



REPORT AUTHOR:	Loren Nergaard
SUBJECT:	Change Council Update
PURPOSE:	To update members on Change Council activities from Jan-March 2019

1. Change Council Group Set Up

After much discussion the Change council have decided to run two groups based on age. The age groups will be 10-15yrs and a 16+yrs. The group can then focus on more issues they feel are relevant to them and other young people their age. Change Council 10-15yrs will focus on issues around becoming a child looked after, being a child looked after etc. Change Council 16+yrs will focus on issues they feel are more relevant to them around, becoming a care leaver, staying put, etc. (Peer mentors)

2. Family Time Centre

Change Council have named the family time centre 'The Bramble Centre', based on the workshop young people delivered at the regional children in care council around life story work. The signage will be created by young people. They are currently discussing colours/images. Change Council will be working on ideas to support the centre to raise donations/funds for equipment that they feel would make family time experiences better for all.

3. Life Story work

Change council are focusing on how life story work can be improved for children and young people. A few members of the group are planning to support the delivery of a workshop to TFC staff along with Dania Carter (Next Steps Team Manager). Young People have spent some time looking at the pledges that were made by professionals in Sunderland at the Regional Children in Care Conference. Several members of the group will be making contact with those professionals to see what they have done to implement their pledge.

4. Care Leavers App/Virtual World

Change council have reviewed an app for care leavers that would hold information and advice including the local offer; they decided that it was a good tool to have. They looked at an app that already exists however, it was discussed that a virtual world would be preferable to a care

leaver app. This was discussed in a Change Council meeting with Jill Colbert, Martin Birch and Patrick Melia. The idea behind the virtual world is that it could be more inclusive and preferable to young people so they could access advice and guidance on the local offer, information around health, housing and finance etc. in a relatable and engaging way. Patrick had suggested pulling ideas together on how Change Council would want it to look and run then set up a meeting with someone he knows at the software centre.

A meeting was held with the Software centre on Friday 15th March with David Dunn, CE of the Software Centre. After much discussion, a particular focus was identified (CLA and CL within Sunderland). David and the team are pulling together a specification for businesses. David will then pull together a meeting with businesses who are interested in the proposal and our young people to finalise ideas before business submit their proposals for consideration.

5. Regional Children in Care Ambassador – Saul Cranson

Saul recently started his role as Regional Children in Care Young Ambassador. Saul is the young ambassador for Sunderland and Durham and will be working to support and represent young people in both areas. Saul is attending all Regional meetings staff and young persons. Saul will be based and support by the TfC Participation and Engagement Service.

6. IRO Service

The IRO Service Managers Gavin and Kim attended both the 10-15 and 16+ groups. They came into Change Council to speak to the groups about the best way to introduce their IRO and what they would like to know about their IRO. Change council gave ideas of themes that they would like to know about their IRO. This would then be given to children and young people before they meet their IRO's so they know a little bit about them before they met. Change Council also discussed the best way to access this information.

7. Commitments

An update on the 'Our Commitment' plan is provided on a separate report.