

Some other important points were made during informal conversations including:

- There were mixed thoughts about foster carers and social workers attending the CiCC meetings. Some didn't want them to attend and others felt very strongly that they should attend.

Summary

It is clear that young people want to and do have fun at CiCC meetings; they would like the next Cumbria CiCC meeting to be a mixture of talking and outside activities. They felt that the current mechanisms to promote the Children in Care Council need to be re developed in order for it to be the vehicle to ensure that it can be a voice for all children and young people looked after across Cumbria. They agreed to support and develop the idea that was raised by some young people to create a campaign called #CiCC. This will involve developing promotional material posters/invitations/newsletters to share with anyone working with of for them including elected members, foster carers, Independent reviewing officers and social workers.

Recommendations for the future

- Children's Rights Officers (CRO) to work with the Children in Care Councils to develop and launch #CiCC in the New Year. CRO to develop information and a timeline for staff.
- The Corporate Parenting Board to meet with the CiCC at least 3 times a year (once in each area) during half term periods for example: 18-22 February, 27-31 May, 21-25 October. To support the CiCC's to meet their aims and objectives and find out how #CiCC is doing in their area.
- All champions to receive a save a date invitation to the May Cumbria CiCC Forum so they can support it.
- NYAS are invited to the Cumbria CiCC forum to help support young people attending.
- The MYP's are invited to attend the Cumbria CiCC forum to help other young people understand the views of children in foster care and ensure they are represented at the youth parliament.



The Cumbria Children in Care Council (CiCC) took place on Saturday 10th November 2018 at Hawse End Keswick, a total of 22 children and young people from across Cumbria participated. For each person to attend and openly give of their views and opinions was fantastic and we would like to thank each participant for doing so:

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| ● Shane | ● Anthony | ● Imogen | ● Jamie |
| ● James | ● Leon | ● Mitchell | ● Stephen |
| ● Carlianne | ● Lewis | ● Jacob | ● Denny |
| ● Chloe | ● Matthew | ● Millie | ● John |
| ● Allie | ● Jade | ● Nikki | |
| ● Ali | ● Beth | ● Craig | |

The adults who attended to support the meeting were:

- **Tracey Thompson:** Principal Children and Families Social Worker
- **Susan Hodkin:** Programme Officer - LSCB and Improvement, Integration and Partnerships
- **Liz Wright:** Children's Right Officer
- **Alan Barry:** Councillor - Children in Care Council Champion for Copeland
- **Donna Pim:** Foster Carer
- **Joanne Gawne:** Children's Rights Officer
- **Phil Dew:** Councillor - Children in Care Council Champion for Eden
- **Pauline McGregor:** Foster Carer
- **Rebecca Barnes:** Children's Rights Officer

The objectives of the Cumbria CiCC were to seek the views of children and young people in the care of Cumbria, on the Children in Care Council, to explore if the existing mechanism to promote the Children in Care Council to all children and young people is working and to make recommendations on future structures to ensure that it can be a voice for all children looked after.

The key questions posed to gain the views of the participants were done through a series of activities, including discussion and crafts:

- Who should support it?
- What is a Children in Care Council it?
- What should it do?
- What do you want to get out of attending?
- Is the CiCC supported and promoted enough to be a voice for children and young people looked after across Cumbria?



A place you will get help

Where social workers can help people

Where you come to discuss matters

Its where we meet up and talk and make plans for fun activities to do

I come along to know other people and get other people's opinion about foster care

Say what we need

A fun enjoyable group of people who are easy to get on with and share the same goal

A place where you can meet people and make friends

A place to relax

A Place to think about future with others

Somewhere to listen and talk

Come along if your emotionally struggling

A place to have fun

Fulfill your destiny

It works by you turning up, you explain your opinions and have your say

A place to meet people

What is a Children in Care Council?

A place to go and talk about stuff

Help children

A place of commitment and friendship

We share feelings and thoughts

It's a place where you feel you can talk to someone

Talk about what needs helped or changed

To talk and help others

A place where you can have an active say in what others can do, to change the lives of other children in care



Who should support CiCC's?

- Social Workers
- Managers
- Teachers
- People that don't understand foster care
- Care Leavers
- Family
- Councillors
- MP's
- Adults that used to be in care
- Helpers

What Should a CiCC do?

- The Voice
- Fun Stuff
- Work with children
- Keep us safe
- Make a difference
- Make a difference
- Care Leavers
- Ideas
- Solving children in care problems
- Help us be the best we can be
- Help with school and at home
- We need more people
- Care Leavers (more girls)

What do I want to get out of attending the CiCC?

- Be the best we can be
- My favourite is the fun activities at the end
- Fun missions
- Games
- Meet new people
- No Carers at the meetings
- Care kids are normal kids
- To be happy
- Don't let the anger get to you
- Tell you what I need
- Make new friends
- Help me to be more confident
- Help younger children in care as they will see their not by themselves
- Voices Heard
- Fun
- Socialise
- Courage
- To talk about my feelings
- Help plan days out
- RESPECT
- Show people what we're doing
- Listen to others story help people understand it's not their fault.

How can CiCC be promoted?

- We should make and launch #CiCC in the New Year: New Year New Things
- I think people might come if we make invitations
- Rewards
- More messages
- Big posters
- The CiCC should be on the agenda at every LAC meeting
- Can we have a count down to it?
- CiCC business cards
- Social workers should have the CiCC on the list of things to go through.
- Communications Team need to help launch it?
- Social workers need to know so they can let young people know
- Invitations from social workers to young people
- Advertising
- Fun Stuff
- Logo Launch
- The CiCC should be on the agenda at visits from social workers
- CiCC Badges
- Activities
- Teachers in school: CLA leads so they could tell others