

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	10/10/2022
Subject: Participation Service – Summer Activities	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Outcome 1
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Pat Dixon, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service	

Summary

This report outlines the summer activities that have been provided by the Participation Service over the summer holiday for looked-after children and care leavers. This is the first year since the start of the pandemic that summer holiday arrangements have been made for face-to-face contact for all the children and young people. As there were still concerns around COVID-19 infection rates at the beginning of 2022, it was thought advisable to provide various day trips over the summer holiday period, rather than one residential event. This was arranged because it would give more opportunities for all the young people to attend at least one of the events provided, and there would be less risk of events being cancelled.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. In the past, young people have gone away for residential activities, and this has always been well received. However, due to concerns about possible COVID-19 infection rates, there was a likelihood that the residential activities could be cancelled at the last minute. Therefore, consideration was given to spreading out the activities to ensure that all young people had a chance to attend at least one of the events arranged. The types of summer activities that

would be provided were discussed with the young people, and their views and preferences were sought in February 2022, at the City of London Children in Care Council (CiCC) meeting.

Current Position

2. The summer activities took place over a five-week period, starting at the end of July 2022 and finishing at the end of August 2022. On average, there were two activities taking place every week during the summer programme. These activities had been suggested by the young people at the beginning of the year. The overall feedback from the young people was extremely positive. They enjoyed having an opportunity to meet up with their peers, and really enjoyed the majority of the activities.

Week 1

25/07/22 – Go Karting at Canary Wharf: seven of the young people attended this event, which they all enjoyed, especially as they were competing to be the fastest around the track.

27/07/22 – A trip to ‘The Escape Room’ in Hackney: seven young people attended this activity. The aim of the activity was for them to work together to find clues so they could escape within an allotted time. They really enjoyed this activity and were quite competitive in trying to complete the task within the timeframe set.

Week 2

01/08/22 – Coach trip to Southend Beach: 11 young people attended, and there was additional support from the Children’s Social Care team on the day. The young people really enjoyed the day. They had fish and chips for lunch, which was a new experience for many of the young people. They went to the Adventure Island Theme Park, where they had an opportunity to go on a few rides. The weather was good and the feedback from the young people showed that they had really enjoyed the day.

05/08/22 – Trampolining: four young people attended this activity, but they did not appear to like this as much as they did the zip wire course, which was also taking place. They all had a go on the zip wire, which was high off the ground, but they helped each other across which was gratifying to see.

Week 3

09/08/22 – Trip to Madame Tussauds: six young people attended. They really enjoyed the experience and took the opportunity to take pictures of themselves with the famous waxworks. They especially enjoyed taking pictures of themselves with the Royal family.

10/08/22 – Paintballing: This activity was arranged for the young people in Croydon. Unfortunately, only three young people attended. This may have

been due to the early start and the distance that some of the young people needed to travel. Those young people who did attend enjoyed the day and said they would like to do it again.

Week 4

15/08/22 – Coach trip to Thorpe Park: nine young people attended, and there was support from the Children’s Social Care team, as one of the social workers also attended. The weather was warm, and the young people enjoyed the day, going on the rides, having ice cream and lunch at the park.

17/08/22 – Filming at Guildhall: Arrangements were made for a film company to come to the Guildhall to help the young people make a film about a topic of their choice. Four young people attended. They had an opportunity to be involved in all aspects of the filming process, which they really enjoyed.

Week 5

22/08/2022 – More filming at Guildhall: The Film Company came back for a second session with the young people. Four young people attended, and they were able to record some scenes. A further session has been arranged for October so the film can be completed. This will take place in the half term week.

Options

3. N/A

Proposals

4. N/A

Key Data

5. N/A

Corporate & Strategic Implications

6. Financial implications – N/A
7. Resource implications – N/A
8. Legal implications – N/A
9. Risk implications – N/A
10. Equalities implications – N/A
11. Climate implications – N/A

12. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

13. The overall feedback on this year's summer activities has been positive. However, it is evident from the young people's feedback to the Town Clerk and Director of Community and Children's Service at the CiCC in May 2022 that they would prefer to go on a residential holiday. If this is going to progress, there needs to be capacity for all the young people to have an opportunity to attend. As in the past, there were only limited spaces available, due to the cost and staffing capacity required for a larger cohort of young people. This meant that some young people missed out, which did cause some contention. Therefore, going forward this will need to be taken into consideration when planning for a residential holiday.
14. This year's activities were recorded on camera. The photographs, captioned with the young people's views, will be collated into an e-scrapbook. This will be distributed to all the young people who attended as a record of their holiday and the friendships that they made while with the City of London, and to add to their life story as they journey into adulthood.

Appendices

- None.

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