

Participation

Corporate Parenting Board

20th July 2021

Participation People

- The Provider will deliver a year Participation Service for children and young people in Middlesbrough.
- Participation People deliver award-winning youth voice development & evaluation projects and training, with public and charity organisations across the UK
- They have worked with/are continuing to work with other local authorities including Birmingham, Greenwich and Dorset
- Participation People contributed to achieving the highest election turnout in a seven year history of the Young Mayor scheme, standing at 73% of young people voting in the London Borough of Newham Council

[BCP - Young Researchers - our 10 year vision for Birmingham City FINAL on Vimeo](#)

Participation People: How will they work with Middlesbrough

- Support and develop existing formal participation groups, as well as work with young people to review the delivery models of these groups with a view to re-design the participation structures for MBCYC, CICC, Care Leavers forum
- Ensure effective youth participation by enabling and empowering young people to engage through various mediums, to take on leadership roles and to work in partnership with Lead Member for Children and Children's Services senior officers
- Support the delivery and evaluation of the Participation Strategy, and embedding of participation principles and the participation strategy across all Middlesbrough's participation activities.

Participation People: actions to date

- Contract commenced 04/07/2021
- Middlesbroughs Participation team attended training with Participation People around Youth Voice
- Discussions taken place about the participation road map for Middlesbrough and our goals

Participation People: Next Steps

- Create a campaign to support our understanding of identity of our children and families in the town to support how we improve the way we support them. “What makes me”.
- Focus on youth participation and engagement events that will be ran over the next 12 months for Middlesbrough Youth Participation Champions and Corporate Parents.
- Re-design engagement strategy to support how we can engage young people after lockdown.
- Strengthen the involvement of SEND children and young people and hard to reach groups in all participation activities.

Good news

- Xavier started his apprenticeship with Middlesbrough Council as the new Youth Training Development Officer.
- 2 of our young people from the Care Leavers Forum have been asked to join the Middlesbrough Family Placement Panel.
- Working closely with the SEN team to start developing a new SEN focus group for young people.
- The Participation Team are working with the Task and Finish group for NEET/Care leavers in order to make opportunities more available to our young people.
- Our young people did a great job attending the briefing for 'Your Voice and Influence' as part of 'Our Middlesbrough Family Week'. They had lots of comments about how well they spoke.
- There is now an award dedicated to Middlesbrough Children Matter in the Civic Community Awards 2021.

Middlesbrough Youth Council

- The MYC have met with the CEO of The Training Effect and are involved in developing and promoting the Curriculum4Life project in schools in Middlesbrough. The project focuses on life skills to independence and emotional mental health in schools.
- They got to find out more information about the statutory requirements for Schools around Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). They reviewed government guidelines and discussed what they would like to have on the curriculum in addition. This is being fed into The Training Effect who are keen to have the young people involved in every step of the way.
- We can start recruiting again in the Summer Holidays for maximum exposure.

Next Steps:

- The MYC are to meet with the Marketing and Communications Team to speak about how they can get involved in strategic communications.
- This includes them being involved in:
 1. Council green strategy (including sustainable travel) & waste and recycling
 2. Place brand campaign – positive role models
 3. Contribution to other council campaigns and potential of youth voice / interviews...
- Civic Awards MCM

CiCC/Mini CiCC

- More engagement from Young People in both groups through weekly phone calls
- Some of our young people from both groups met with Ofsted during the inspection
- Engaged in our first virtual meet where 5 of our young people from both groups had the chance to meet each other and discuss plans going forward
- More engagement from Social Workers and IROs passing on young people who may be interested in joining our groups

Next Steps

1. Continue to increase engagement working with others across Children Services who can refer young people
2. Start planning for our first face to face meeting
3. Agree on workshops that will take place once lockdown has finished
4. Start focusing on how we will make a difference across Children's Services by using the groups voice

Care Leavers' Forum

- Increased engagement in our weekly meet ups with new members joining CLF
- Shared views with Ofsted during the recent inspection
- We are working closely with the Pathways team who have passed on more young people to be involved with CLF
- Some of the group worked with the Senior Commissioning and Support Officer for James Cook and gave their opinion on how to improve Health Assessments for Children Looked After
- 3 members from our CLF spoke publically during Corporate Parenting Week and received a lot of positive feedback.

Next Steps

1. Continue to engage with new members who are interested in joining CLF
2. Put together a proposal of events for Care Leavers Week
3. Plan how we want the group to run after lockdown