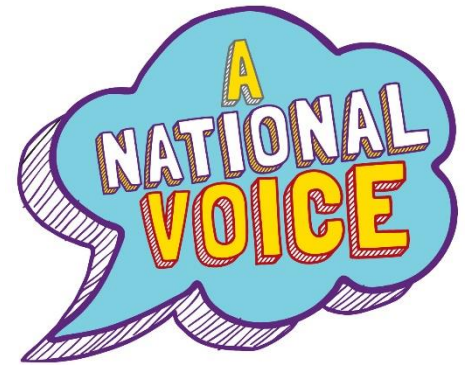


Spotlight
on practice



Rights & Voice

Medway Council – MCYPC
CiCC

Partnership with Corporate Parenting Board

July 2023

Medway's Children and Young People council submitted a nomination to the ANV awards - they created a video to showcase a wide range of activities – the positive partnership with the corporate parenting board has been highlighted as a strength by Ofsted. Work included the creation of Professional standards for social workers.

This is a practice example from A NATIONAL VOICE

<https://coramvoice.org.uk/for-professionals/co-production-and-participation-with-young-people/>

Why?

The ANV AMPLIFY awards aim to champion and recognise the work of children in care councils and care leaver forums. They were held in October 2022 ([Amplify - Coram Voice](#)) – Medway children in care council (MCYPC) were nominated for the ‘Voice award’. [ANV Awards Nominations - Medway Children and Young People Council Video - YouTube](#)

What did they do?

MCYPC (<https://ylf.org.uk/mcypc/>) is a forum where young people in Medway’s care can come together – they meet with the Director of Children’s Services and other senior managers – they discuss issues and concerns about the care system & suggest changes and help with the future developments of these improvements. They include young people in lots of ways: surveys, online activities, workshops, fun activities and 1-2-1 sessions.

The group have agreed 5 annual corporate parenting board themes, they have a timetable & work on one area at a time – corporate parents agree 3 actions per theme to act upon what young people have said:

1. Health and support
2. Feeling safe & cared for
3. Education & work
4. Home & housing
5. Feeling listened to.

What difference is it making?

The corporate parenting board take the time to get to know young people in care & care leavers – they make sure they say goodbye if they move on & hold regular informal events & invite corporate parents to hang out with them (on their terms).

MCYP co-deliver training to workers to help them understand the needs of young people. They have also helped shape the job descriptions for social workers - creating Top 10 Professional Standards for social workers that were important to them.

The board has been praised by Ofsted:

“A well-organised corporate parenting board, with members who listen carefully to the views of the highly impressive Children in Care Council, continues with its commitment to fulfil its corporate responsibilities.”

(Ofsted,

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50185960>)

MCYPC
created Top 10
Professional
Standards for
social workers
– these now
features in the
Job
Descriptions of
Social Workers
in Medway

TOP 10!

- A Good Listener**
Have at least 1 ear for me
- Non-Judgemental**
If we are in care does that make us a problem?
- Consistent and Stable**
Be there for me, stick by me
- Contactable**
Can i reach you? Will you make time for me?
- Understanding**
Put yourself in my shoes, don't feel sorry for me
- Honest**
Don't beat around the bush, just tell me!
- Focused**
See me for me, I'm not just another number
- Realistic**
Don't make me a promise you can't keep
- Good Timekeeper**
It's just good manners!
- Resourceful**
Be creative, the same approach won't always work!

Do you meet
Medway
Young People's
TOP 10
professional
standards ?