

Children in Care Council

WELCOME



by Autumn



Pictures of children and young people have been removed for confidentiality purposes

With support from James Collins
Participation Officer

What have we been doing?

Children in Care Council on line mini meetings

Developing a children's CiCC group

Involved Interview panel for the Director of Children's Services

Continuing to develop an outstanding
'Welcome Pack for children coming into care'

Sent out 'Oxfordshire Kindness Wave' packs to all active CiCC members

Planning some joint work with Birmingham CiCC

Held a meeting to discuss the next surveys to children in care and those leaving care

Advert out for 2 Apprentices



What have we been doing?



Autumn started as our Cultural Participation Apprentice & CiCC members interviewed for the posts.

CiCC now fully in the Virtual School, managed by Michelle Johnson

Continuing our Children in Care Council on line mini meetings

Made links with OCLA (Oxfordshire Care Leavers Association)

Recruiting onto CiCC & supporting them

Involved in Interview panels for Social Workers & Chair of OSCB

Made links with YPSA (Young Persons Supported Accommodation)

Started to plan the entertainment for our Social Care Awards





CiCC Main Meeting –Virtual Lunch 27th June, 2020

Topics discussed:

- **The term LAC child**

We discussed the use of the term LAC child, some children said they felt ‘labelled’ and another felt she ‘lacked in something’. Following this our Directors of Safeguarding and Childrens Service emailed all staff asking them not to use the term LAC again, but to use ‘children we care for’.

- **Time capsule**

Were working on a time capsule of stories and pictures which depict lockdown and how it affected children we care for and staff involved in CiCC. It will be buried by children in one of our children’s home.



Terminology used in social services – being a LAC child

One child said they were 'labelled as LAC' a sign on his head

LAC implies you were not looked after before coming into care

Sticks a label on you separating you from other children

LAC sounds like lacking something

Why LAC when we just live with different people such as
grandparents

LAC gives a negative connotation and society takes the literal
meaning of the word – lacking/bad



Some outcomes already...

Virtual School - do not use LAC at all in any future discussions, any reports/policy and pick up each other and colleagues when you hear this abbreviation being used. If you have the logo (with looked after children) in your signature please change it to. Michelle Johnson Virtual School Headteacher

Refreshed **Good Communication Guidance** will cover this issue for new and current Social Workers to take on board



Old Logo



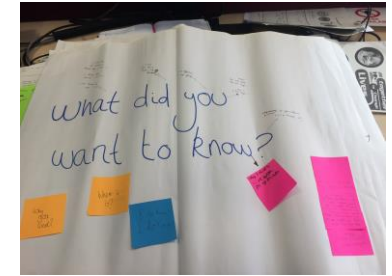
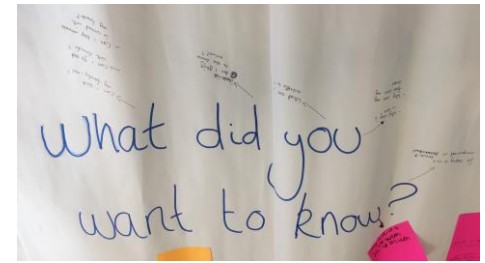
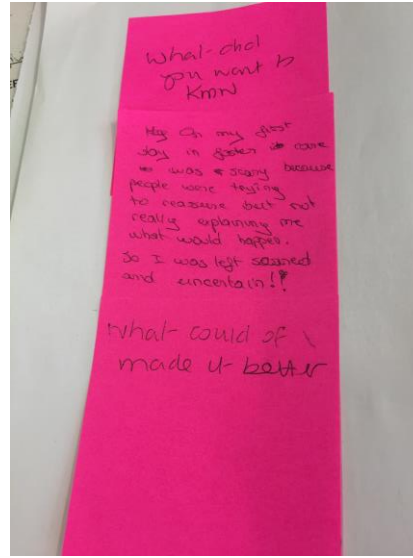
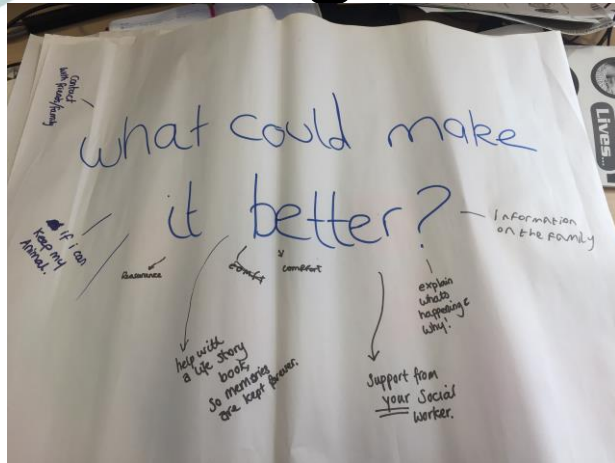
New Logo



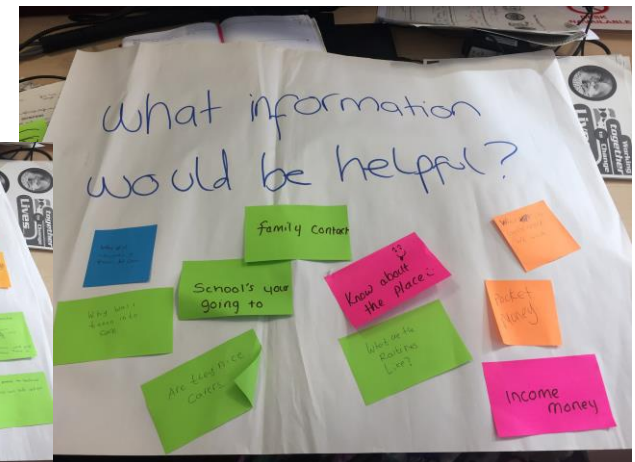
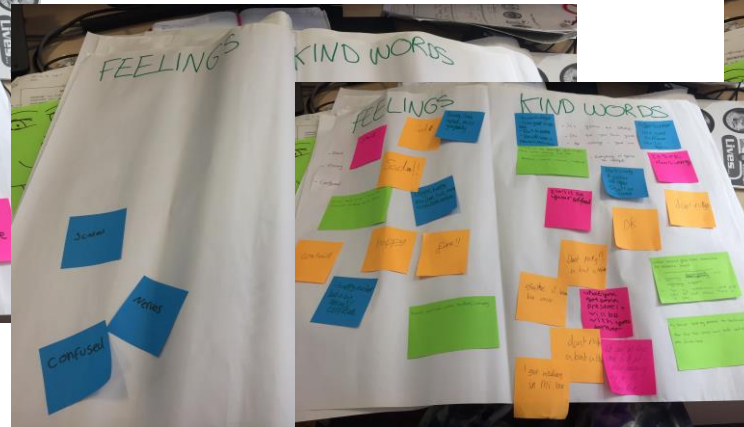
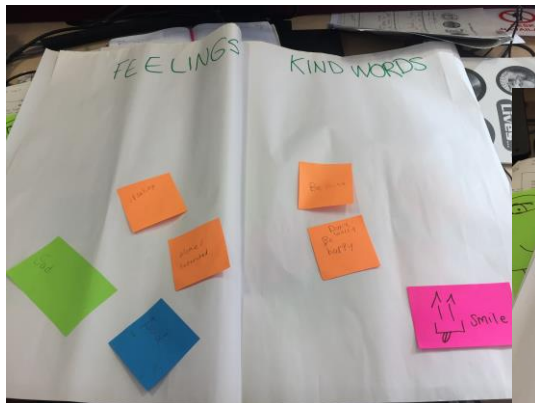
Ambassadors for CiCC

- Out of county
- Asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors (name could soon be new arrivals)
- Education
- Mental health & Well being
- Safeguarding
- Those who offend
- Disabilities
- Animals for looked after children
- Younger children

Welcome Packs for children coming into care



“on my first day in care it was scary because people were trying to reassure me but were not explaining to me what would happen so I was scared and uncertain.”





The new Survey of looked after children 4 to 18 yrs. old

Bright Spots Champion
'Sarah'



We're listening to children in care – give us your thoughts



The 'Your Life, Your Care' survey asks looked after children aged 4-18 questions about their lives and how they feel they are doing.

We will use the information that young children give us to make life better for all children in care.

A link to the survey will be sent to a trusted adult of the child or young person between the 13th and 30th November 2017



Bright Spots Champion

This information is also available in other languages and formats



LOVE. HOPE. COMFORT. KINDNESS

Oxfordshire Kindness Wave is a love-powered response to COVID-19, and is led by Populate Cooperative in partnership with the community arts organisation, Ark-T and Oxfordshire Virtual School.



CiCC Main Meeting – online – 19th September, 2020

Topics discussed

- **Creating a time capsule**
- **Art project**



Shown children and young people words and asked them to say what those words mean to them. Pieces of art will be created from what they have said to go up in the head office, County Hall, in Oxford. The words... 1. Empowerment 2.Voice 3.Strength
4. Fairness 5. Hope 6. Belief in Change

Dans leaving messages and thanks

Young people said their emotional goodbyes and thanks yous to Dan for his help and support over the years.



Time capsule...



We thought it would be a good idea to create a time capsule of our time during this lockdown...for future generations to see what CiCC members were doing at this time, how they felt and how it affected them and society.

We have permission to bury it in the Moors children's home and it has been suggested we may do one in each of our homes.

Would 'Guardians for Us' like to put a message in it?



Terminology used in social services –

Continuing this topic, we have a young person in one of our children's homes who wasn't happy with the term SEN, so were taking this challenge up and she's now on CiCC and went to the CiCC meeting on Saturday –

she never realised her voice could be so powerful.



CiCC – 5 year vision & ongoing work

How CiCC & CPP will work together with Sarah as the new Corporate Parenting Manager

Continuing to develop an outstanding 'Welcome Pack for children coming into care'

Developing a children's CiCC group

Relaunching Good Communication Guidance for professionals working with children & creating a children's version

Planning some joint work with Birmingham CiCC

Surveys to children in care and those leaving care



We asked...

‘what should CiCC do for YOU, children we care for and those leaving care in the future...you said...

1. More get togethers
2. Activities e.g. being outdoors, making pizzas, camping
3. A newsletter should be created for those members who don't have WIFI access and when sending the newsletter, we should include a postcard for members to send back their views too
4. Changing language used by professionals
5. Members should be able to keep in contact with each other – a penpal idea was suggested on the back of this
6. Fitness related things – doing these online and sending challenges in the post to those who don't have WIFI access

We have started to do some of these things already such as creating a newsletter, changing language used in social care and we are going to be setting up mini meeting which will happen every month so CiCC members can get to know each other more.

Were here for you



oxme.info

Any Questions for us?