



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

**PARTICIPATION UPDATE FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE**

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES, IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER, COUNCILLOR G CAPLE**

**Author: Nicole Katchi- Graduate Officer- Participation (Children's  
Services)**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update about RCT Children's Services engagement activities and recent participation event held on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 with our children looked after at Pontypridd Museum.
- 1.2 The Children's Services survey of care experienced children and young people will be running from October to mid October 2022.
- 1.3 The care experienced summit on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September with Welsh Ministers to work with children and young people across local authorities in Wales to develop radical reform for children looked after.
- 1.4 Voices from Care Cymru have submitted their report (see appendix 6)

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the information contained within the report.

2.2 Scrutinise and comment on the information provided.

### **3. BACKGROUND/ PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 3.1 Nicole Katchi- Graduate Officer (Participation) joined Children's Services on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- 3.2 22/06/22- Participation workshop about rights-based approaches for Children's Services staff led by Kath O'Kane (Participation Officer) and Elizabeth Flowers (Policy lead) for the Children's Commissioner for Wales.
- 3.3 Local Development Officer- Laura Harper for RCT (Voices from Care Cymru) recently joined to re-establish RCT local groups aged 14-22.
- 3.4 Meetings with the Voices RCT Local group and Parent Group to discuss survey questions including content and lay out.
- 3.5 Creating a Children's Services 'All about me' profile and engagement posters for the event on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 to distribute to care experienced children and young people via CS staff, YEPS and the WICID website (see appendix 1 and 1.1).
- 3.6 Attended the Foster carers children's party in July 2022 and the Children's picnic in August 2022 to promote the participation event on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and linking via the closed Facebook group and through the pioneer foster carers.

### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Care experienced Participation event supported by Mike Church on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 to gather qualitative responses of views through engagement activities.
- 4.2 The outcome was to find out what has helped young people to grow (positives), what could help them to grow (what could be better) and engagement activities to support outcomes through display work.
- 4.3 5 young people signed up with their foster carer for the 10 and under session and 14 young people signed up for the 11–18-year-old session for the event at Pontypridd Museum on 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- 4.4 2 young people turned up for the 10 and under session. 7 young people turned up for the 11–18-year-old session.
- 4.5 The participation questionnaire will be from October 2022 to mid-October 2022 that builds from the recommendations of the Bright Spots Survey by Bristol University back in 2018 (see appendix 3).

- 4.6 Three young people from RCT have applied to attend the Care experienced Summit with Voices from Care on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 5.1 This is an information report. Rights impact assessment tools will be used for capturing the voice of Children and young people and feedback, 'You said, we did' mechanisms (see appendix 4).
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the future implementation process.

## **6. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 6.1 This is an information report.
- 6.2 Further consultation will however be undertaken as part of the work of the participation strategy.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications aligned to this report.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The legal requirements for children and young people are set down within the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

## **9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 9.1 This links to the Children's Services Delivery plan 2022-2023 that, 'Children's voices are Heard: To improve engagement with children and young people, to ensure co-production and that the voice of the child is heard in service development and delivery.'
- 9.2 It also contributes to 'The Children's Commissioner for Wales' that champion the development of a Children's Rights Approach grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC- see appendix 2).

## **10. NEXT STEPS**

- 10.1 Progress has been made to engage with care experienced children and young people and the questionnaire responses will highlight themes to

support Voices from Care with an 11-18 age group as part of the RCT local group and to develop engagement for children looked after that are 10 and under (see appendix 3).

- 10.2 Developing a participation strategy for children and young people's voice and co-production (on-going). Linking in key staff from Children's Services with Voices from Care Cymru to develop a thematic approach for participation with key ideas from the questionnaire feedback that children and young people provide. This will be reported back to children and young people through a 'You said, we did' mechanism for engagement and participation.
- 10.3 Develop impact assessment tools for capturing the voice of Children and young people and feedback, 'You said, we did' mechanisms through 'The Right Way Agenda.' (See appendix 4).
- 10.4 Link to the Community, Wellbeing and Resilience website team for promoting the participation strategy.
- 10.5 Further engagement with CLA for 8- to 18-year-olds to capture the voices of children and young people through Voices from Care Cymru.
- 10.6 Embedding structures to collate the voice of children and young people and providing evaluative feedback for 'You said, we did.'
- 10.7 An accessible digital platform for children and young people to keep up to date with participation events and the outcomes of these events.
- 10.8 Waiting for graphic evidence from the Participation event from the artist (see draft in appendix 5).

## Appendix

### 1. Amdana i / All about me



AMDANA I -  
NICOLE.pdf



All about me poster-  
Nicole.pdf

### 1.1 Achlysur cyfranogiad / Participation event



Gwasanaethau i Blant  
RhCT Cymraeg.pdf



RCT Participation  
event 1.9.22 poster up

### 2. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)



uncrc-summary-post  
er.pdf

### 3. Draft questions for questionnaire for October 2022



Get involved- Survey  
updated 10.10.22.doc

### 4. The Right Way Agenda document and proposed Impact Assessment Tools.



RightWaySocialCare\_  
Final-Amendments.pc



The-Right-Way-Simp  
le-FINAL-1-002.pdf

### 5. Draft collection of zines from the Participation event- 1.9.22



A collection of zines-  
The journey 1.9.22 up

6. Voices from Care Cymru report.



Corporate Parenting  
Board VFCC Sep 2022

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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