

Notes from the NICC meeting 3rd November 2015

Visitors

Harry Harold MoMo App And technology design

Keeley White head of the virtual school

Item	Purpose	Discussions	Any actions
Welcome to new members	An additional 2 new members aged from 13 – 18 joined the in care council this meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing members introduced themselves and talked a, little bit about the kind of work that they do. • They reassured the new members that no one was forced to take part in any events or public activities unless they volunteered and that training would be given beforehand if needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group to consider how best to manage any further referrals , for example setting up a sub group that meets bi monthly, creating a waiting list, continuing to increase the numbers attending meetings.
Using technology to information share	To speak to the NICC about the possible development of Apps and smart phone friendly ways of both involving them in planning, and passing on information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry revisited the group and worked with individuals highlighting changes he had made in response to their feedback during the September meeting. • The group really like the changes made and feel it is a tool they would use. • Harry recruited 3 young people who will continue to work on the App piloting it over a few months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NICC to take a draft App to the CPEG post the pilot stage
Performance Ofsted	<p>The infographic was not available for the meeting as Don Evans is still in discussions with BIPs about its development.</p> <p>The group looked at the executive summary, recommendations and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group were pleased by the comments about the NICC from Ofsted but felt that it would have been better for the inspectors to have visited a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irene to speak with Don about how best to take this forward

	<p>highlighted paragraphs from the report itself following a request by Michael Rosen</p>	<p>real meeting rather than just having met with 10-12 of them separately. They felt it would have given Ofsted real insight into how they work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the group were really pleased to have received letters from Michael Rosen and James Joyce explaining the decision and what happens now they all found the comments about continuing to work to make sure all LAC/CL get the best start was very reassuring. • The group on the whole agreed with the majority of the Ofsted comments in the executive summary. They do however feel that “a requires improvement” would have been fairer as they can see a change in services, especially the LAC service. • A debate began around the support given to siblings during adoption cases. Many felt that children’s services didn’t recognise the impact this had on them. There is a real sense of loss and grief but it can also be that they feel rejected as no one wants them “because we are too old and have too much baggage” This highlighted a possible gap in support services and the NICC wish to know what is available as a matter of course for all children in this position. • The group agreed strongly with the loss of service for Care-leavers and few have noticed an improvement since the launch of the leaving care service. It was highlighted it is a new service and it may take some time for any improvements to show. The group agreed to wait on the 1st evaluation by staff and service users. They did raise the issue though that the reinstatement of personal allowances to over 18 year olds if they are in education and turned down for income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steph Bullock to formally thank James and Michael at the next CPEG • A letter is being prepared, with the support of Christine Birchall, by the NICC as their response to the Inspection rating. This will go to the next CPEG for their information. It will be sent to all local media outlets in Norfolk. • Again concerns about how Ofsted inspections impact on Councils was raised the group still feel that Councils end up having to develop services in a way that ticks the Ofsted boxes rather than letting them consult locally and run services in a way that is right for that County. • It has been decided that a piece of work may need to be done looking at how we support the siblings of adopted children to deal with the grief it causes.
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		<p>support is discretionary. The NICC feel that in these cases where it is a benefit agency decision and the yp is in education that it should be automatic and not discretionary. They raised the question how will be improve the NEET numbers of care leavers if we do not support their education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remainder of the points in the report will be explored at home by the group. 	<p>This to be raised at the next CPEG and then worked in partnership with peter Ronan or his delegates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point re discretional Personal allowance payments in relation to education to be raised as an NICC concern at the CPEG. • Each member to look at the recommendations and to come up with one solution focussed comment on a chosen recommendation by the next meeting
<p>Education</p>	<p>Keeley White came to intr0duce herself and talk about some developments she would like support with regarding the Virtual school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firstly it was surprising that many new members to the NICC had never heard of the Virtual school, Keeley gave a brief description of what it was and its roles. • Even existing members were not clear on the role of the designated teacher (DT) and a lively debate started about if young people should be made aware of their DT or not as “we feel like people in a goldfish bowl, anyway we don’t need to feel yet another worker is watching us” This debate was deferred to the new year as tonight was more of an introduction session to the work rather than an active work based session. • Keeley spoke about plans to develop a virtual school council which will sit alongside the existing NICC and link to it. It is likely to take a virtual format and some support from the NICC around 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to have a discussion around do we need to raise awareness with LAC about the role of the Virtual School, and DTs • A small group to support the model design of the Virtual school council. • Keeley to revisit the group in the future and close contact will be maintained via pieces of work being requested around the topics discussed tonight. • The group thanked Keeley for coming along and wanted it noted during

		<p>its development will be needed. The NICC were happy to volunteer to support this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeley also mentioned that she would like their support around training staff and any resource development, service changes that may take place in partnership with the Council once set up. • During a conversation around the role of the specialist learning support assistants comments were made around young people should be asked. Whilst it was recognised that it is important that young people are kept informed the worker did challenge the comment that in their role as a corporate parent they felt it was good parenting to make sure this was put in place. In the same way a parent would put their foot down because they wanted the best long term outcomes for their children looked after children deserved that same style of parenting. • Again the group were very happy to support this. • The topic of being bullied due to being LAC within schools was raised again. Keeley reassured the group that this was something she was aware of and would be looking to tackle. The group again offered their support if it would help • Ofsted's comments around poor personal education plans (PEP) were raised by Keeley as she was aware that the group were to look through the Ofsted report in the later part of their meeting. She mentioned the development of an electronic PEP and again asked if the NICC would be happy to comment on this once developed. Again the group were very happy to volunteer • The group during AOB discussions commented that they felt confident that Keeley was the right person to take the Virtual school forward they 	<p>A.O.B that they were keen to work with her on any aspects of the Virtual School they can especially the development of a Virtual school council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add to an NICC session a discussion around when does the voice of the child over rule what is seen as good parenting.
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		commented on her excellent communication skills and her commitment to involving children and young people in her work. They wanted to extend their thanks to Chris Snudden who they felt had done a great job during her time as head and that they looked forward to continuing and building on their relationship with the virtual school	
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