

**WOLVERHAMPTON  
CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL**

# **Children in Care Council**

**Annual Report 2019/20**



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# CiCC 2019/20

This year's annual Children in Care Council report focuses on the outcomes of the **Children in Care Survey** and highlights the achievements of the Children in Care Council and their continued commitment to improving children's services.



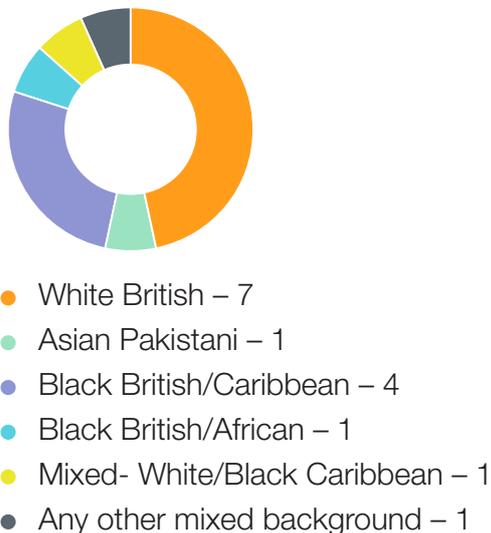
## Group Demographic

Over the last 12 months **15 young people** have engaged as members of the Children in Care Council. The age range of members is between 11-17.

### Sex



### Ethnicity of CiCC Members



### Placements



The group meets twice a month with a focus on an agenda-based meeting where professionals are invited to speak with group members and a workshop meeting where the group focus on project work and prepare for guest speakers.

The group consists of a chair and vice chair who both lead on agenda items in meetings and ensure all members have the opportunity to have their voice heard.

Two members from the group were also elected to represent the Children in Care Council on the city's Youth Council and more recently reps have been elected for the Youth Engagement Strategic Board. The diversity in engagement with the city's universal groups shows the commitment of member to make improvements for children in care and the wider population of young people in Wolverhampton.



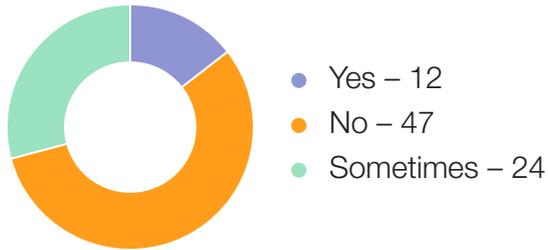
# Annual Survey

In April 2020 the Children in Care Council co-produced the annual children in care survey. 84 young people completed the survey and provided feedback of their experience on the support they receive.

Below are the key highlights from the survey:

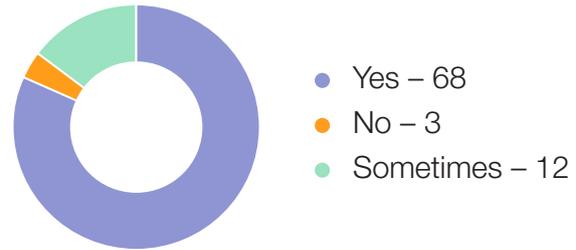
## Being treated differently

Do you think people treat you differently because you are in care?



## Feeling supported

Do you feel supported by your Social Worker?



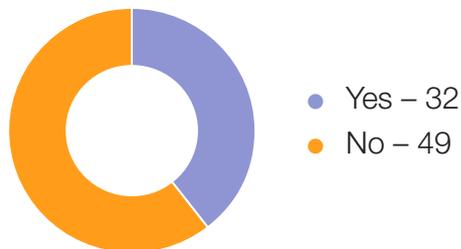
## Advocacy

Do you know about the advocacy services available to you?



## The Children in Care Council

Are you aware of the Children in Care Council and how you can join the group?



The feedback from the survey will form part of the Corporate Parenting Board Workplan. The Children in Care Council will be updated on the work plan at Corporate Parenting Board meetings and by guest speakers at their Children in Care Council meetings.

# Annual Conference

The Children in Care Council hosted their virtual annual conference focussing on the key highlights from the survey and the achievement of the group over the last 12 months. Due to Covid-19 the conference was hosted for the very first time virtually. Children in Care Council members co-produced the running order of the conference and wanted to focus on the outcome of the annual survey. The key highlights from the survey were presented by the vice chair of the group during the conference. The group also produced a video about advocacy as they felt it was important young people knew about the services to support them.





In September the Children in Care Council focused on the results from the survey and attendance at the conference. After their discussion the group asked the following questions to service and team managers:

- **Why was the attendance of the conference so low? Was attendance encouraged by staff and how?**
- **Why do young people not know about the CiCC and what are the reasons for them not getting involved?**

## Managers Response

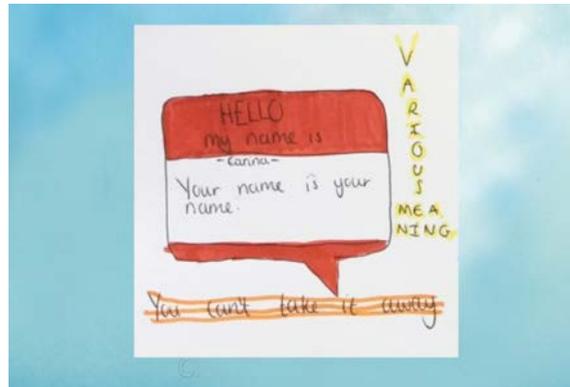
Children and young people in care team managers and fostering team have taken on board the concerns of the Children in Care Council and have changed to fostering portal to promote more events such as the annual conference and the fostering team are supporting with Children in Care Council events such as the Virtual Christmas Party.

Managers also discussed changes to make sleepovers easier to organize for young people.

# 2020 Achievements

## Floetry

At a regional event for children in care group members took part in a poetry workshop. The group created a poem based on how important names are for young people and produced a storyboard video.



## Sufficiency Strategy

On Friday 21st February members of our Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Independence Collective took part in the Sufficiency Strategy workshop. The sufficiency strategy focuses on placement stability and making sure placements are best suited for young people. During the workshop professionals and young people took part in different activities highlighting the importance of placement stability and also areas which can be improved.

The group delivered a **Total Respect** activity which focuses on a young person in a placement. The activity addresses some of the issues which can affect a young person, issues which can affect placement stability and follows their journey into independence. Member co-produced the activity and changed the original activity to make it more relevant to the message they were trying to put across about young people's experiences.





## Website

Members were involved with the development of the children in care/care leavers website proving feedback for the design and approving the layout of the website. The group regularly review the website during their meetings to make sure they are happy with the content. The website shares information and opportunities for both children in care and care leavers.

## Covid-19

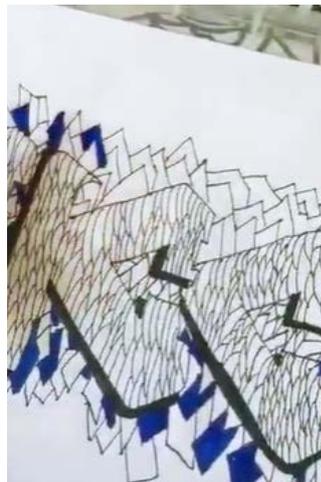
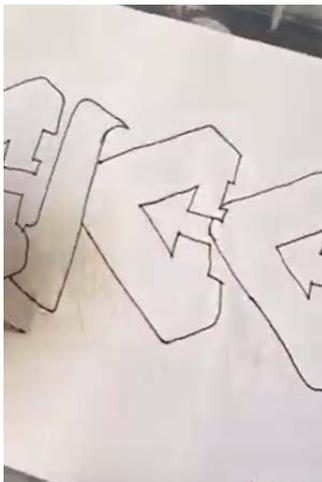
During the pandemic the group have continued to meet every two weeks virtually and have had a positive impact on children's services.

Here is what the group have done during the pandemic :

## Keeping safe videos

Children in Care Council members wanted to support young people and give them tips on things they could do during lockdown to keep safe and still have some fun. The chair produced a tutorial on how to draw graffiti and the impact art can have on wellbeing.





## New Logo

The chair of the group produced a new logo.

## New members

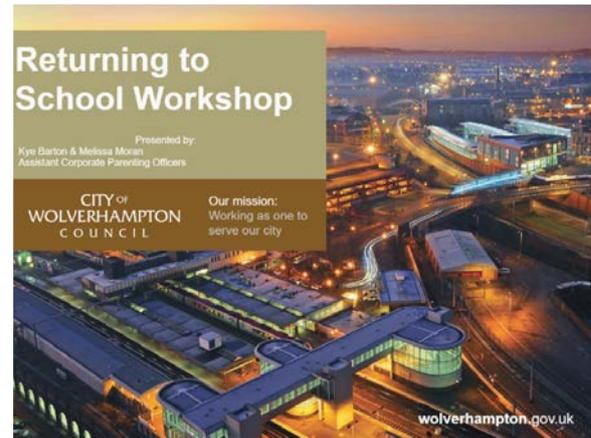
During the pandemic Children in Care Council meetings have taken place virtually. Three new members have joined the group since March 2020 and have now become established members of the group regularly attending and taking part in interview panels.

## Newsletter

Children in Care Council regularly promote their work through the quarterly newsletter and keep other children and young people updated on their work and upcoming events they can get involved with.

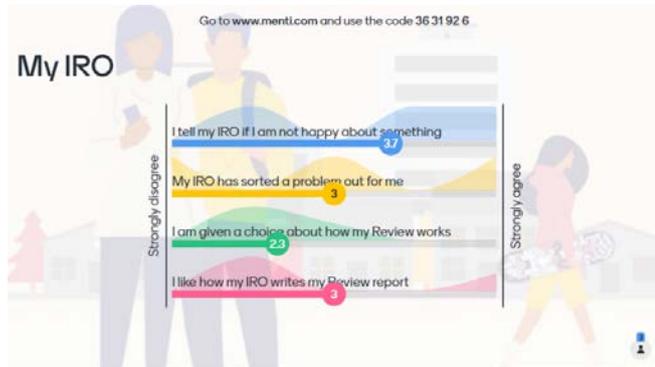
## Back to school workshop

Children in Care Council members took part in a virtual back to school workshop hosted by our Assistant Corporate Parenting Apprentices. They provided feedback for the support they felt young people would need returning back to school in September 2020 and some concerns they may have.



## Children in Care Reviews and Independent Reviewing Officers

Children in Care Council have provided feedback on the review process and support they receive from their Independent Reviewing Officer.



Workshop with Independent Reviewing Officer

## Kindness Conference

Children in Care Council members took part in a virtual kindness conference with other youth voice groups in the city and shared ideas on how young people can be more kind to each other.

## Gamification

Children in Care Council have contributed to the development of online gamification modules which will be available for children and young people in the new year to complete. The modules are an interactive learning tool to give young people knowledge on these key topics:

- Bullying/internet safety
- Sexting
- Gaming
- Victim of crime
- Mental health
- Money management

## Total Respect

Members have co-produced Total Respect activities so they can be adapted and delivered virtually.

## Corporate Parenting Board Pledges

At the Corporate Parenting Board in early 2020 Children in Care Council members delivered an activity to board members about their roles as Corporate Parenting Board members and what the ideal board member should be like. Members of the board were asked by the Children in Care Council to produce pledges on how they will support the work of the group and young people in care.

## Emotional Health and Wellbeing Survey

Members took part in the survey and provided feedback for wellbeing support services.





## Interviews

Group members continued their influence on the recruitment of staff despite the Covid-19 pandemic and have interviewed for the following roles:

- Assistant director of children's services
- Social workers
- Residential shift leader
- YPA
- Youth engagement coordinator
- Assistant director of children's services
- Head of safeguarding and exploitation
- Social workers
- Participation officer
- Corporate parenting officer
- Head of service – Children in Care
- Service manager – Social care
- Registered manager



Please visit our website for regular updates and to watch key events such as our annual conference

[www.wolveschildrenincare.com](http://www.wolveschildrenincare.com)

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audio or in another language by calling 01902 551155

**wolverhampton.gov.uk** 01902 551155

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