

# Warwickshire



**Notes from meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 6.30pm, Shirehall, Warwick**

## **Present:**

- Heather c
- Nagina A
- Katherine W
- Mia W
- Alicia S
- Keely G
- Gebrella T
- Tehetena T
- Jack O

## **Supporting Staff:**

Shin Bhangal (Practice Leader Participation)  
Emily Inns (Apprentice Participation)  
Andy Mclean (Part time youth worker)

## **Visitors**

Steve Pendleton (Head of Virtual School)  
Shona Walton (Virtual School Progression & Enrichment Manager)

## **Apologies**

Bella H, Luke E, Leo T

### **1. Introductions**

Shin asked members to introduce themselves to Andy the new member of staff employed to support CiCC meetings.

### **2. Notes from the previous meeting**

- Young inspector certificates will be circulated at the next CiCC meeting. They have not yet been received from Cheryl.
- Shin explained that the Corporate Parenting Panel rota and the Baradell Fund/ Tiffin Club rota are being put together as requested by CiCC members.

### **3. Steve Pendleton & Shona Walton**

Shin began by reminding CiCC members of the 'solutions & priorities' they agreed on in an early meeting. The CiCC had asked to meet with appropriate WCC staff to explore these issues in more detail. Steve Pendleton was invited to look at the Education and Qualification of young people in care. There are 6 areas that the CiCC wanted to discuss with Steve.

**1. Breaking down stereotypes** - CiCC members made the following comments,

- Mia started this discussion by asking why children and young people in care are not achieving. Mia felt that the experience of young people should be turned around from a positive to a negative.
- Another said the some foster carers have the impression that we will underachieve
- There is stereotyping
- Keely said that she got singled out only because she was a child looked after
- Another said that classes are organised for young people in care and they are not always needed
- One person felt that stereotyping starts from Primary School
- Others felt it got worse at Secondary school
- You feel like you are being treated differently
- Heather thinks she was only predicted low grades because of the expectation she will do poor in exams due to her situation of being in care. I was predicted D's but got C's
- Te said when moving to her new school she didn't make it known that she was looked after and she wasn't treated any different because no one knew however, she said if people did know she felt she would have been singled out by teachers and peers.

Steve said that every year one designated teacher from every school goes to a training event to understand stereotypes and expectation. *Steve invited CiCC members to help both plan and attend this meeting to tell the teachers how they feel. This event will be happening in May 2017.* However, although this seemed positive across the group, some members have concerns however, that no matter how much training is given and how much young people speak to them, teachers will still patronise young people if they know their circumstances. The CiCC members agreed that it would be a good start.

**2 & 3. Make virtual school funding known/Make achievements known** – One CiCC members said,

- That in her and others young people's experiences social care takes the credit for the young people's achievements.
- That there should be a better way to promote and publicise young people's achievements regularly...newsletter?
- Other members said that in their experience there designated teacher doesn't listen to them.
- There was some confusion on what funding was available to young people once they left school.
- One person said that their pupil premium got lost and confused because their foster carer was paying the costs, this included a Maths tutor at £16 per week
- Steve clarified that schools receive £660 per term for each young person in care
- But it stops when you go to college
- Another CiCC member pointed out that they receive a bursary at college

Steve mentioned the Tiffin Club Charity. He mentioned that he had been thinking to offer children and young people the opportunity to have an experience which they may not get the chance to do. This experience could be anything; big or small. Young people would need to apply to get the funding.

This was received positively among the members. However, they made the following points,

- Who should get it?
- There needs to be a better way to assess the applications
- Young people should be encouraged and have this as a reward not just given to them
- One member spoke from personal experience and said she goes to school, exceeds her predicted grades, studies every night and gets no recognition from it. However, the person she lives with doesn't want to go to college nor work but she gets taken out once a week for a drink or lunch
- Another member said doing that doing this is fine but they should also get taken to a homeless shelter for instance and show young people that they may end up like that if the young person doesn't gain any qualifications or want to work

*It was agreed that Steve would consider CiCC comments and progress funding opportunities for children and young people. Steve will consider how to promote and publicise young people's successes regularly.*

#### **4. Work experience and apprenticeships – Young people felt that,**

- There should be a genetic booklet listing all of apprenticeships that are available to young people within the area.
- Apprenticeships are constantly growing and apprenticeship spaces are being filled, so the group decided this was not a suitable idea but in fact making it available on the internet is better
- Putting it on the new and updated CiCC website was a popular idea. Shin mentioned that a Children in Care website was being developed and it could feature on that.

The topic of conversation shifted to work experience.

- Te said she really wanted to do work experience in a medical environment because she wants to go to university to do medicine
- Uni's want applicants to have done work experience but she said, it is really hard due to confidentiality etc....
- Nagina said that she would like work experience as a Nurse when she gets older
- One young person suggested talking to the Barnardo's worker to see if they will offer chances of work experience.
- Most of the older CiCC members knew Hash and Sally who help support career options for young people
- Shona mentioned that WCC offer work experience opportunities in specific areas but could not guarantee opportunities with other employers

- Shona also mentioned that a little while back JLR had offered 1500 apprenticeships but received few applications.
- Shin suggested looking at building links with key people in other organisations responsible for arranging work experience. Often it is about making contact with the right people
- Mia suggested changing the system; instead of young people searching for work experiences, employers could fill out a form and submit it online if they are willing to take on young people to complete work experience.

**It agreed that someone from the Apprenticeship Hub should be invited to the next meet to help progress this area of work**

This topic went over the allocated time so members agreed to invite Steve and Shona back at a later date to discuss areas,

#### **5. One to one tutors for young people**

#### **6. Encourage goals for young people**

Finally as an update Steve mentioned that the Virtual School awards evening is now planned and booked at Drayton Manor on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017, following a recommendation by the CiCC earlier in the year.

### **Any Other Business**

Invite Daniel Nash to the next CiCC meeting to speak about apprenticeships.