





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

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

	<p>workshop with Corporate Parents. We delivered our Change the Language training and Changeable game.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Parents said that it gave them an insight into some of the life experiences of care experienced young people.</li> <li>• We have since delivered this training to local councillors and are delivering three workshops to Sunderland University staff.</li> </ul>	<p>been able to make it can also join.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like to continue to expand this training to other organisations and are keen to have opportunities to do so.</li> <li>• We would also like to offer this to student teachers and social workers.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Regionals-</b> We went to a regional residential trip in April with other CiCC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 members attended and the purpose of the trip was to plan a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We were a little nervous beforehand due to having</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have an annual residential trip and be supported to attend</li> </ul>



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.

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





	<p>plan this event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunderland University offered a free venue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We feel that we have spent a lot of time planning for this and it has been a waste of time.</li> </ul>	
<b>Celebration for Cllr Farthing Both Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We hosted a celebration for Cllr Farthing to celebrate all the work she has done for cared for young people in Sunderland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We hoped that past members would be able to attend but unfortunately this was not possible.</li> </ul>	
<b>Foster Care Fortnight</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>We planned sessions at Weights and Cakes for foster carers to go and enjoy some time and some physical activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No foster carers came to the Weights and Cakes sessions. We need to consider other ways to promote this.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To work with fostering to encourage carers to come along.</li> </ul>


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




activities and  
enjoyed this.

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



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

	some suggestions.		
<p><b>England Match</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two tickets for the England match were donated to TFC. The names were put in a hat and a member of Change Council won.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More of us would have loved to attend this.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To hopefully get more opportunities like this.</li> </ul>

**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.

