



Spring 2020

# Children in Care Council

**"We're a group of young people in care from across West Sussex. We meet to get our voices heard and to improve services for children and young people in care."**

The **EPIC** (Exceptional People in Care) Awards have been running for nine years and there's now only eight more months until our November event! These events are so important to celebrate the achievements of children and young people in care and care leavers. A professional that works with you, or your foster carer can nominate you to win an award!

**Nominate here:** [www.westsussex.gov.uk/epic](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/epic)

We're there helping on stage and supporting during the day, so come and say hi or ask us for more information about the CICC (Children in Care Council). CICC is a session where we can share our views and help shape service design in WSCC (West Sussex County Council) so it's pretty important to have lots of voices. We also meet important bosses and leaders as well as taking part in fun days to build our team-working skills. There's sessions in Horsham and Littlehampton. **Come and join us!**



## CICC NEWS!!

"So, we have been busy this new year. We have met the new Chief Executive of West Sussex, Becky Shaw. She wanted to know more about the CICC and views of young people in care. We had pizza (I had Margarita!) We also met Paul Marshall, who is the new leader of West Sussex County Council. He wanted to know things about our PEPS, meetings and CLA reviews and whether they're working well or not.

We have been to the Harvester for a meal... this was a freebie and a thank you to the CICC members for all of their participation!

There is now a new club called 'Our Voice Matters' which is for young people who don't want to come to CICC, but want to meet others in care so they feel included. There will be games, cooking, art and more! For more information email [toby.wilson@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:toby.wilson@westsussex.gov.uk)" - **Written by a CICC Member**

All of our newsletters are on Your Space, a website designed for young people in West Sussex. Have a look at what activities and campaigns we've been getting up to at: [www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk](http://www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk)



You can self-refer by visiting:  
[www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk/advocacy](http://www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk/advocacy)  
 Call: 0330 222 8686

**Do you want help being heard?**

An advocate is an **independent** person who helps you speak up for yourself. They also give advice, make you aware of your rights, listen to you and represent your views, wishes and feelings. An advocate will support you so that you can have your say about the care and services you receive.

**Would you like an Independent Visitor (IV)?**

An IV is a volunteer, who wants to get to know you and spend time with you. They are there to support, listen and advise you but most importantly have fun!

Talk to your social worker, carer or your IRO or contact our team on 0330 222 8990  
 Email: [Independent.Visitors@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Independent.Visitors@westsussex.gov.uk)



**"We've got a good connection- a lot of similarities and interests. We enjoy the same things. It's like having a more mature friend- and a chance to go out and do things!"**

**Our Pledge to Children who are Looked After and Care Leavers**

Our aim is for all our children and young people in West Sussex to be safe, resilient and realising their potential and aspirations.

This is our commitment to you:

- We will keep you safe
- We will listen to your views and opinions
- We will support you to achieve or exceed your goals and aspirations

*"I'd like an advent calendar at Christmas - this is what parents do for their kids"*

*"My social worker helps to keep me safe."*

*"Support us more with housing...we can't just go back to parents if we muck up"*

**We're creating a new pledge this April!**

Last year we created a pledge. "What is this?" I hear you say... well it's a commitment from West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) for us as children in care and care leavers. They've created a list of what they will do, for example keeping us safe, listening to our views and supporting us to achieve or exceed our goals and aspirations. You can read more about this on Yourspace. **WATCH THIS SPACE** for the new pledge in the next newsletter!



Did you know there's **36 libraries** in West Sussex? They're open Monday-Saturday, are **free** to join and they let you borrow books for **free!** They've got computers to help with your homework and every library has free WiFi. Visit a library today to find out more!

**What You Need To Know...**

Every local authority has a Children in Care Council (CICC) and we are the CICC of West Sussex! This newsletter has been produced by West Sussex County Council's Voice and Participation Team and approved by the West Sussex CICC. For more information, feel free to contact [cicc@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cicc@westsussex.gov.uk)

