

Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact

UK Youth Parliament:

In July the two Members of Youth Parliament and one Deputy Member attended the UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting at Hope University in Liverpool, where they debated issues to be included in the UK Youth Parliament Manifesto. Then MYPs voted for the 10 topics to be included in this year's Make Your Mark Ballot.

In August a DMYP launched the Make Your Mark Ballot for Leicestershire at the Oadby and Wigston Youth Council Event – Supersonic Boom held on Blaby Road Park in South Wigston.

In September the three MYPs and four DMYPs were very busy getting the young people of Leicestershire to complete the UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' Ballots. The results will be available in October.

Children in Care council

There have been two CiC Council meetings in Q2 (July and September). Key agenda items included:-

- Members overseeing monthly allocation of T2S Funding.
- Completing consultation work with Fostering and Adoption Service colleagues regarding Foster Carer recruitment and training. This resulted in junior / senior members beginning work on a recruitment video seeking to deliver key messages to new and prospective Carers, e.g. what makes a good Carer and what makes a new placement work well etc.
- Dissemination of the Children and Young People's Ofsted Summary. CiC Council recommendations included that the summary should be distributed to children and young people via Social Workers and Carers in order to provide context and explanation. Senior members also stated that they would value meeting with senior managers in order to fully discuss the document and contained recommendations.

Over the course of two Narrowboat days held in the Summer, junior members were consulted by Virtual School colleagues regarding the PEP process e.g. what works well and what could be improved etc. As an outcome, updating of the paperwork has since taken place.

CiC Council members have also continued to be involved in staff recruitment and selection. In Q2, this included appointment to Head of Service and Service Manager posts across Children and Family Services.

Junior and Senior members also attended September's meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board. This included co-chairing of the meeting, as well as providing broader CiC Council feedback and overview.

CiC Council members have also continued to deliver training workshops to Foster Carers nearing completion of their Skills to Foster Care Training.

CYCLE (County Youth Council for Leicestershire):

Donna Worship, LCC Policy Manager attended the July CYCLE meeting with a colleague to get CYCLE's thoughts on the proposed 'Draft Outcomes' for LCC and the 'Approach and Measuring Outcomes'.

There was no CYCLE meeting in August due to the summer holidays, however the CYCLE Don't Hate Educate Sub Group did meet once in August and twice in September for ongoing organisation for a Conference on October 13th 2017, the focus for this year is SEND.

In September CYCLE met to plan their special meeting for young people attending LCC SEND Groups as part of Voice Festival Week. This meeting was planned as the fourth session in a programme of four sessions designed to:

- Explore who they are and celebrate difference
- Enable them to identify hate crime and how to speak out about it
- Explore who it is safe to talk to and when is the right time
- Experience the bigger picture of Voice by having the opportunity to take part in the UK Youth Parliament 'Make your mark Ballot' at a CYCLE meeting at County Hall.

Cycle members ran the event and the outcomes were that the young people took part in the Make Your Mark Ballot, which they will keep updated on and that they had five requests from the young people attending to attend the next CYCLE meeting.

Family Voice and EH Support Services:

Young people were invited to a Pop Up held at Brocks Hill Nature Park visitors Centre in August to work with the three new Early Help Service wellbeing practitioners to design what their service would look like. There were arts and crafts activities linked to emotional wellbeing, a session of Tai Chi and a logo competition. The winner was delighted to see her artwork on the practitioner's leaflets.

25th to the 29th of September was Voice Festival week, which had the focus of SEND. This started with the launch at Beaumanor Hall with professionals listening to parents experiences of life with children who have special needs. This was followed by two workshops, the first on how to capture the voice of very young children and the second facilitated by the Autism Outreach Service.

On Thursday 28th September there was a lunch at Beaumanor Hall for parents and volunteers who have been involved with LCC Services and contributed to the evaluation and development of services by talking about their experiences and supporting others to do so.

The Voice Box project committee completed and disseminated their Jenga Cards, which are an addition to resources box for SEND young people and vulnerable teenagers.

SEND:

A new SEND Voice Worker began in May 2017 and during the last quarter they have met with over 200 individuals, both children and young people and parent carers. They have visited several groups and schools and are preparing a report to help shape the SEND Strategy using what families have told her. The role works closely with the Parent Carer Forum and they have successfully organised their first joint event in the Summer which had a great turn out. Throughout the summer a short film was created using the views of families and also the professionals supporting them. There are ongoing sessions and opportunities planned for further engagement with families around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Q2 SLF Feedback from parents and carers

“As parents we work together more and back each other up, this was not happening before and we would end up arguing about the children. We enjoy being parents more.”

“We were more able to cope. This summer has been the best we have ever had with the children, normally I don't want school holidays to come.”

“After sessions with you we understood that we were not making the children happy by letting them do as they wanted. I had a hard childhood and wanted everything to be really good for them. This was not working. By [Partner] and I working together and understanding what we needed to do.”

“I had brilliant support from SLF and the youth workers really understood me and what I needed, I got my English & Maths qualification.”

“I'm not right yet but I'm better than I was thanks to them.”

“The support and help the youth workers gave me who I will never forget; she understood what I was going through and was the best person to talk to.”

“I think our worker has been amazing support and if we didn't have her, things would have just got worse.”

“There are no more arguments around the children. The household is at peace and can focus on moving forward.”

“[young person] has started a new college, which he enjoys and is doing very well. He does not appear to have the anger problems he used to have.”

“My worker has been really great and has helped me so much. [SLF worker] has helped me get into contact with ADHD Solutions.”

“My children's behaviour has really improved since having a support worker, she helped and guided with behaviour strategies and routines. I think that she's also helped me gain confidence I needed to help my children.”

“My children are now attending school regularly and they now have very good attendance. I now understand the importance of regular school attendance.”

“Massive thank you for everything. The woman shadowing you today is in good hands, even if she becomes half the person you are she's going to be amazing. You have helped us more than everyone put together in the last 4 years. You've given me hope again and I am so thankful.”