

Children in Care Council

Terms of Reference

The Vision

The Children in Care Council (CiCC) aims to reflect the views of all children in care and care leavers in Bristol. They will strive to achieve positive change and better outcomes for all young people by working in partnership with Bristol City Council and other partners. They will forward their views, ideas and recommendations to the Corporate Parenting Panel, ensuring that all decisions are informed by children and young people in care.

The Objectives

- ❑ The CiCC will operate as a *consultation group* for managers, policy makers and councillors.
- ❑ The CiCC will operate as a *lobbying group* for the promotion of the rights of children in care and care leavers across Bristol.
- ❑ The CiCC will operate as a *think-tank*, developing young people led creative ideas and initiatives.
- ❑ The CiCC will operate as a champion for children and young people in care, as well as care leavers and make links with other sections of the council specifically to do with young people in care, such as ECLAS (Education for Children Looked After Service).
- ❑ The CiCC will operate as a key communication link, helping information travel between senior management and young people, via R VOICE and a website.

Composition

- ❑ The CiCC shall comprise of up to twenty members, ten in each group (up to 15 years old, and those 16+) from as wide a range of backgrounds as is possible.
- ❑ The CiCC shall meet once a month.
- ❑ The CiCC will hold a series of annual elections to appoint children and young people to the key positions within the CiCC (i.e. the position of 'Chair' and 'Vice-Chair', taken from the senior group)
- ❑ The elder CiCC shall be overseen by the Participation Coordinator, participation workers and a worker from Bristol City Council with no direct strategic work remit.
- ❑ The younger CiCC shall be overseen by the Participation Coordinator and participation workers.
- ❑ All applications for an adult to attend a CiCC meeting must come through the Participation Coordinator and an invitation will be granted by the Chair, or the Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair.
- ❑ Members of the CiCC will be expected to become involved in the interviewing of council officers, as part of the recruitment process
- ❑ Members of the CiCC will be expected to provide feedback to inspectors taking part in service inspections.

Communication and Governance

- ❑ The important issues raised by the CiCC during each monthly meeting will be noted by the Participation Coordinator and forwarded in report form to both Mark Bandalli (Policy Officer, Bristol City Council) and Jason Williams (Reconstruct Children's Strategy Manager).
- ❑ The CiCC will have a standard agenda item at each Bristol City Council Corporate Parenting Panel meeting (held every three months), where they will be able to raise any issues they wish. The Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the CiCC will present the agenda item. The CiCC will be provided with a written response within one month of the meeting.
- ❑ The Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills and the Elected Member for Children's Services (elected councillor) will attend the CiCC every 6 months to discuss issues raised by the CiCC. A written response to the issues raised will be provided within one month of the meeting.

Code of Conduct

- ❑ Members of the CiCC agree to represent the views and wishes of all children in care and care leavers to the best of their ability.
- ❑ Members of the CiCC agree to treat each other, workers and visiting adults with respect.
- ❑ Incidents of bullying, sexism, racism or other non inclusive behaviours during the CiCC meetings will result in instant expulsion from the CiCC at the discretion of the Participation Coordinator and / or Bristol City Council (in line with Bristol City Council Equalities Policy for Equal Opportunities and Anti-Harassment (April 2003).

Agreed Jan 2009. To be reviewed July 2010.

