



REPORT AUTHOR:	Alexandra Bowey, Participation and Engagement Officer
SUBJECT:	Together for Children’s Change Council Report for Supportive Parenting Partnership Board (Corporate Parenting Board) 6th March 2023
PURPOSE:	To report on the activity of both Change Council 10-15 group and Change Council 16+ group (November 2022-December 2023)

Change Council have continued to meet regularly face to face. Change Council are meeting in their designated space, both Change Councils 10-15 and 16+ group are meeting fortnightly. The groups did break for the summer.

Activity	What’s Working Well?	What’s Not Working So Well?	What needs to happen?
<p>Film - planning around education Change Council 10-15yrs - short videos to be made, raising awareness and challenging the stigma in education.</p> <p>Change Council 16+ to feed in with suggestions on post 16 education and how this impacts them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex has met with Catherine Hearne to try and move this project onwards with support from Blue Cabin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project with the students at Sunderland University did not work as we had hoped and the video they produced was not something we could use. The students also did not finish the project. We feel disheartened that we are back at the start. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To see how and if Blue Cabin can support with this project and to get things moving forwards. For the young people to be involved throughout the process.
<p>Training 16+ We have been working on a training workshop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have completed more than one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would like to put on more sessions so that everyone who has not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will plan further dates so that everyone can have the training.



workshop with Corporate Parents. We delivered our Change the Language training and Changeable game.

- Corporate Parents said that it gave them an insight into some of the life experiences of care experienced young people.
- We have since delivered this training to local councillors and are delivering three workshops to Sunderland University staff.

been able to make it can also join.

- We would like to continue to expand this training to other organisations and are keen to have opportunities to do so.
- We would also like to offer this to student teachers and social workers.



Regionals- We went to a regional residential trip in April with other CiCC.

- 2 members attended and the purpose of the trip was to plan a

- We were a little nervous beforehand due to having

- To have an annual residential trip and be supported to attend



conference for later in the year to take place on 1/11/23.

- It was an amazing weekend and was great to get to know other regional members outside of the meetings. We felt that we got to know people in a much better way and can work together better.

to share rooms with people we didn't know well.



this.



Making Care Experience a Protected Characteristic 16+



- This was passed by the Council in January.
- We have supported with a press release with Cllr. Farthing and Cllr. Gibson.

- We don't know what the process is moving forwards and how we can be involved.
- We want to make sure this is meaningful for care experienced young people in Sunderland.

- We would like to speak to councillors about what the plans are with this.

<p>Change the Language training 16+</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 members delivered the Change the Language training as part of a digital conference with CYPS professionals. • Professionals gave great feedback around the impact that language can have and that they would be more mindful of the language used when working with young people. • 3 members also delivered this to a foster carer support group. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would like to continue to deliver this training and offer this to more professionals and foster carers.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Regional Conference planning 16+</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have met another twice in person to continue to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been very disappointed that the event has been scaled back due to the venue constraints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event will go ahead at a smaller scale on 1/11/23 with a full conference to go ahead in the New Year.

	<p>plan this event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunderland University offered a free venue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We feel that we have spent a lot of time planning for this and it has been a waste of time. 	
<p>Celebration for Cllr Farthing Both Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We hosted a celebration for Cllr Farthing to celebrate all the work she has done for cared for young people in Sunderland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We hoped that past members would be able to attend but unfortunately this was not possible. 	
<p>Foster Care Fortnight</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change Council 10-15 supported with Foster Care Fortnight. We wrote poems for the inside of the cards which went to foster carers and made bookmarks. • We planned sessions at Weights and Cakes for foster carers to go and enjoy some time and some physical activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No foster carers came to the Weights and Cakes sessions. We need to consider other ways to promote this. • Two members came to the session and supported with this, they are interested in setting up a group for cared for and care experienced at Weights and Cakes which is being discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with fostering to encourage carers to come along.

<p>Mental Health Awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We raised awareness for Mental Health with a video on TFC Youth Voice social media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not everyone was available to be involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to support with national and regional campaigns and awareness days.
<p>Creation of easy guides to different aspects of being cared for/care experienced to support other young people with things we have been unsure of.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had some ideas around this and started to consider designs. • We want this to be by young people, for young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is already similar things from fostering and we do not want to duplicate this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To link with fostering and see if they are happy for us to create a more young people friendly version.
<p>Big Day Out</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the Youth Voice groups were brought together at Moor House Adventure Centre. • It was really fun to meet the other groups and get to know young people we hadn't met previously. • We took part in new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not everyone was able to make it. • We weren't able to choose the activities so some of us didn't want to join in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make this an annual event.



activities and
enjoyed this.

<p>Summer Trips</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both groups were taken to Go Ape and Kirkley Hall farm. • It was really fun and it is always good to be able to bring both groups together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not everyone was able to come due to summer holidays and other commitments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to have joint activities for both groups to enjoy and come together.
<p>Recruitment and Selection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change Council 16+ have been involved in recruitment and selection for IRO team manager, IRO, Social Workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to these mostly being during the day it is usually only a few members who can make it due to college/school commitments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To try and involve as many young people as possible in recruitment selection opportunities
<p>Key Fund- BBQ</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 members of the 16+ group applied for funding for their first Key project. • They planned a BBQ for both groups to bring everyone together and have time for group bonding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the weather we had to move this indoors as we couldn't guarantee it wouldn't rain. • Not everyone could make it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next step of the Key fund for Children's Home Fortnight.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to plan events to bring the groups together. 
<p>Change the Language expansion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are planning to work with Cozmic 3piphany and STARS to expand our Change the Language campaign to cover SEND and LGBTQ+. We have visited both groups and discussed this with them, they are going to come back to us with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are in the very early stages of this and need time to bring this together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to link with the groups and work on how we can promote this. Alex to link with group leads in bimonthly engagement lead meetings and see what progress there has been.

England Match



some suggestions.

- Two tickets for the England match were donated to TFC. The names were put in a hat and a member of Change Council won.
- More of us would have loved to attend this.
- To hopefully get more opportunities like this.

Coming up:

- NatWest Workshops
- Children's Home Fortnight
- Regional CiCC Conference
- Change Council Mini first meeting
- Christmas Party

Planned work for Nov-Jan 2024:

- Drive forward the Change the Language campaign, including other groups.
- Corporate Parenting Introduction training and support the development of the corporate parenting strategy.
- Engage young people in enriching activities to celebrate their hard work and increase engagement.
- Consult and involve more cared for and care experienced children and young people. Alex to drop into Children's Homes and Support 2 Independence.

