

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Board

Children in Care Council Progress Report

Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Cllr Mike Carr

Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings

18 August 2011

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Corporate Parenting Board of the progress made to support the continued development of the Children in Care Council as a forum to represent the views of children in care.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Members of the Corporate Parenting Board arrange to meet with the CICC in September to discuss the group's Communication Plan. This will be an extraordinary meeting in addition to the scheduled Board meetings.
3. The Project Manager Engagement Children and Young People continues to support the development of the CICC in partnership with members of the Specialist Services Team.
4. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise and update the Executive on the CICC Communication Plan.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION, WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

5. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

6. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is
Non-urgent
Urgent report

If urgent, please give full reasons.

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

7. The CICC worked with Tim Gristwood from 'Time out of the Box' to identify their key priorities (attached at Appendix 1).
8. The work of the CICC was recognised as an area of strength in the recent Ofsted Safeguarding Inspection.

GROUP WORK SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

9. The CICC started a six week group work training programme in June. The programme was delivered by the Project Manager Engagement and supported by staff from the Specialist Services Team. The aim of the training was to continue the development of the group through building their knowledge and understanding of their role and their ability to communicate with key people.
10. The outcomes from the training have demonstrated an increase in the group members' self-confidence and key communication skills. During the training the group had time to stop, think and reflect on how they wanted to communicate with a range of key people. The CICC Communication Action Plan provides the key findings and recommendations from this activity, which include:
 - communication with children in care programme, focusing on a range of priority methods and systems;
 - communication and joint working with a range of partners working with children in care;
 - key milestones and outcomes that will measure success; and
 - identifying the range of resources required to implement the plan.

OPTION APPRAISAL

11. Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

12. The CICC Communication Plan requires some funding to support the design and production of publicity to provide children in care with information on the role and work of the CICC

RECOMMENDATION

13. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board arrange an extraordinary meeting to discuss the Communication Plan with the CICC.

REASONS

14. Arranging an extraordinary meeting with the CICC will provide Members with the time and opportunity to meet with the CICC in a relaxed environment, which will promote discussion and open dialogue with the group. Members will also have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the CICC and to work towards establishing a positive working relationship with the group.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- **The Pledge ‘A Promise you Have to Keep’ (January 2009)**

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