

Rights & Voice

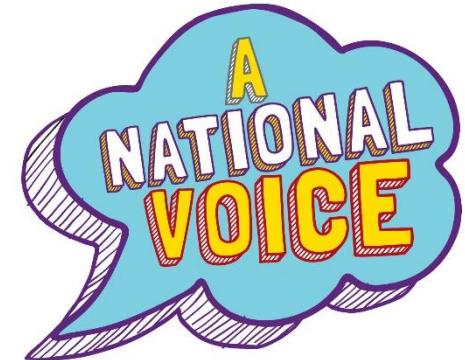
Medway Council – MCYPC
CiCC

Partnership with Corporate Parenting Board

July 2023

This is a practice example from A NATIONAL VOICE

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



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.

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).

MCYPC 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 ?**

MCYPC
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1119528

Medway
Serving You