

Participation Updates

Recruitment Changes

Marcus is now in post as our Participation Officer, here are some of the things he will be doing to improve the lives of children in Middlesbrough:

- **Will work closely with social work to ensure the Voice of the Child is embedded**
- **Will run the Children in Care Council groups**
- **Will increase engagement of these groups by speaking directly to young people that can be involved**
- **To ensure Middlesbrough Children know they matter by listening to their wishes and opinions**

Recruitment is in process for the Participation Team Manager role previously held by Beth Bradshaw. The advert will go out next week.

The Care Leavers' Forum helped to write a job description and what they would like the candidates' qualities to be. This will be sent out with the advert.

Middlesbrough Youth Council

- In the latest meeting, the Council focused on team building and had a fun session.
- In the session the members took part in a quiz, played games, and had the opportunity to speak to other young people in breakout rooms, which went really well.
- We will do sessions like this on a monthly basis to have fun.
- Session times now last an hour as the young people felt that an hour and a half was too long.
- The most recent feedback form showed that the young people really enjoyed this session, and the majority voted it as a 5/5.
- In the next session, we are introducing Hot Topics suggested young people
- Chair role is changing slightly, with Muskaan (Middlesbrough's Member of Youth Parliament) being a compere and other young people choosing topics they'd like to lead on. They will be called Topic Managers.
- Chair role is changing to involve other less confident young people by them only leading a 10 minute topic rather than an hour meeting as this could be daunting for some.

CiCC/Mini CiCC

- Working with Young People we will look at a rebrand and a name change for both councils
- Participation Officer working within the council and with outside agencies in ways to engage more young people to both groups

Care Leavers' Forum

- The CLF have come up with ideas for engaging more care leavers, such as designing leaflets/letters to be sent to care leavers.
- They have also expressed interest in ensuring that young people in residential placements (including those with additional needs) are aware of the CLF and have their voices heard.
- The existing leaflet has been sent to Pathways (the Leaving Care Service) and to Personal Adviser's for them to signpost young people to the CLF.
- Working with Pathways team to come up with a new term for "Direct Work"

Next Steps

Participation Officer:

- Increase participation in groups but also across all services
- Raise the profile of all the groups across the community

Mini CiCC/CiCC:

- To increase engagement levels by working with the Care Leavers' Forum and Participation Officer.
- To create an updated plan of action with support from Participation Officer/the work they will do with Practice Lead.

Care Leavers' Forum:

- To increase engagement with the support from Pathways.
- To have the Forum more Youth Led, by young people deciding agenda items/presenting.

Youth Council:

- To continue with the Curriculum4Life work, get ducks in a row and contact the programme with their recommendations.