



# Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

John Herbert

Participation and Engagement Lead Officer

Care Leavers Participation group

# Care Leavers offer

- Over 20 Care leavers have fed into the consultation meetings designed to gain the views and experiences of young people.
- The needs identified in these meetings have been collected and responses in terms of actions and resources have been discussed.
- Housing, Education, Citizenship, Mental health support, Finance are all issues where the young people have identified they feel they need more support.
- The new Offer to care leavers has been written with them in partnership. It is in the final stages of production before being signed off before Christmas.

# What is Participation and Engagement?

## Why is it important?

- Participation and engagement is about ensuring that CYPF (Children, Young People and Families) are involved in decision making processes on issues which affect them and that their views are heard, seriously considered, appropriately acted on and fed back as a key part of developing and improving services.
- This is vital in an era of limited resources and increasing external scrutiny. This must be embedded in practice. It will result in fresh perspectives and new ideas, services designed and delivered based on actual rather than perceived needs and assumptions and service users feeling valued and respected.

# Other projects being worked on now

- MyView App for Children Looked After (CLA). Designed and developed in cooperation with CLA. Improved communication with Social workers plus interactive features, information and advice. Next iteration will be for Care leavers.
- Independent Advocacy Service  
New service for all children and young people aged 0-25. Series of workshops helped identify what was needed. Two models employed: Issues based and Relationship based advocacy. 0800 number in place.
- Young people involved in the Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation  
Rutland Youth Council, Rutland Disabled Youth Forum and young people reached through outreach provided feedback.

# Future projects

- Awards ceremony, Peer mentoring and new Pledge projects developed in partnership with CLA and Care leavers will increase confidence, resilience, skills and empowerment. (short term)
- We have registered with ASDAN, the National Qualifications Awarding Body, to offer qualifications and talents training for CLA, Care leavers, Service families and those using Youth services to improve skills base and employability. Involving local businesses in this work. (short term)
- Closer working with Service families designing a 'Local Offer' type database of information, advice, resources and activities. (medium term)
- Review childcare sufficiency offers with parents to ensure market is meeting parental requirements. (medium term)
- Developing links with Schools and School councils to drive forward community cohesion. (long term)

# How will we know it has worked?

- Increased educational achievements and engagement in positive activities of CLA.
- Engagement with employers and organisations including Rotary, Lions, Inner Wheel, Chamber of commerce to support all the young people we work with. Careers help and more Apprenticeships.
- Growth of membership of children and young people's groups.
- Greater engagement with parents from early years through to adult.
- Continued partnership working with school councils and support for students/teachers to join engagement groups.
- Better rates of completion and higher satisfaction ratings in Pledge surveys for both CLA and Care leavers.

# Questions?

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