

Title of Report: Gateshead's First Care Experienced Young Ambassadors

Purpose of the report

- 1 To provide Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a summary of the work carried out by Gateshead's first care experienced young ambassadors.

Background

- 2 Our first care experienced young ambassadors Aisha Imran, Jake Curbison and Mariceu Neto took up their posts in January 2022. The posts were contracted for 6 hours per week and fixed term for 18 months.
- 3 These posts were ringfenced for cared for and care experienced young people aged between 16-25 years from Gateshead.
- 4 These young people would represent and champion the views and needs of Cared For and Care Experienced Children and Young People. The ambassadors were assigned to two themes of the Corporate Parenting Partnership.
- 5 Aisha, Jake and Mariceu were involved in many pieces of work including:
 - Delivering training to Elected Members
 - Working directly with young people to champion their needs.
 - Attending an event at the Houses of Parliament to lobby MPs about the independent review of Children's Social Care.
 - Delivering their own projects e.g. Healthy Relationships Sessions.
 - Being part of many meetings/project working groups representing other children and young people.
 - Reviewing the Care Leavers App.
- 6 The Ambassadors work plan is attached to this report for information.
- 7 Aisha Jake and Mariceu left the Council's employment in July 2023 when their fixed term contract came to an end.
- 8 Recruitment for the next round of young ambassadors has taken place. Seventeen young people submitted applications and were interviewed. Three candidates have been offered posts subject to references.

Proposal and/or Issues for consideration

- 9 Aisha will attend The Families OSC meeting on the 19th October to share some of the work they delivered and her experiences of being one of Gateshead's first Care Experienced Young Ambassadors.

Communications Implications

- 10 None

Recommendations

- 11 Members are recommended to:
- (a) Note the work of the Young Ambassadors.

Consultees:

The following officers have been consulted on the preparation of this report:

Paige Thomason
Aisha Imran
Children's SMT

Contact:

Chris Hulme, Children's Rights Officer

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Appendix 1: Young Ambassadors Work Plan

Activity/ Objective	Tasks	Timescale	With
Corporate Parenting Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver session to Families OSC (Prior to starting posts) • Deliver additional session on Teams – offered to all elected members. 	December 2021 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development
Review Looked After Children’s Service Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in session to review service plan and contribute to updated plan. 	Quarterly meetings prior to full CPP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bev Hunter Smith • Other Young People
Recruitment of new DCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in online interviews for new DCS, alongside Gateshead Youth Assembly, One Voice Youth Network and SEND Youth Forum. 	March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources
Corporate Parenting Board/Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend meetings when required (and available). • Work between meetings on issues identified by young people and Councillors. 	As and when required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Officers • Councillors
Mockingbird	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in working group meetings • Assist with face-to-face events • Meet young people in groups. 	As and when required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering Team • Michelle Steriker • Jill Little
Care Pledge and Standards of Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation about new care pledge priorities launched with staff prior to wider roll out. • Assist with reviewing and amend pledge 	Ongoing Jan 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people • Officers

AYSE Academy Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and deliver a session for the launch event for the Gateshead Academy. 		<p>Workforce Development</p> <p>Principal Social Worker</p>
Annual Survey for Care Experienced and Cared for Children and Young People.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign annual surveys to be delivered in Dec/January – working with Chris and Workstream Leads. Surveys to reviewed by partners. Surveys to be more targeted 	May 2023	<p>CPP</p> <p>QA</p>
Regional Children in Care Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YA to participate in the regional CiCC. Represent Gateshead's Young People Take part in regional Care Leavers Board and working group. 	Ongoing Ongoing	Regional Partners
Children's Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit homes regularly and chat with young people. Contribute to Reg44 visits and liase with Kim Leighton 	Ongoing	<p>Kim Leighton</p> <p>Gary Hays</p> <p>Linda Roberts</p> <p>Danielle Nicholson</p>
Social Media Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure social media accounts are used and updated including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instagram (childrensrightsgateshead) Twitter (@RightsGHD) Facebook (Gateshead Children's Rights and Engagement Team) 	Ongoing	Chris Hulme
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with planning for Summer programme for Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People. Attend sessions and encourage participation. 	<p>Summer Holidays</p> <p>October Half Term</p> <p>Christmas</p>	<p>Bev Hunter Smith</p> <p>Big Red Bus</p> <p>Digital Me</p>
TikTok Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested project from Mariceu. Funding Secured Sessions planned for summer holidays. Launch videos on TicTok 	<p>July 2022</p> <p>November 2022</p>	<p>Digital Voice for Communities</p> <p>Bev Hunter Smith</p> <p>Chris Hulme</p>

Its Our Care Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend “Its Our Care – Day of Action” event In houses of Parliament and Lobby MP’s from our region. • Link with other groups from the North East 	<p>June 2022</p> <p>January 2023</p>	Chris Hulme
Agency Staff Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with delivering training to Agency Staff who were looking after a Gatshead child. • Shared own experiences of being looked after. 	August 2022	<p>Workforce Development</p> <p>Chris Hulme</p>
Annual Celebrating Achievement Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in planning group • Assist with running the event. • Speak to other young people and feed views into planning group. • Help with evaluation. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>November 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People • Virtual Head • Various departments • Senior managers
Healthy Relationships Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver sessions to young people in Longside and Kites Rise with Laura from the DA team. 	October Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Moat • Danielle Nicholson • Linda Roberts
SAILS Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in working group session • Get views of young people who have experienced SAILS 	November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement • Housing • Commissioning
Youth Justice Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent young people on the board and contribute as needed. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Justice Service
Care Leavers App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to other young people about what should be on the app • Work with Digital Team to support development of new site. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •