



REPORT AUTHOR:	Alexandra Bowey, Participation and Engagement Officer
SUBJECT:	Together for Children’s Change Council Report for Supportive Parenting Partnership Board (Corporate Parenting Board) 15 April 2024
PURPOSE:	To report on the activity of both Change Council Mini, Change Council 12-15 group and Change Council 16+ group (November 2023-March 2024)

Change Council have continued to meet regularly face to face. Change Council are meeting in their designated space, we have also begun meeting with Change Council Mini.

Activity	What’s Working Well?	What’s Not Working So Well?	What needs to happen?
<p><b>Film - planning around education</b> Change Council 12-15 - 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"> <li>Alex has met with Jenny from Blue Cabin to try and move this project onwards with support from Blue Cabin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have a price for the work with Blue Cabin which is an estimated £10,000.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To see if TFC can contribute to this in any way and then have a match with funding, Blue Cabin will support with this.</li> </ul>

### Training 16+

We have been working on our Change Game Workshop and delivering this to a range of staff.

We delivered this at a Sunderland University staff away day.



- We delivered this workshop with the Regional Children in Care Council at their Let's Talk Change event in November.
- There were a number of senior leaders in attendance from across the North East.
- Alex has spoken to Sunderland University and we have a meeting booked to plan in a date to pilot this with student teachers.

- We will plan further dates so that everyone can have the training.
- We would like to continue to expand this training to other organisations and are keen to have opportunities to do so.
- We are planning to hold sessions within TFC in April for National Care Experience History Month

**Regionals- Let's Talk Change Event**



- 2 members took part in speaking, delivering workshops and working with professionals.
- We worked well with other regional representatives.
- Our Change Game was the main workshop and we trained other young people in the game so that they could also deliver it.
- The game was very well received by the professionals.
- All professionals made a 'Pinky Promise' of something that they were going to do between the event and our main conference event in April (we will be checking!)
- All council leads have contributed funding to organise the main conference in April as we do not currently have a budget for regional activities.

- It is sometimes difficult to get meetings planned as there is so many of us and living very spread out.

- To plan the conference.



**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.**

- CC 12-15 We have had some ideas around this and started to consider designs.
- We want this to be by young people, for young people.
- We have spoken to fostering and connected carers and they are very supportive of this.

- It has taken time to get this started but we are planning this now.

- To begin designing and drafting this up.
- To share with other young people for feedback- Alex to share with Children's Homes and VOKOL once we have a solid draft.

**Toiletry allowance increase**

- CC 12-15, We would like the toiletry allowance to be increased in line with the cost of living. £2.50 per week/£10 per month is not

- We are still working on this and have had a few distractions such as Christmas and new

- We need to bring this to SLT when we have completed our presentation and hopefully be able to have this considered.

	<p>enough to get decent quality toiletries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are working on this and have begun to cost up what the basic necessities are, how long these will last and need to be replaced.</li> <li>• We are going to bring this all together and share why we feel that this needs to be increased as we don't just want the bare minimum, we should be able to have good quality shampoos, conditioners etc not the cheapest we can find.</li> </ul>	<p>members joining so need to focus on this.</p>	
<p><b>Recruitment and Selection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change Council 16+ have been involved in recruitment and selection for Social Workers, Next Steps Deputy HOS, Children's Home Management teams.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to these mostly being during the day it is usually only a few members who can make it due to college/school commitments.</li> <li>• The young people who can make it tend to be from the 16+ group so the younger groups rarely get the opportunity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To try and involve as many young people as possible in recruitment selection opportunities.</li> <li>• For all services which involve young people to involve a young person in their interview panel.</li> </ul>

### Key Fund- Children's Home Fortnight



- 3 of our 16+ group organised Children's home Fortnight. We went to the Key+ and were awarded £500 funding which was matched by TFC.

- We have relied on Key+ funding to do this event, because the Key funding is done in project stages- £250/£500/£1000 before we can reapply, there are also different criteria to hit for each amount. We worry that some years we won't be able to rely on this funding if we are not at the right stage or have enough people to apply. It would be upsetting if we could not always guarantee this as it is important to us to recognise the work the children's home staff do, in the same way that foster carers are recognised in Foster Care Fortnight.

- To plan the event yearly.



### Change the Language expansion

- Stars have decided to expand this as 'Change the View' so asking people to consider the way they view SEND young people.
- Cozmic are working on pronouns and how we can ensure a young person's chosen pronouns are respected.

- We are in the very early stages of this and need time to bring this together as one overarching project.

- 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.

### Change Council Mini



- Our Change Council Mini sessions are up and running for 7-11 year olds.
- We have been enjoying getting to know each other and making new friends.

- We only have 2 members at the moment and would like more.

- To continue meeting and promoting all CC groups to workers.

### Christmas Party



- We supported the planning for our Cared for Christmas Party.
- We had an amazing time and were pleased to have the event back at Bede Tower.

- There were a few last minute changes to the layout we originally planned as the bouncy castle wouldn't fit.

- To continue to support with the party for 2024 and involve other young people in the planning.
- The party is booked for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### Healthier Together



- 2 16+ members took part in the Healthier Together consultation for a new NHS app for young people.
- We really enjoyed taking part in designing the website and sharing our thoughts on what it should include and look like.

- Not everyone was available to attend.

- To continue to take these opportunities to be involved with wider consultations.

### Coram Voice Amplify Awards



- The North East Regional Children in Care Council were nominated for a Coram Voice Amplify Collaboration Award. 2 of our members represent Sunderland with regionals and attended this award ceremony in London.
- The group came third and were also part of consultation with the Department of Education for improving advocacy services.
- They also had the opportunity to take part in Q&A with Children's Minister David Johnson OBE.

- It was quite last minute that we found out that we had placed which didn't give us long to organise it.
- It was a very long day as we went there and back in one day.
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- To enter the awards again for 2024!
- To be supported to attend events like this in future as it was expensive.

### Youth Voice Party and Graffiti Art



- We enjoyed a Christmas party for all of our Youth Voice groups.
- It was really fun to spend time together as a group but also to spend time with other youth voice members and make new friends.
- We also had The Cultural Spring there who held a graffiti art workshop that we all got involved in to create a collaborative piece of art for Sunderland Youth Voice.

- We aren't sure if this is something we will have funding for every year.

- We have more workshops planned in to complete this artwork later in the year.



### Care Day 24





- We involved staff and young people in TFC with our social media takeover raising awareness of Care Day.

- We had also really wanted to create a group piece of artwork and linked with The Cultural Spring who had initially said they could fund this but it fell through.

- To continue to get involved with other awareness days across the year.





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We did not have enough funding to complete this.</li> </ul> 	
<p><b>Regional Let's Talk Change Conference</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representatives from all the region's CiCC groups met and presented to decision makers and senior leaders across the North East.</li> <li>All councils contributed to the cost which meant we did not have to worry about selling tickets.</li> <li>The key messages were well received and we feel that there will be change and conversations between senior leaders about this.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to be supported to attend these meetings and residential.</li> </ul>

**Coming up:**

- NatWest Workshops
- Children's Home Fortnight
- Regional CiCC Residential
- National Care Experience History Month

## **Planned work for Spring/Summer:**

- Change Market event for National Care Experience History Month April- Key Fund to apply for.
- Change Game sessions- welcome to attend.
- Invite SPP to attend some of our sessions and meet other YP.
- Regional Let's Talk Change Conference 2024- April
- Children's Home Fortnight May- Key find to apply for and hopefully TFC match.
- Continue to consult and involve more cared for and care experienced children and young people. Alex to drop into Children's Homes and Support 2 Independence.
- Graffiti artwork.
- Regional representatives to present at the Corporate Parenting Panel Chairs/ Vice Chairs conference.