



CYPC



Children and Young People Council

A) Introduction:

"Asking children and young people about the care they receive should happen all the time but often they are not asked these questions and not involved in important decisions about themselves".

At UK Fostering our aim is to change this.

B) Our Pledge:

1. Actively involve young people in making decisions.
2. We will work with you to keep you safe and help you to keep yourself safe.
3. We will help you achieve what you are capable of in your education.
4. We will respect your individual wants and needs.
5. We will help you keep in touch with people who are important to you.
6. We will make sure you know the names of your SSW and SW at all times.
7. We will support you to have different experiences.
8. We will encourage you to keep healthy and well.
9. We will help and support you to sort out any problems you have.
10. We will help you move on into adult life.



C) The idea of CYPC:

The CYPC is a group of children and young people who are all cared for by UK Fostering and it gives children and young people a chance to speak their views and impact the services and support they receive.

It gives children and young people a chance to have their say about things that really matter to them, within a group where they can talk openly and UK Fostering can do all they can to then help.

D) Purpose of the CYPC within UK Fostering:

- Work towards getting positive change and outcomes for all looked after children, by working with all professionals linked to their care.
- To form links with other young people and individuals in the CYPC. To work on a pledge - a promise made to children and young people including care leavers, written by the young people.
- Reflect the views of all children and young people from sessions.
- Help children within UK Fostering to have the best opportunities in life.

E) How will CYPC work?

The group will fulfil its purpose by:

1. Creating links with key people such as regional heads, team managers and social workers.
2. Getting involved in reviewing and designing materials for events, plus thoughts on children and young people's handbooks, memory boxes, newsletter, questionnaires and

- feedback forms, design of leaflets and posters, Christmas and Birthday cards etc.
3. Getting involved in planning events such as summer activities, Christmas, Eid and other festive, cultural or religious specific events etc.
 4. The chance at times to get involved in recruitment of UK Fostering staff.
 5. Support in developing the Children's Portal.
 6. Getting involved in delivering training for foster carers, staff etc.
 7. Working in partnership with CYPC coordinators.

F) Membership

1. Membership will be young people who are interested in helping the group to reach its goals (between the ages of 12 to 18 years), regardless if they are under fostering, staying put/continuing care arrangements or a birth child.
2. Any member may resign by informing the coordinator or their representative.
3. The CYPC's way of sorting out concerns about behaviours will be done following a set procedure agreed by its members.
4. The coordinator of CYPC will advise, assist and support members of CYPC.



G) Set Up of CYPC:

1. There will ideally be a minimum of 8 members on the CYPC; 2 children and young people from each region.
2. Memberships will last for 12 months, then new members will be selected.
3. Candidates must be between 12 and 18 years. It is the responsibility of the members to ensure the voice of children under the age of 12 are included.
4. There will be a coordinator and SSW (representative) from each region.

H) Position and Roles

1. Coordinator (chair of meeting)
2. Representative (regional SSWs)
3. Members (children and young person)

I) Management of CYPC

1. The CYPC will be managed by the coordinator, representatives and members.
2. The coordinator and representatives will meet to plan the plan for the CYPC.
3. If the coordinator is unable to make the meeting, a representative may step temporarily.
4. The coordinator will advise, assist and support with both the election and management of CYPC.

J) CYPC meetings

1. CYPC will meet at least 3 times per year.
2. The coordinator will usually chair these meetings.
3. We encourage all members to attend each meeting if possible.
4. The coordinator and representatives shall be accountable to the members of CYPC at all times.

5. Voting on issues at CYPC shall be by show of hands on a majority basis. If there is a draw, then the coordinator shall have a second vote.
6. CYPC can set up subgroups and working parties if they wish; these will report to the CYPC.
7. The coordinator and other staff with significant responsibilities within UK Fostering will be invited to CYPC's meetings depending on the subject up for discussion (e.g. resources for activities, recruitment, CSE, education, safeguarding etc).
8. All meetings will be minuted and sent to all members.
9. Members will be given at least 5 days notice of a meeting.

The coordinator will advise, assist and support in the preparation, planning and running of the CYPC meeting.

K) CYPC 12-month report

1. The CYPC coordinator and co-coordinators will produce a yearly CYPC report. This will include a review feedback and recommendations.
2. The Report shall also include;
 - The group's activities over the year.
 - A proposal for the next year.
 - Any other matters as may be appropriate at such meetings.



L) Alteration in Group structure:

1. Proposals for changes to the group must be discussed with the coordinator.
2. The coordinator and representatives shall take the proposals to the next CYPC meeting.
3. Any changes to the group must be discussed with and agreed by all members of CYPC.
4. The group will be reviewed after every change or election on a yearly basis.

