

## CHANGE COUNCIL UPDATE APRIL- JUNE 2018

### Change Council Away Day 2018

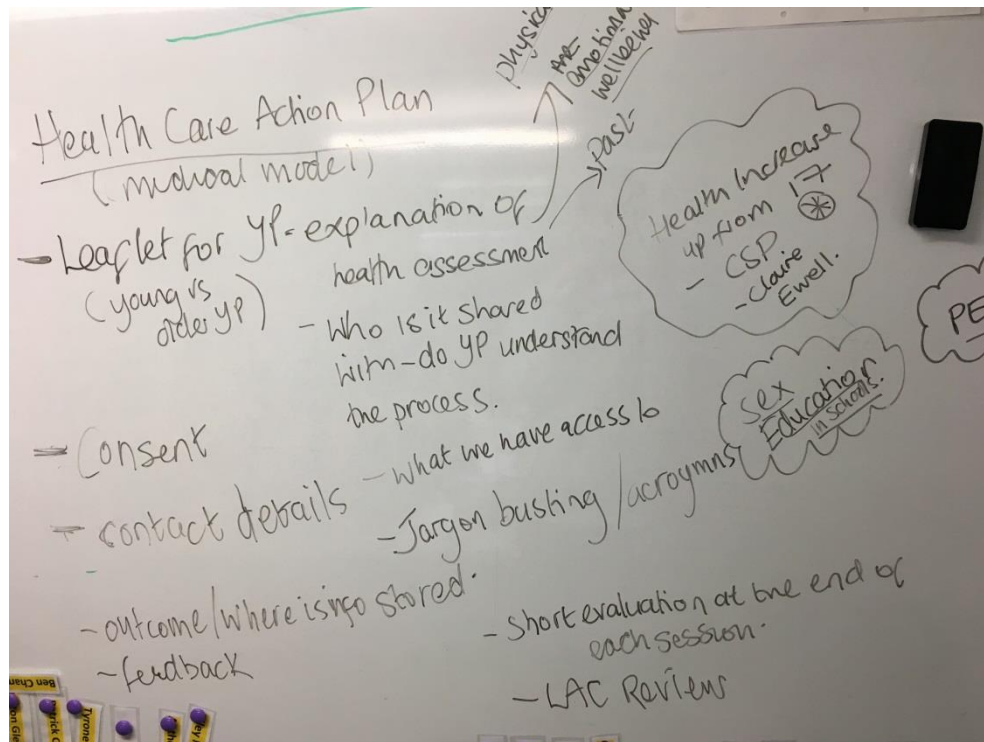
Change council had an away day to Moor House Adventure Centre. The aim of the day was to review the work plan for next year and also have some fun. Loren planned some great activities for the young people to enjoy. The activities included a team challenge (which our Director of Education and Chief Executive also took part in), the cube and crate stacking.

We really appreciated that the Simon and Sue came along to the day and got stuck in!



Although we did have a lot of fun, we also had work to do. For one of our sessions we invited Claire Ewell the CLA Nurse from Health to work with Change Council around improving the service for children and young people.

We came up with an action plan which will be written and followed up.



We also discussed the regional children in care conference and the residential which is the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July, Clark and Rhiannon will be attending with Loren and Donna supporting, the residential will consist of activities and planning and working on the topics for this year's conference and workshops.

We also spent time discussing the CLA celebration and Awards Evening which will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We really liked the venue last year and also the activities so we would like to plan the event to mirror last year's successes.

### Regional Children in Care Conference.

We have been working hard with our regional partners to plan this year's conference. The conference will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at St James Park.

Over the next several months, young people who are part of the NE Regional CiCC will be campaigning for change across every authority on the entitlements and contact. The young people feel passionate about these areas and have developed a number of recommendations on each area they are going to ask every LA to take on board.

Below is a draft table of what young people have discussed and what they would like to see changed.

This will be the focus of the conference in November 2018. Young people appreciate that some areas may also do some of the below suggestions.

Entitlements	Family Visits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a pocket money guidance that informs foster carers and young people what they are entitled to.</li> <li>• Make sure all children in care and care leavers know they are entitled to and have access to this easily.</li> <li>• Care Leavers to get help with travel costs, not just for jobs and employment, but family visits, doctors' appointments etc.</li> <li>• Help us prepare better to manage when we are leaving care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make supervised contact more flexible – later in evenings and weekends.</li> <li>• Cleaner, age appropriate and more venues in each region.</li> <li>• Stop calling it 'CONTACT' – visits to family is better and change paperwork. It doesn't need a label.</li> <li>• Don't include travel time in allocated time to see our family.</li> <li>• Consider visits to friends and wider family who are important to us</li> <li>• Visiting people in prison needs looked at as is not child friendly</li> <li>• Have the same person every time at your contact</li> </ul>

## Local Offer

Our Local Offer is now complete and available in a hard copy or on the TfC website.

<https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/children-and-young-people/support-care-leavers>

## Commitments

As you are all aware we now have our agreed commitments for CLA and Leaving Care young people. Change Council have been discussing who they would like the commitments to be monitored. They have each decided they would like to be responsible for a commitment but did not feel as though it worked last time when elected members and senior managers were matched.

They will be discussing their action plan in relation to commitments at the Change Council Meeting in July.

