

## CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL (CiCC) DECEMBER, 2013 MEETING

@ Hill End, Oxford

Oxfordshire County Council Engagement Team

CiCC is a group of children and young people with experience of being in care. They meet with Directors and Managers of services to talk about ways of improving the care system in Oxfordshire.

### What was this meeting about?

Education - how to raise aspirations and about the new children's home's being built in Oxfordshire, the design and how they should operate. CiCC were then treated to a festive dinner, sponsored by the Oxfordshire Fostering Association.

### Education – Designated Teachers & raising aspirations

CiCC members said "Your care status is not kept confidential in schools by teachers and this has been an issue for a long time". CiCC members also said "There is a need to know who your Designated Teacher is when you come into care."

### What helps you have high aspirations?

"Teachers who give their time and enthusiasm." "Work experience helped me feel motivated." "The Raise Team, now Virtual School helped me to spend time at University – I got the information I needed." "Having someone to come to my house, a Virtual School Learning Mentor, helped me pass my exams."

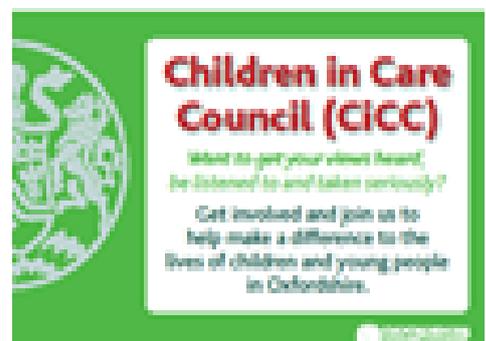
**Actions:** the Anti-Bullying Coordinator is attending a future CiCC meeting to help CiCC break the stigma of being in care in schools and the community. Messages are being fed into Designated Teacher/Headteacher conferences and fed into the Virtual School annual report.



**"Not all children from bad backgrounds do bad things –  
we can achieve great things in life."**

### Reaching out and involving all children and young people in care:

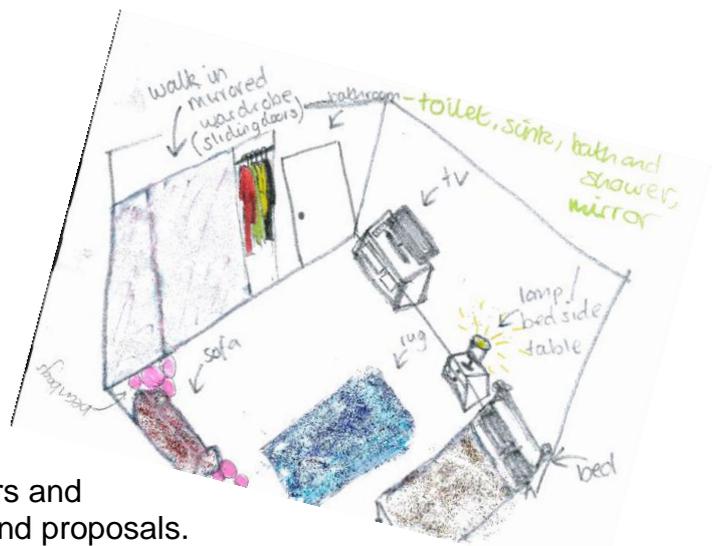
- We've created an information and recruitment card (pictured) and that's gone out widely
- Started a survey of all CYP in the care system.
- Better use of the CYP website: [www.oxme.info/care](http://www.oxme.info/care)
- Redesigning the complaints and compliments process & sub group discussions around the county on the topics CiCC are discussing
  - Complaints and Compliments - contact 01865 323589  
Text: 07717420419 or email [commentsandcomplaints@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:commentsandcomplaints@oxfordshire.gov.uk)
  - Virtual School – contact 01865 256640 or email [virtualschool.LAC@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool.LAC@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



**A discussion on the new Children's Homes: we asked...**

**How environments help you feel safe and well cared for & how they have influenced your experience of being looked after.**

During the workshops the young people helped to define the differences between these two types of homes, their requirements and characters by coming come up with ideas for making them as good as possible for Oxfordshire's future young people.



**Actions** from this discussion:  
Members will now meet with designers and architects to put forward their ideas and proposals.

### **Involvement in National Care projects:**

At the 'All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children' the Entitlement Inquiry Report was launched and will be included in the Pledge to CiCC. The report shows 10 important things care leavers and looked after children are entitled to.

**"I know I've got a care plan but I don't know what is in it."**

The Young People's Benchmarking Forum (YPBMF - young people in care who meet to discuss leaving care issues) made a film to show the positive side of being a care. CiCC members completed a 3 year mapping project which looked at how effective CiCC were nation-wide. Following this our Corporate Parenting Manager and CiCC Chairs met 'A National Voice' (an organisation run for and by young people in care) to learn how CiCC can be more effective and work better with Corporate Parents. For information visit: [www.oxme.info/care](http://www.oxme.info/care) or [www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk](http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk) or [www.leavingcare.org](http://www.leavingcare.org)

## **Festive meal & Wish tree**

CiCC members were treated to a festive meal, thanks to the Oxfordshire Fostering Association



### **CiCC wishes...**

"I wish for everyone to be happy and grateful for life."

"I wish to be in my dream career this time next year."

"Unlimited chocolate for life!"



**Wish Tree**

**"We wish you a Happy New Year"**

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