

# Thurrock Young Voices - Corporate Parenting Committee Report October 2024

Corporate Parenting Report October 2024

## What have we been doing since the last Corporate Parenting Committee?



Young Voices have had a very busy summer of fun activities, groups, an information event planned and hosted by us and also an opportunity to meet with Ofsted Inspectors! We are just settling back into our routines now and some of us have started College or University Courses but are still eager to start making plans for the months ahead, including Christmas!

## Progress on our 2024 goals...

Our goals for 2024-

- **To bring Back the 'Power of Participation' Workshop for workers (Run by young people)** - Now running regularly.
- **More activities with workers involved - football/ sports suggested** - Football with staff is a new offer and really popular.
- **Two big events for Young People per year, like 'Young Voices at Grangewaters'** - We have held Children in Care Awards, Grangewaters annual event and a Local Offer information day hosted by young people. We are planning Christmas events currently.

- **Young Voices Member packs including t-shirt and hoodie** - These are now in place.
- **Create a Young Inspectors Programme** - We have a date in November for the first training of young people with a plan to do our first inspection of Semi-Independent Accommodation Inspection in December.

## Power of Participation Workshop



10 Young People facilitated this fantastic in person workshop for workers across two dates. On 17th May 28 workers attended and on 29th July, 16 workers attended.

The training was designed and facilitated by the young people. The young people delivered thought provoking and engaging sessions, adapting and including new material after their first session to keep the next one fresh. They received fantastic feedback from the workers including..

Workers signed up to promises pulled from discussions during the session, that they agree to always strive for, when working with young people.

- I really enjoyed the workshop. It brought alive the work we do and how it makes the young people think and feel. Putting ourselves in their places “Thank you for all your work”.
- Totally inspiring – thank you for all the amazing hard work you do- you are valued.
- Extremely informative workshop, very well presented, loved the relationship content, well thought about.
- Members of the Council and the Senior Leadership Team were invited to join a special Power of Participation session on 8th October, during Social Work Practice week. This was a useful conversation to give Corporate Parents a better understanding about what it feels like to be a child in care or care leaver and also a discussion around what makes 'good' Corporate Parents.

Next steps:

- This training has been offered again to workers on 28th October.
- Councillors and Corporate Parents will be more 'visible' and will be invited to attend more events / groups, to get to know the young people.



## 'Care Experience' as a Protected Characteristic

The Young Voices Group came up with the idea of asking Thurrock Council to adopt Care Experience as a protected characteristic.

The group approached Thurrock Youth Cabinet to ask them to join up on this venture. They agreed and two members of each group attended Thurrock Full Council meeting on 24th July to present their views on this.

The motion was passed, and the Groups are extremely pleased with this result, it is fantastic achievement for the group and the young people of Thurrock. They are keen to see this make a difference to all care experience young people going forward.







## Something we would like to raise with the Corporate Parents...

An idea from young people is to create/strengthen relationships with local businesses who would like to support Care Leavers with work experience, job opportunities and donations of food, clothes and essential items. We hope that Corporate Parents might be able to support this.