

Presentation by Mitchell and Lesley CiCC CPP representatives and Robert Johnson ~ Investing in Children

What is Durham Children in Care Council (CICC)?

- The Children in Care Council (supported by Investing in Children) exists to give children in care and care-leavers a voice and help them to have a say in the way their care service is run.
- All children and young people who are looked after in County Durham are automatically members of the CICC and can take part in discussions and raise any issues that are important to them.



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How CICC meetings work

- Two meetings take place per month for different age groups.
 - Under 14's
 - Over 14
- The younger group have restarted face to face meetings and the plan is to re-introduce this to the older group at the Investing in Children office over June and July.
- During Covid-19, from April 20 until March 21, there were 221 interactions from both age groups across different CICC projects.
- 45 different young people from across the care community in and outside the County have been involved in discussing and shaping their experience of the care service.
- Sub groups also meet to discuss and plan ideas throughout the year.

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Under 14 group overview – projects, developments and approaches

- Supporting work with Durham Virtual Head – recently developed a PEP (Personal Education Plan) guide so children, young people and adults understand them better.
- Developing a project with funding from Pupil Premium Funds – allowing children and young people the opportunity to apply for funding for their own education project. The project will be launched in September after developing the application process.
- Working with Full Circle – a Durham County Council service that offers types of therapy to care experienced young people. Additional funding is being used for children and young people to co-design new rooms and supporting a better experience by the team.
- Many of this group are new members and will be meeting during the summer holidays to review and develop the group relationship further.
- Creating and writing the 5th CICC newsletter.



Over 14 group – projects developments and approaches



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- Leading on future foster care training and reviewing the process in the summer. Supporting more young people to get involved.
- Involved in interviews for senior staff and social workers.
- Recently involved in piloting a police training session alongside the Children's Commissioner for England.
- Undertaking peer mentor training in the summer holidays to support the development of the younger group.
- Designing social worker 'top trump' profiles.
- Working alongside Independent Reviewing Officers to reshape review approaches and learning from feedback.
- Leading on podcasts, promoting the care community positively.
- Meeting with Corporate Parent Panel members, agreeing ideas and actions.
- Applying to the Key Fund for a care community celebration event - after Covid-19 restrictions are fully lifted.





How CICC connects with CPP

- During Covid-19, bi-monthly meetings took place with CPP members – providing different young people with opportunities to share ideas – information is fed back to young people and CICC members. Further discussions or actions also take place.
- Two meetings per year take place between CICC /CPP members. Topics agreed by CICC members. CPP members look to progress and feedback.
- CICC members deliver training to CPP members about experiences of care and wide ranging approaches are discussed to improve experiences.
- Two meetings take place a year with John Hewitt, Durham County Council's Chief Executive, regarding Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
- CPP members undertake the care leavers challenge.
- CPP members invited to different CICC meeting to discuss different topics/ themes and corporate responsibilities.



What we think makes a good Corporate Parenting Panel Member/Board. We want you to:

- **Be Ambitious** ~ Wanting the very best for children and young people with caring responsibilities.
- **Listen** ~ Meet with children and young people to hear their voices, ideas and concerns and then take action.
- **Be Bold** - We think the panel should be a 'force to reckon with' throughout DCC.
- **Advocate and Uphold** ~ corporate responsibilities across the Council in meetings and other committees by asking questions & critiquing services.
- **Connect** with the care community within local communities, challenging discrimination, promoting and increasing opportunities locally for children and young people.
- **Learn** about practices and support offered by DCC teams by listening to foster carers and teams so CPP are better informed.
- **Celebrate** the care community by supporting events and considering neighborhood budgets and the benefits to the care community.

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Working with CICC and CPP – ‘Moving Forward’

- Meet with CICC representatives - discuss and plan CICC /CPP joint first meeting - August 2021
- Hold joint first CICC /CPP meeting - October half term 2021
- CPP members to provide feedback to CICC regarding actions from October meeting - December 2021
- Review and undertake care leavers challenge with CPP members - February 2022
- CICC members facilitate annual training and capacity session to CICC members - March 2022
- Meeting with CICC representative to discuss and plan a second joint meeting - April 2022
- CPP members provide feedback to CICC regarding actions from October meeting - June 2022
- Review CICC and CPP working together and benefits - June 2022

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Any questions

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