

Committee(s): Safeguarding Sub-Committee – For Information	Dated: 11/11/2024
Subject: CiCC Sailing Trip Feedback 2024	Public
This proposal a) delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes (see list below)	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
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: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Laura Demetriades, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

Diverse Engaged Communities: Across our residents, workers, businesses, and visitors, everyone should feel that they belong. Connecting people of all ages and backgrounds will help build diverse, engaged communities that are involved in co-creating great services and outcomes

Providing Excellent Services: Supporting people to live healthy, independent lives and achieve their ambitions is dependent on excellent services. Vital to that continued pursuit is enabling access to effective adult and children’s social care, outstanding education, lifelong learning, quality housing, and combatting homelessness.

Summary

The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service within the People’s Directorate oversees the Participation offer to children in care and care leavers. It is a statutory expectation that all Local Authorities must provide the opportunity for children in care and care leavers to share their experiences in the format of a Children in Care Council (CiCC). However, to support young people to do this the participation offer goes beyond formal meetings and consultation events, providing opportunities for children and young people to develop friendships with each other, relationships with Senior Leaders, to try new activities and cultural experiences which foster a sense of collective belonging and identity. Each year the CiCC runs a residential trip for our children in care and care leavers.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Children in Care Council offers a young person-centred space, which is supported by workers not directly involved in operational social work practice and decision making. It enables young people to come together to share their experiences and views in a safe, supportive and facilitated way, make new friendships, and try new experiences.
2. The Children in Care Council offers a residential trip each year to support young people to try new activities, experience new environments, develop confidence, new skills, resilience and team work.

Current Position

3. This year we took 7 young people on a 4-day, 3-night sailing trip aboard The Blue Mermaid, which is a traditionally rigged and decked Thames sailing barge. It has no motor which meant the group needed to travel with the tide and wind. They were required to work together alongside the crew to ensure the safe voyage of the boat.
4. During the last year we have offered 6 Children in Care Council meetings, which is one every academic half term, which is in line with our aims. The average attendance at each meeting has been 6 young people, ideally we'd like to increase this to 8-10. However, it is positive to be establishing a core membership.
5. The Children in Care Council has had the opportunity to share their views with the Lead Member, Town Clerk, Executive Director for DCCS, Head of the Virtual School, Head of Children's Social Care, and the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. Ensuring that the lived experience of children in care and care leavers is heard and understood at all levels of the Corporation, and they receive feedback about what action was taken following their feedback.

Options

6. The Participation work continues as it has been ensuring a pre-planned calendar of Children in Care Council meetings and events throughout the year. Linking in with partners also working in this space such as the Virtual School, Prospects and Partnership for Young London, to offer a wide range of opportunities which meet the variety of needs of our children and young people.

Proposals

7. The above offer will continue through the Participation Officer who sits under the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, within the People's Directorate.

Key Data

8. N/A

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. There are no strategic implications directly related to this report.

Financial implications - None

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - None

Equalities implications – None

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

Conclusion

10. The Participation offer is continually developing to respond to the needs and interests out children in care and care leavers. Those who access the offer provide positive feedback about their experiences and the opportunities provided, and we will continue work to increase take up. This residential trip provided a unique experience for our young people

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Sailing Trip Feedback

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