

# Children in Care Council Newsletter

## Special Points of interest:

- A care leaver has applied to sit as part of the Fostering Panel
- The next CiCC Elections are planned for June 2016
- If you are in the care of Warwickshire and wish to take part in any CiCC activities contact us on Phone: 07771 513 742 or E-mail: [cicc@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cicc@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## Asylum Seekers and Care Leavers Workshop

This workshop was run in October with 21 young people working alongside 16 staff from the Asylum Seeker and Care Leaving team. Everyone spent the morning discussing and debating how to provide good quality services to care leavers. The information collected on the day will lead to a series of actions to help improve services to care leavers.



## Film Project for young people in care —Are you interested? (6 places)

On this project you will produce a **short film** that looks at why young people in care are less likely to go to University. You will work with a team of other young Community Reporters and a filmmaker to plan, record and edit your film, as

well as producing your own behind-the-scenes **multimedia blog post** that tells the story of the film's production! You must be 16 or older to apply. If you are interested ring or email us on Phone: 07771 513 742 or E-mail: [cicc@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cicc@warwickshire.gov.uk)



## Reframing Sheldon Project—September

Young people from the Children in Care Council worked with digital artist Orly Orbach to create a new piece of artwork in Warwickshire Museum a, 'View from my bedroom window'. A printed curtain, filled with illustrations showing their thoughts on everyday life in Warwickshire.

Luke is one of the young people who worked on the project. He said: "All of the young people had fun in working on the project and it was good that our thoughts on life in Warwickshire are on a piece of work that people can see."

## Tiffin Club—AGM

The Tiffin Club Annual General Meeting took place in October. Dan, a care leaver attended and shared his thoughts on some of the things that could happen to help care leavers prepare better for independent living. The Tiffin Club is a charity that has been set up to provide additional support for looked after children and care leavers.

## Training Event

In October Heather from the Children in Care Council took part in training social workers to help them understand how they can manage care planning processes and placement arrangements better from a young person's point of view.

## New Apprentice

We would like to welcome Grace Wallis. Grace is going to start working as an Apprentice in January 2016. Grace will work to support children and young people in the care of Warwickshire to have their say.

## Young person leading their own Looked After Review

Twice a year the Independent Reviewing Officers meet with each child and young person (under the age of 18) to make sure that their "care plan" is on track.

Children and young people sometimes feel that they cannot speak up in these meetings.

We have been looking at ways on how children and young people with the right support can run these meetings and take more control of them. Early days but we would like to see more children and young people being given the choice to lead these meetings.

## Do you want to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award?

You will get to take part in a lot of fun outdoor activities and get yourself an award that employers and Universities are keen to see on any applications. You need to be 14+. To find out more....

Phone: 07771 513 742 or E-mail: [cicc@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cicc@warwickshire.gov.uk)

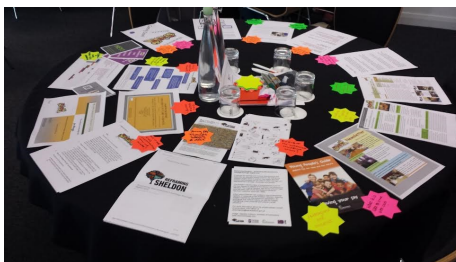


## Contact Us

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On the web!  
<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/>



### A National Voice and National Children's Bureau Conference in Birmingham

Two members of the Children in Care Council went along to represent Warwickshire in the September conference. Lots of ideas were shared between members of Children in Care councils from different parts of the country. Warwickshire was highlighted as a having set in place an area of good practice in how Children in Care Council members are elected through a democratic process.

### Libraries

The nights are getting longer and the days are getting colder. That being the case, why not spend some time exploring your local library? You can join for free and get the chance to borrow up to 10 books at a time. If you're not a great reader then you can also borrow CDs, DVDs, Audiobooks and magazines – perfect for a wintery night in! There are lots of exciting activities and local events that children and young people of all ages can get involved in, as well as free wifi and computers for use. So when you have time, why not go and explore what's on offer without spending any money!

### Stop Bullying!

Carers and teachers need to work together to ensure that looked after children and young people do not experience additional stress caused by bullying. Every school should have a policy on bullying, which should specifically take into account looked-after children.

It is more effective to sit down and talk through the issues with children and young people in care

This education needs to start early – both for young people and also carers and professionals who need to be swift to pick up signs that a child might be suffering bullying and aware of the harm it can cause – particularly for looked-after children who are already very emotionally vulnerable.

### Supported Accommodation

We are interested to know what you think of the help you get when you move into supported accommodation. We are also interested to know what you think of your supported accommodation? **Phone: 07771 513 742 or E-mail: cicc@warwickshire.gov.uk**

### Baradell Fund / Tiffin Club Grants

An application for funding can be made to support the following:

- Pre higher education courses e.g access courses that will allow the young person to continue into higher education
- Enhanced work experience (of more than 1 week) during holiday periods to cover the costs of travel, insurance and clothing
- Apprenticeships
- Courses/Schemes (and associated equipment costs) that are of personal benefit to the child/young person by enhancing their employability skills eg citizenship program and team building programs
- Business start-up grants
- Equipment and training costs to enable care leavers to successfully embark on higher education courses or career

So, if you want to do something and feel a bit stuck and want to do things to help improve your future. **Start applying!**



### Virtual School Award Ceremony — November

The event began with a range of activities for young people organised by the Children in Care Council followed by the awards ceremony which started at 6:30 p.m.

The Children in Care Council also collected information through surveys on the night from carers and children attending the event. on Education, Health, Being in Care, Having a Say, Independent Reviewing Officers, Bullying, Making Complaints, Safety and Care Leavers.

Students and care leavers received awards for various educational and personal achievements within the last academic year.



### Final Comments:

**Please circulate this newsletter to any staff that you feel would benefit from knowing that we exist!**

**More importantly, you could also forward a copy to children and young people in the care of Warwickshire that you work with. We are sure that Foster Carers would welcome a copy too!**

**Bella & Mia**