workers and how to manage things if a worker is going to change. Luke said he has already done a presentation to student social workers about the Top Ten Tips and it went down really well. Nancy said the Top Ten Tips will be launched at staff conference 1<sup>st</sup> December. Sarah is also going to re-distribute the contact cards to social workers. Sarah added that she is going into schools at the moment to help with understanding of the needs of young people in care. She is also going to ensure workers have the leaflet (worked on by Kelly) about things to remember if a young person moves placement. It was good that all of these actions had progressed.

#### **Actions**

- 1. Sarah to report on completion of profiles by workers at December Joint CHICC**
- 2. Top Ten Tips to be launched by young people and Participation Team at Staff Conference in December.**

#### **b) Transitions**

Progress was being made on all the actions. Jonathan Jack was able to give more details on some of the actions.

#### Hubs

Jonathan explained a further bid was being made in October to extend funding for the care leaver's hubs for another 3 years. Recent consultation identified the need for the hubs to provide practical support with things like DIY, making up flat pack furniture etc. This would be supported by a bank of local volunteers. Luke asked how many young people were using the hubs. Jonathan advised 51 had been involved. Jonathan said all hubs should now be offering regular drop ins for care leavers which are entitled 'Come dine with me'. We all liked the idea of having volunteers involved with hubs and Jonathan said a range of organisations will be approached. Each hub should then have a list of things they can offer to young people. Kelly asked when the volunteer side of things will start up. Jonathan said autumn 2018. We discussed how care leavers can be involved as volunteer peer support. This is

something young people have been asking for a long time. Nancy said some care leavers were trained up to do this and some are offering support at Cheshunt care leaver's drop in. More of this needs to be done. Teresa suggested that Members could be brought into this as well as organisations such as the Round Table and Rotarians. Teresa will contact them.

#### Independent Living Skills (ILS)

Jonathan explained a programme was now ready to be rolled out and was available to all young people aged 13yrs plus. All young people's learning records will be accessible on line. There have been no referrals yet but Jonathan is going to the CLA teams to promote to workers. Jonathan said recruitment would mainly be through monthly meetings with designated teachers to look at possible referrals. Promotion needs to be widened out to everyone who works with young people in care including carers. Nancy said Participation Could promote in the CHICC newsletter and could go into Coming into Care Packs. Could also go in fostering newsletter.

#### **Actions:**

- 1. Volunteer support for care leavers hubs: Teresa Heritage to contact Round Table and Rotarians. Jonathan Jack to look into increasing the number of care leavers trained to provide peer support and ensure they are involved with all hubs**
- 2. ILS: Jonathan Jack to expand promotion including to fostering service and to carers. Participation Team to promote in CHICC newsletter and Coming into Care Packs.**

#### **c) Relationships with Carers**

Marion Ingram fed back on progress with these actions. The proposed workshop for teens and carers had taken place and was very positive. Nancy confirmed that she had been there with Caitlin and Alicia and it had been brilliant, seeing the young people and carers find common ground and also differences. Marion would like guidance to be developed by the young people, arising from this workshop. Alicia said she would like to go back and finish the session with the carers as we ran out of time to get into some of the very interesting and challenging issues. We agreed we would do another session to talk about the difficult issues and from there develop some guidance and hopefully do some bigger workshops across the county.

#### **Actions**

- 1. Teens and carers: Marion Ingram and Nancy Burge to liaise with Sharrone Rogers in fostering to set up a second meeting and from there develop guidance by young people and more workshops to get the messages out.**

#### **d) Education**

We read and noted the progress with the actions.

#### **e) Health and Mental Health**

Marion gave feedback in Lynn's absence. She was pleased that progress had been made on all the actions. Mandy Lane (CAMHS CLA Nurse) had given a further update to say that the young people's council from CAMHS are coming to the Care Leavers Event and running an information stand providing a great opportunity to begin closer working. Regarding giving balanced information when looking for a placement for a young person, Marion said we need to have more input from young people on what this should be like. Sarah Baker and Nancy agreed to work together to get young people's views.

Teresa highlighted a useful website 'Healthy Young Minds in Hertfordshire' and will forward the link to Nancy to circulate.

#### **Actions**

- 1. Sarah Baker and Nancy Burge to work together to get young people's views on what should go in a placement request form.**
- 2. Nancy to circulate Healthy Young Minds website link to CHICC young people.**

#### **4. Bright spots Survey**

We looked at the summary of the Bright Spots survey. There were some good things (we are better than the national average on changes in social workers) and some not so good things. We need to understand more about the findings. Coram (the organisation who did the survey with us) are coming on 25 October to do a workshop about the findings. After some discussion it was agreed it would not be appropriate to have this meeting without young people involved. Young people were going to be at the Care Leaver's event so it was agreed to re-arrange the date to enable young people to attend.

Whilst talking about the importance of involving young people in all areas of work Ellie Foster asked if young people could be involved in fostering panels, as they are in other areas. Marion Ingram said she thinks panels have care leavers from different Local Authorities doing this so there is not a conflict of interest. Marion will ask Sue Lowndes to look into it.

## **Actions:**

- 1. Jonathan Jack to request Bright Spots workshop date to be changed to enable young people to attend**
- 2. Marion to ask Sue Lowndes to look into whether Hertfordshire young people are involved or can be involved with fostering panel.**

## **5. Ideas from other CHICCs**

In 2 groups we looked at a list of ideas, things that happen in other areas (including Isle of Wight who had been at a recent event attended by Participation Team) and discussed them to see if we could do them here. New ideas were also thought of during the discussions. Noting the idea regarding care leavers not paying council tax, Teresa Heritage said she had come across this idea too and will ask Deputy Leader, David Williams to look into it.

Ellie L gave feedback from the first group. They liked the ideas including care leavers not paying council tax, shared tenancies for care leavers who don't want to live alone, and idea of having young people on more interview panels across Children's Services. They agreed it sounded good to have a care leaver on the Child Protection desk and Jenny Coles thought it would be good to look at an apprenticeship within IRO service (which includes Child Protection team). They also came up with a new idea about pooling the money for care leaver's driving lessons to get a good deal and possibly even look at a tailored deal of some kind for care leavers. Valerie then gave feedback for the other group. They felt there should be a greater variety of apprenticeships across HCC and not just business admin ones. They thought the facebook group was a good idea and also requested a Whatsapp group for care leavers. See separate notes for more details of the group discussions.

## **Actions:**

- 1. Jonathan Jack to look into which jobs have interview panels and which jobs could have young people's panels going forward, and specifically request involvement on leaving care P.As interviews**
- 2. Jenny Coles to raise possibility of having a care leaver apprentice in IRO service with Roger Carruthers**
- 3. Mark Hinton and Jonathan Jack to explore ideas for driving lessons for care leavers**
- 4. Marion Ingram to find out what progress was made with shared tenancies**
- 5. Participation Team to look at setting up Facebook page and Whatsapp for care leavers.**

## **Any Other Business**

Next meeting is Wednesday 13 December. This will be 'Big' Joint CHICC. Venue to be confirmed.

Everyone completed an evaluation form about the meeting.

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**Nancy Burge**  
**Participation Officer**