



HELLO!

Hackney of Tomorrow is our Children in Care Council, which is made up of looked after children and care leavers from the London Borough of Hackney.

Our aim is to make sure that young people have the chance to shape and influence the services that affect their lives.

Since April 2019, we've had seven monthly meetings, with more than twenty young people joining up as Care Council Representatives. These young people have had the chance to advise social workers and senior management within Hackney's Children and Families Services. They have also had the opportunity to receive paid work experience, taking part in projects that enable them to influence the way that Hackney looks after the young people in its care.

We'll be writing to you every three months to keep you up to date on what we've been doing. But first, we thought that we'd let you know what we've achieved so far...

FOX IN A BOX



Hackney of Tomorrow have already had their first activity, taking eleven young people to Fox in a Box, an escape room in Dalston!

MAY



In May, a group of asylum seeking young people formed their own sub-committee within the Care Council. They are currently working on producing a series of films in multiple different languages, which will welcome other unaccompanied asylum seeking children to Hackney.



Throughout May and June, Representatives from Hackney of Tomorrow reviewed the semi-independent accommodation that Hackney uses for young people over the age of 18. During this review, Representatives interviewed over thirty young people, asking them to assess the quality of the accommodation and support that they receive from their key workers. Representatives were then asked to write a report and make recommendations that will be used to inform Hackney's decision on which accommodation providers they work with in the future.





In May, Care Council Representatives took part in the Corporate Parenting Strategy Workshop, in which social workers and service managers met up in order to re-think the commitments that they make to looked after children and care leavers from Hackney.

Care Council Representatives have formed several interview panels, giving young people the chance to participate in the recruitment of new members of staff entering Hackney's Children and Families Service. So far, these have included an Independent Reviewing Officer and a Children's Rights Officer.

JULY

In July, Care Council Representatives formed a focus group to discuss how young people's ethnic identity can affect their experience of being in care. The points and issues raised by the young people were then presented to social workers and social worker managers at the Children and Families Practice week.

AUGUST

In August, Care Council Representatives consulted with the director of Hackney's Children and Family Services, Sarah Wright. During their meeting, Representatives discussed a series of issues that they considered to be of importance, including the quality of foster carers recruited by Hackney, as well as the accommodation providers commissioned by the Borough.

Care Council Representatives have started filming a video for the LAC Health Team, which aims to encourage young people in care to attend their initial LAC Health Assessments. They have also started producing a documentary film for the Fostering Service, which aims to highlight the specific issues that young people with afro-hair experience in their journey through the care system.

OCTOBER

In October, Care Council Representatives gave a presentation to service managers and Hackney councillors at the Corporate Parenting Board. The presentation focused on the financial issues that care leavers face when living in semi-independent accommodation and highlighted the need for corporate parents to provide care leavers with safe and affordable places to live.

Care Council Representatives have formed a committee that will help organise the EPIC Awards in April 2020, so as to ensure that young people are at the centre of the ceremony throughout its development.

In October, Care Council Representatives were asked to act as Young Commissioners, forming interview panels and assessing different service providers that applied to manage Hackney's Family Contact Service at the Ferncliff Centre.



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