

Terms of Reference

May 2017

Version 1 FINAL

Purpose

The Children in Care Council (CiCC) is a group who will represent the looked after children and young people (including those with disability and who are engaged in education) and those who have left care between the ages of 7 and 25 years old. The main purpose of CCiCC is to ensure those young people have a voice in decision - making and the design of services that affect their lives and the live of others in care.

The main purpose is to:

- influence work by the Council and partners, which will enhance the positive outcomes for young people looked after.
- To help implement and monitor the Sutton Pledge by attending the Corporate Parenting Forum Meeting and getting feedback from CiCC
- To maintain a record of the top five issues that young people would like Council Officers and Members to address/resolve.
- To have a say in any future plans which concern all Children and Young People (C&YP) in care and care leavers.
- To engage with C&YP in care and care leavers and encourage participation.
- To develop a communication plan to ensure that all young people and care leavers are aware of the CiCC and what we do by way of flyers, events and the Sutton Council website
- Ensure that all meetings and events are fun and engaging for all young people
- Raise any issues which impact on any C&YP in care.
- Assist young people to take a lead and being involved in all relevant projects.
- Represent all looked after children, young people and care leavers equally including children with disabilities, young people in custody, unaccompanied minors, etc.

Mission Statement

The Children in Care Council (CiCC) exists to provide a voice for, and champion the needs of children and young people (C&YP) in care.

Aims:

The CiCC will act as:

1. A **consultation group** for managers and policy - makers in the design, delivery and evaluation of projects and services.
2. A **lobbying group** to influence change in services accessed by children and young people in care and leaving care.

3. A **campaigning group** to raise awareness of the rights of children and young people in care and leaving care, and of what it's *really* like growing up in the care system.
4. A **forum for developing ideas and projects** that aim to improve the lives of children and young people in care and leaving care
5. A **champion and advocate** for children and young people in care and leaving care.
6. A **forum for feeding back** important issues to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Structure:

- The CiCC will be comprised of a minimum of 5 lead members, who are assigned specific roles and responsibilities for a period of 12 months (see appendix 1)
- Meetings will be held every 2 weeks (, HQ at Thornton Road but meetings will vary in venues (usually Wednesdays), from 4.30-6pm.
- Guest speakers are invited on a regular basis for updates on Council developments and to address any important issues.
- Minutes will be recorded and available to all CiCC members, and Sutton Council officers
- To publish and circulate an annual report of the work carried out by CiCC

Code of Conduct

- CiCC exists to uphold children and young people's right to have a voice on any issues that affects them, as stated in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- CiCC will listen to and respect all children and young people in care or leaving care up to the age of 25 years old.
- CiCC members should treat all members, children and young people and adults with respect and ensure the environment which they operate in holds mutual respect, teamwork and integrity.
- CiCC should behave in such a way that is not discriminatory in any way, which includes (but is not limited to) sexist, racist or homophobic remarks, and challenge this behaviour if you experience it
- CiCC members should never attend any forum, meeting or event under the influence of drugs, alcohol and/or other substance.

Support

CiCC members will:

1. Receive regular notice and communication about meetings and events
2. Be invited to local, regional and national events and activities
3. Be offered relevant and appropriate training and formal accreditation where applicable
4. Be supported with their own personal and skills development
5. Get refreshments or subsistence at every CiCC meeting.

CiCC Member Declaration

As a member of Children in Care Council (CiCC), I understand, have read and agree to adhere to the Terms of Reference, including Code of Conduct, as laid out above.

I understand that if my actions are seen by other CiCC members or staff as breaking these Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct, then I may be asked to leave the group of a period of time or indefinitely (depending on the severity of my actions).

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Participation Manager signature: _____ Date: _____