

# Information for Carers



# Children in Care Council



VOICE & PARTICIPATION TEAM



## What is the Children in Care Council?

The Children in Care Council (CICC) is a group for young people in care to share their views, enjoy a safe space, feel heard and improve services that they receive. Every local authority needs opportunities to enable young people to inform services. This group aligns to article 12 of UN convention on the rights of the child, that states that children and young people should have the right to 'express their views' and the views are given 'due weight'. Our voice and participation work is underpinned by the Lundy model of Participation.

## What do we do

The Children in Care Council (CICC) is for any young people in care aged 11-17. The group meet every other Tuesday in Worthing and Horsham from 5.30-7.30pm. The meetings are a mixture of **fun** and **focused** tasks with breaks. Young people can work on their own campaigns or we work on improving internal and external processes and policies within the care system. It is a safe space for young people to be themselves and identify with others in care. Collectively the group really does make a difference to change and improve outcomes for young people we care for!

## What we don't do

The group is not about individual issues (although if it is a safeguarding issue, this will be passed on) or we will ring the carer if we are worried. Its more about young people coming together with common ground to address and raise the things that matter to them as young people in care. This is feedback to the appropriate service/ heads of service.

## Did you know?

We also have a Junior Children in Care Council and a group for over 18s called Care Leavers Advisory Board (CLAB)

## How it works

- Yourself, social worker or any professional needs to contact the Participation team (Claire)
- A visit will take place, giving more information to the young person. It is up to the young person to decide if they would like to attend.
- It is the responsibility of the carer to transport the young person to and from the meetings (although issues with transport can be flexible and discussed)
- We always have food and refreshments at the meetings.
- Meetings are fully staffed by the Voice and Participation team, along with partners, such as social workers and fostering. We also have visits from heads of service and elected members

## How to contact us

Speak to your Supervising Social worker/Social worker or contact Claire Tooke direct on [claire.tooke@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:claire.tooke@westsussex.gov.uk)

Mob: 07860258243

(Participation officer for Children we care for and Care Leavers) or Team Manager: Toby Wilson on [toby.wilson@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:toby.wilson@westsussex.gov.uk)

