

Children in Care Council Report

15th January 2019

Chairperson update: Unfortunately, Joseph Kaley recently resigned as Chairperson for the CiCC as he needs to understandably focus on his A Level studies. In addition the vice chairperson Dolly Okeowo has stepped down as she has now started university. The CiCC have since held an election and we now have new joint Chairs – Kerry King and Billie-Jo King.

Recent work undertaken by the CiCC:

- Consultation with Brian Relph (Interim IRO Manager) regarding the young people's experiences of the LAC Review process, the outcome of which was included in a report from Brian to Thurrock Senior Management.
- Discussion with Councillor Barry Johnson regarding difficulties faced by care leavers around securing accommodation.
- Consultation with Thurrock CCG and LAC nurses regarding Thurrock 'health passports' for young people.
- Discussion and open forum with Janet Simon (Strategic Lead for Thurrock).
- Completing a survey regarding access to local services for Thurrock Healthwatch, the outcome of which was that LAC have excellent access to healthcare in comparison to non LAC.
- Consultation with Mark Livemore (Thurrock Commissioner) regarding Thurrock's mentoring contracts.
- Consultation with Simon Shardlow and Barbara Vincent (IRO's) regarding the Mind Of My Own (MOMO) app. Some members of the group will attend the forthcoming MOMO presentation at the Civic Offices.
- Consultation with Mark French and Patience Kolesoho from the Aftercare team regarding the 'Big Wide World' independence guide.

Looking Forward: The above work has taken place in the last six meetings and the group has had very little time to itself. However, there has been some discussion around the young people's views on foster placements and the difficulties and challenges that some young people have experienced. Having previously been involved with the Thurrock 'Pledge', the group would like to draft a report around foster care and present this to Thurrock management, with a view to producing a similar 'pledge' from foster carers and it's content potentially being used as part of initial foster carer training.

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