

Newsletter

Cumbria Children in Care Council

Cumbria CiCC May Forum - "May Day, Fun Day"



The Cumbria CiCC May Forum was the culmination of the #CiCC Campaign, which was about ensuring all Cumbria's Children Looked After were aware of the CiCC and what they do. The aim of the May Day Forum was to gain the wider views of children and young people outside of the CiCC meetings.

The Forum was attended by 56 young people, from around the County and this included 3 young people who are placed out of county.

"We had a fantastic time and there was lots of things to do"



"There was an amazing selection of food and I definitely didn't go short"



"I really enjoyed the day and I do not regret it at all. I will remember it"



The Day Itself!

The day started with travelling from all areas of Cumbria, some travelled from outside of Cumbria, to Keswick. Here we caught a launch boat and travelled over Derwent Water to Hawes End. When we arrived here everyone was welcomed and introduced to the activities on offer. There was:

- Fire activities
- Nail painting
- Photo booth
- Crafty voice arts and crafts designed by young people to gather the wider voice- Message in a bottle
 - Priority voting
 - Decorate a home
 - Footprints
 - A positive note



The Wider Voice

It was important to those young people who already attend their local CiCC meetings that we hear the wider voice of Children Looked After, therefore the arts and craft activities were designed and planned by the young people to do this.

“I hope we can do it more often as I made some friends that I really want to see again”

Message in a Bottle

This activity was about young people writing a message to those in charge. Some responses were:

“More opportunities for young people to speak in front of officials”

“Get our voices heard more”

“That you are not listening to us, you are not learning from what we have to say”

Footprints

The young people had to consider “We can leave footprints wherever we go, what would you like your footprint of your experience of care to look like” and then decorate some footprints. Some responses were:

“Nice Family, Nice Friends”

“Good Experience”

“It is so much fun”

“It was a fun day that everyone enjoyed”



Decorate a Home

The young people decorated a house and were asked to put words/sentences inside about what made a good foster home. Some of the responses were:

“Love”

“Laughter”

“Foster carers who are trained in mental health”

“Carers who don’t compare us to their own children”



A Positive Note

These were postcards, with different questions on, that the young people could fill in. Some of the responses were:

I would like the CiCC to support/look into?

- Cycling
- Stress relieving activities
- Life skills
- Having more foster carers
- Child sexual exploitation
- Getting our voices heard more

What difference would you like to make?

- More foster carers
- Ensure equality between everyone
- Help young people in foster care
- Have better things to do
- Life is good, no change needed!

What do you wish you had been told?

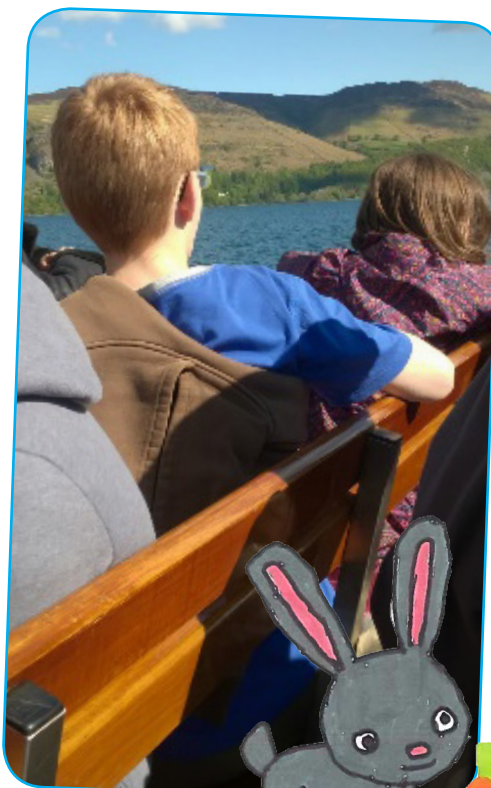
- That you don't get taken without warning
- That CiCC is fun
- That being in foster care isn't easy

What matters to you?

- People understanding that kids in care are normal people and not "special" or "unloved"

What piece of advice would you like to share?

- Never let anyone push you around or treat you like a second class citizen
- Use NYAS



"Ghyll Scrambling was great"



"I really liked it"

CiCC Priority Voting

During the meeting all young people were asked to vote on priorities that the young people in the local CiCC's had identified. Each young person was asked to vote on the three that they felt were important to them.

The top three were;

- Life Skills (budgeting, finance, interviews, confidence out and about): 39 votes
- Pocket Money: 20 votes
- Post 16 Education choices: 18 votes

Once the young people had completed some of the "Crafty Voice" activities they were able to have their photos taken in the photo booth. This was a hit with everyone and the young people were able to get photographs taken with the new friends that they had made.

Some of them got their nails painted, with a huge choice of colours, while others went outside to work with sticks and build fires. There was a huge crowd of young people for this activity! The young people then had a fantastic lunch, with plenty of choice and options.

In the afternoon the young people completed the activity they had already chosen; ghyll scrambling, archery or canoeing. These activities were challenging, but great fun, even though we got soaked!



“It was a great day”

So, what next?

Well, the #CiCC campaign was about informing more young people about the CiCC's in their areas about what they do, when they meet and that they would like them to come along.

In this respect the #CiCC campaign was a success, each area has more young people attending the meetings, including some young people placed out of the county. This means that we are hearing from a wider Children Looked After voice, getting a wider view of what is important to these young people. However, the CiCC's are not about the number of young people who attend the monthly meetings, they are about making positive changes for young people living in care, so listening to more young people allows them to more accurately identify where the changes need to be made, what they should be looking further into and what should be the priorities of the CiCC.

The forum helped us to identify the three priorities and the CiCC's are now going to look at these in more detail in their areas and bring together this information at the County CiCC in November, where we will be looking at the difference we can make to these priorities, for the benefit of all Cumbria's Children Looked After.



“I really enjoyed”

