

PDS – July 11th 2017

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Member of Youth Parliament for BaNES

The way I work

Listen to what impacts young people most



Campaign on the issue



Reflect on the results



SICC Update

What do we do?

We are a group of young people aged 11-18 who campaign to better the lives of young people in Foster Care.

Our campaigns

- The Pledge – we monitor the Pledge and discuss with BANES what we think they are doing well and what needs to be built on. We fed back this back to corporate parents and the Children in Care and Moving Team.
- We wrote interview question and scored them and gave feedback for the IRO/CP position, this resulted in them not giving them the job and re-advertising the position.
- We met with Lesley and Dami to explore and develop our understanding of the LSCB.

Our campaigns

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- Mental Health - We attended a London trip with other young people in foster care/care leavers around the UK to discuss Mental Health and how we can improve services for young people in care.
- We engaged within the Ofsted process by delivering a presentation about what SICC and JICC do. We also asked questions to develop our understanding of how services receive feedback from Ofsted and what difference it makes. The Ofsted Inspector was impressed with our commitment to campaigning whilst juggling school and our home lives. There are several positive comments about our group in the report.

Our campaigns

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- One of our group went to present to students studying Education at Bath Spa University about foster care and my life. They tested students knowledge of the Care system with a quiz. They were described as 'an inspiration'.
- I created a bank of all interview questions we have written - these are going to be used across BANES services for recruitment. Examples of positions we have recruited for are Virtual Head and LSCB chair.
- Made a leaving card for Mike Gorman - then met the new Virtual Head and raised points that are important us including work experience.
- Starting to make our local hoodies but are looking for a company to help us make them.

Our campaigns

- We are working on ensuring PSHE lessons include 'Curriculum for Life' and have discussed our ideas with Kate Murphy (BANES Anti-Bullying and PSHE Lead). As MYP, I am creating a resource bank which will be called a 'Curriculum for Life' pack and will include the fabulous resources we have made including a Podcast made with Somer Valley FM.

How are we getting more young people involved?

- Inviting them to help design our hoodies.
- When we make a change making sure that SICC is mentioned, this raises awareness of our group e.g the IRO's mentioning our feedback in their consultation letters.
- We have increased Social Workers and IROs knowledge of our group by meeting with them and inviting them to our events.

Our campaigns - what's next?

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- We will be developing our initial plans to create a resource for schools based on foster care, in the media of film.
- To enable us to do this successfully, we will be holding a 'have your say' session to engage with young people who may not want to commit to attending our bi-weekly sessions - including care leavers and the JICC.

Our campaigns - what's next?

- Meet the PSHE Leads in schools so they understand why this campaign is so important for us.
- Create a 'model' Confidentiality Policy around working with young people in Care that can be used in BANES and beyond...
- SICC are currently working as part of a team of young people analysing over 1,000 responses to a Mental Health Survey written and circulated by BANES Youth Forum.
- As a longer term project to consult young LAC People (of all abilities) about which shops/activities they would like discounts on a campaign to get these discounts.
- Inputting to the mental health training delivered to Social Workers to ensure it covers what we think is important and is delivered in a way that works for young people.
- Help us promote the CAMHS mental health packs that we contributed look after scenarios for.

Our campaigns - what's next?

- Support Social Workers to ensure they are confident in delivering life story work to young people
- Ensure Social Workers are trained in helping young people with their mental health, including anger management.
- Helping and making sure schools, Social Workers, IROs help promote and secure work experience as promised in the BANES Pledge to all young people in foster care.
- Ensuring the confidentiality letter is sent to schools at the start of an academic year as well as when a new Head teacher or designated teacher is in post.

Our plan

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Due to the time we have set aside for consultation in the previous year, as a group we have decided to create a freeze period for consultation between September and Christmas. This will enable us to prioritise the PSHE film we have been planning for just under a year.



Youth Forum Update

Our campaigns

- Being part of the immunisation commission
- CAMHS procurement - young people's group
- Worked within the 'Your Care, Your Way' commission, taking part in scoring the bids. We then met with new provider - Virgin Care.
- Designed a Young Parliament Day workshop on the benefits and barriers to volunteering
- Designed and delivered a Primary Parliament Day workshop on 'Making a Difference'

Our campaigns

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- Met local MPs about Don't Hate, Educate campaign, focusing on tackling racism and religious discrimination, gender equality campaign and mental health
- Along with SICC and SPACE, we contributed to the CAMHS mental health packs
- I wrote a 'Don't Hate, Educate' workshop that was used by MYPs across the UK
- We created a widget ballot paper of Make Your Mark that was used nationwide
- Two members delivered a participation workshop to the Off The Record staff on their team day



**Make
Your Mark**



Make your mark

--- Make Your Mark is the UK's largest youth lead ballot

Last year 969,992 young people expressed what matters most to them through Make Your Mark. This year we are striving for one million.

Make Your Mark is one of the best ways for me to find out exactly what matters to young people!

Last year in BANES the issue with the highest votes was Curriculum for Life!

Make Your Mark

Every year the MYPs from across the country meet in the House of Commons to discuss the things that are most important to young people. From this next year's campaigns are decided.

Help you can support Make Your Mark this year:

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Encourage schools to sign up and highlight the importance of young people taking part in this democratic process.

Our first step

We informed each school of the breakdown of the results from their school as well as locally, regionally and nationally to enable teachers to deliver these in PSHE lessons to their pupils.

What actions have the Youth Forum taken?

We have planned a mental health project to help create a realistic view of particular mental health illnesses. The project will involve a physical resource available for schools to use. They will be included in the 'Curriculum For Life' packs I am planning as my MYP project.

My goal

By the end of my term, I would like to have created a PSHE pack based on the results of make your mark and in consultation with BANES young people. So far, flyers for various youth groups, the SICC podcasts, the Youth Forum Gender Equality Film and SICC's what makes a good LAC teacher are part of the proposed contents.

Thank you

