

# Participation update for Corporate Parenting Board

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# Reminder of our Participation Strategy

The updated Participation Strategy was signed off in the summer of 2022 and describes:

- a. That Participation is everyone's business and is managed as 'Business as Usual' (BAU).
- b. A priority for 2023 is to commission a Children in Care Council and a Care Experienced Adult Council – these will be a more formal vehicle for children and young people to shape and influence services.

A discussion was taken to Strategic CFMT in November 2022 to agree the action plan which would drive forward the Participation Strategy in 2023 and beyond.

# Action Plan for 2023: the next iteration of our participation journey

Councils

Participation Network

Capturing feedback

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# Commissioning Children in Care (CIC) and Care Experienced Adult Council (CEA)

Both Councils aim to:

- **Facilitate a representative voice** for the full range of children in care and care experienced adults in Hampshire.
- **Which can then influence and hold to account** Hampshire County Council as the Corporate Parent and the members of the Corporate Parenting Board to ensure they deliver the best experience for children in care, and adults previously in care.
- **And together improve outcomes** for all children in care and care experienced adults.

In practice, both Councils will play a crucial role in

- a. Influencing the Corporate Parenting that young people receive
- b. Providing a voice for children in care and care experienced adults
- c. Working in partnership with Corporate Parenting partners and HCC to shape strategy and improve the care system and the wider services young people are entitled to
- d. Shaping their own work plan as the service is mobilised and developed.

# Council milestones

Activity	Milestone	Status
Strategy signed-off	July 2022	Complete
Tender specification signed-off	November 2022	Complete
Tender out to providers	December 2022	Complete
Response deadline	End January 2023	Complete
Award contract	End February 2023	Complete
Pre-contract mobilisation	March 2023	In progress
Go live	1 April 2023	
Mobilising Councils	April – June 2023	
Councils fully operational	August 2023	

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# Bright Spots Survey

Recently received findings from Bright Spots Survey of Children in Care and Care Leavers.

## For Children in Care

- a. Overwhelmingly our young people have a high level of trust in their carers, with 100% of respondents aged 4-11 responding positively and 95% of those aged 11-18.
- b. The level of trust in social workers was also high ranging from 89 – 100% across the age ranges.
- c. 54% of Hampshire's 11-18 year olds had the same social worker over the year which is higher than other local authorities at 34%.
- d. Positively the vast majority of our young people responded that their lives are improving with 83 – 92% across the age range describing their lives as 'a bit better or much better'.

## For Care Leavers

- a. Almost all care leavers who responded (94%) knew who their leaving care worker was.
- b. 94% felt it was easy to get in touch with their leaving care worker all or most of the time.
- c. 81% reported that they trusted their worker 'all or most of the time'.
- d. Fewer Hampshire care leavers reported feeling lonely often/always compared with care leavers from other local authorities (12% v 22%). This is a Bright Spot of practice.

# Voice of young people within the Corporate Parenting Board

With the introduction of two independently facilitated Councils for children in care and care experienced adults, it is a good time to review how the Corporate Parenting Board can hear the voice of children and young people in order to enhance the impact it has on their lives and experiences.