

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE
Meeting date: 15 January 2020
From: Elizabeth Mallinson –Champion for Children in Care

CHILDREN IN CARE CHAMPION UPDATE

Background for 2019

Over the last 12 months the Children and Young Peoples Working Group (CYPWG) have researched the needs and priorities for children and young people, including feedback from consultation with children and young people, data from Public Health and Carlisle Observatory. The information was used for making clear recommendations in three clear priorities areas which will have been approved and talked about at the Local Committee, they are:

- Tackling childhood obesity by improving diet and promoting healthy weigh initiatives.
- Raising positive mental health by improving mental wellbeing of children and young people.
- Supporting young Careers to be recognised as a separate and specific group of carers with specific support needs to ensure that they have the best opportunity to have the best start in life.

These support ALL children and young people including those who are looked after and we intend to ensure this in inclusive work. To this end an Action Plan has been developed to monitor these objectives and this directly links to Carlisle Local Committee's Area Plan.

This work has been support by the Portfolio Holder, Officers from Public Health and Active Cumbria and various other officers and the Committee would like to thank them for their help.

Looking forward to 2020 and future CYPWG meetings:

- Looking at the latest ward based data around childhood obesity and piloting projects in key areas of need based on the data.

- Working with Carlisle Carers to look at funding for projects that benefit and highlight the invaluable role Young Carers play in our community. This project will look at developing a roadshow and film for schools, youth clubs and other professional organisations.
- Review the Universal Youth Provision project and look at recommendations for the future.
- Update from Active Cumbria on the work being undertaken to develop increased access to activities in targeted areas across Carlisle.
- Look at the latest “Making your Mark” ballot (National and Regional Based Survey of young people) of issues that are most important to them resulting from this ballot and looking at the key issues and making recommendations as to what this committee can do.
- Meeting up with young people for the Carlisle Youth Council and other youth groups in February half term to get greater involvement from young people and their views.

I have attended our looked after children’s Christmas events for them and their Foster Carers held both in Carlisle and Barrow. These events allow Elected Members time to talk to the Foster Parents and the children and see first-hand issues that arise. A big vote of thanks to our staff both in Children’s Services and our Communications Team who put a great deal of time and effort to make these the success that they were.

Over the last six months I have attended the Carlisle and Eden Looked After Children’s Forums held after school at Carlisle Youth Zone and have enjoyed the feedback from them which I have passed onto our Children’s Services.

County Councillor Elizabeth Mallinson
Children in Care Champion

January 2020