

# Participation and Engagement April 2019-Sept 2019

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020



#### Participation Performance

Between April 2019 and September 2019, **324 unique** children and young people aged 10-25 have been involved in participation activity.

**504 overall** children and young people have been involved in a participation activity

**247** children and young people engaged in a celebration or consultation event.



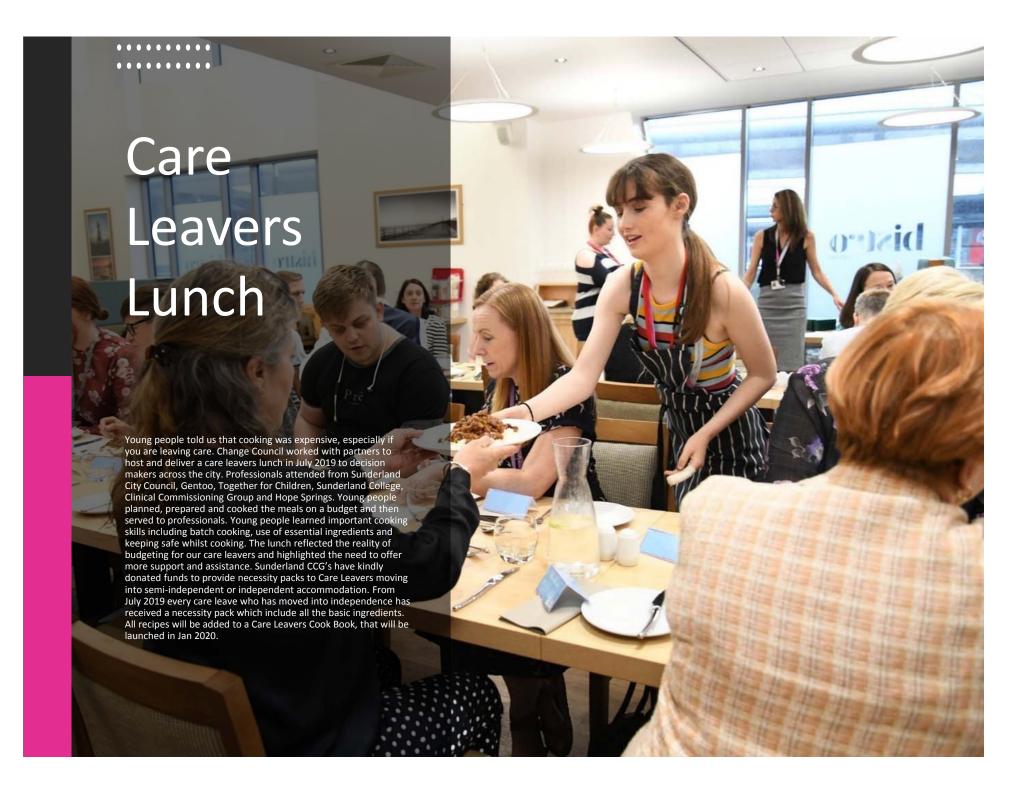


- Creation of Care Leavers Necessities Packs for all children and young people moving into semi-independent or independent living.
- Review the implementation of commitments to children looked after and leaving care
- The voice of SEND children and young people have been heard in the creation of the new SEND strategy
- Activities have been planned and booked for the CLA and CL celebration event
- Over 100 young people have been recognised formally for their achievements through Sunderland Young Achievers
- City wide consultation regarding Short breaks for SEND Children and Young people
- Implementation of the Young Commissioners
- Focussed work with Balance
- Embed involvement of children and young people in recruitment and selection
- Engagement with national campaigns and visits e.g. Care
   Leavers Week, Make your Mark, International visit to Essen
- Develop Care Leavers Cook Book
- Embed the use of Family Time
- Enhance the mental health offer for children and young people
- A safe space for children and young people
- Spend more time getting to know the senior management teams
- Engagement to support environmental issues
- Engagement with children and young people around health pathways

#### Summary of Activities

The following slides are an overview of some the outcomes and activity between April 2019 and September 2019.

For a full overview of participation and engagement activity and outcomes for the last six months (April 2019- September 2019) please see handout.



## Recruitment and Selection

Involving Children and Young People in recruitment and selection. Young people in Change Council have been trained in interview techniques and have taken part in 8 interviews between April 2019 and September 2019 within children's social care. Young people have either held their own panel or take part as part of the adult panel. Young people and adults involved in the recruitment process jointly discuss their views and are part of the decision making. Young people bring a unique perspective and have a significant impact on the discussions about the choices of the candidates.





#### **BALANCE**

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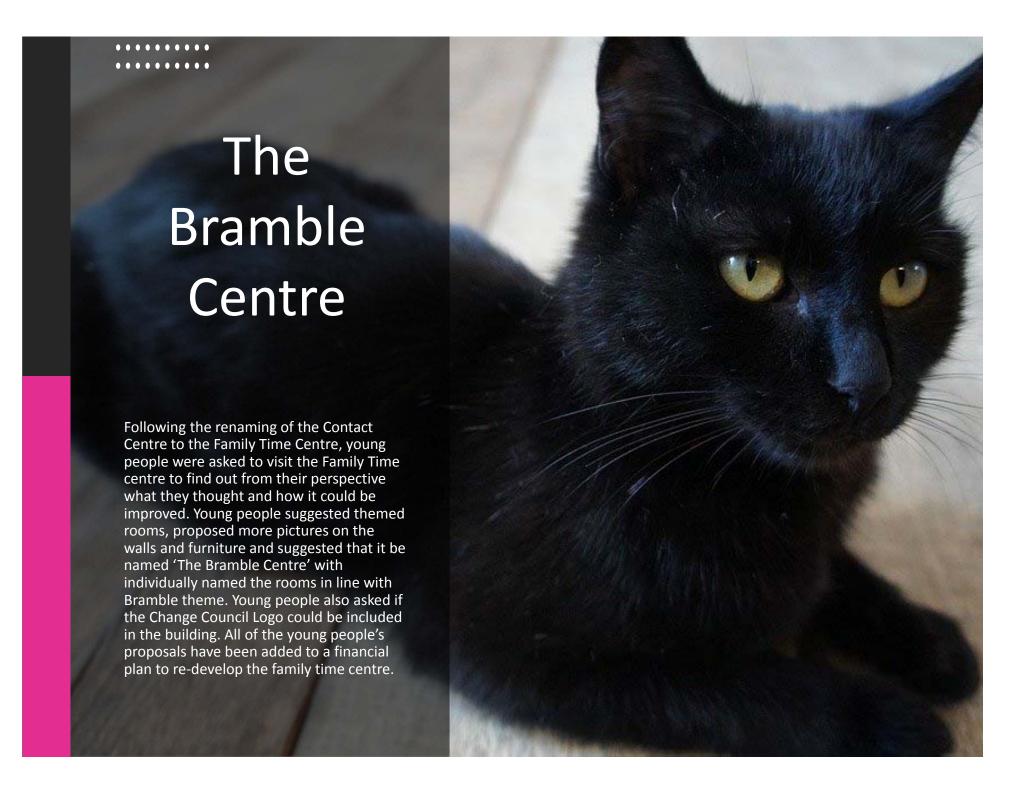
Balance is an organisation launched in 2009 to reduce the impact that alcohol is having on the North East region, following commitments made in the regional health and well-being strategy. Balance asked Together for Children if this was something the Young Commissioners group could help with. Young people attended a workshop focussing on the 'alcohol free childhood campaign'. Young people supported the creation of a film, sharing their own views and experiences. The film is now being showing across Sunderland the North East to communicate the message wider. Balance have also requested that Sunderland Young Commissioners are involved in the mystery shopping programme to support the prevention of alcohol being sold to those who are underage.





#### **SEND Voice**

The participation and engagement team conducted a series of consultation events with children and young people who have either a SEND diagnosis and/or and Education Health Care Plan with the purpose of involving them in the planning of services that directly affect their lives. Five special schools, Sunderland College, Grace House and three youth projects across Sunderland were visited.





## Communicating with CWD

- CWD use of Mind of My Own Express for the more able children and young people. However usage is limited given our criteria is a severe learning disability (amongst other factors).
- CWD work closely with our SEND schools and make use of the tools they have available to communicate with children – talking mats is a good example.
- CWD secured a two day training course for all staff CWD trained in Makaton. It is an effective tool to communicate with our children and young people as it is in the preferred means of communication in our SEND schools, for those children who have limited verbal communication.
- In addition to that, one C&F worker in the CWD team is trained in BSL. This has proved very useful of late as we are working with a deaf family. This C&F worker has been able to co-work the case with the allocated SW to interpret.

  together for children

SUNDERLAND



### Events and Consultations

#### **Sunderland Young Achievers**

- Sunderland Young Achievers is an annual event, which took place in July 2019. Over 150 nominations were received. Nominations were independently judged by Sponsors from across the City and continued to be of an extremely high standard.
- Over 500 children, young people, their families and professionals attended the Stadium of Light to celebrate the achievements of over 100 children and young people either individually or part of a group who received awards.

#### **Children Looked After Event and Care Leavers Celebration**

 Our Children Looked After and Care Leavers Celebration takes place in December, this will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year Sunderland have hosted this event. The event is planned by Sunderland's Change Council including additional consultations from Sunderland Children's Homes and the fostering VOKOL group.

#### **Make your Mark Consultation**

• The UK largest Youth Consultation was launched in August 2019. Young people from Sunderland Youth Council co-ordinated the voting of the Make your Mark consultation (the UK's largest Youth Consultation). Young people made themselves visible by attending schools, youth projects and events such as the NCS to get as many young people in Sunderland to vote as possible. Voting closes October 2019.







Any Questions?

'Loved meeting the management team @tfcsunderland and it's nice now knowing who to speak to regarding different ages'

**Young person Age 17**