



Let's

Talk!

January 2020



Our Fantastic Awards Event!

At the end of October we hosted the Children in Care and Care Leavers Awards at Dudley College. We planned and organised the whole event, from choosing the host, shortlisting the winners, picking the trophies and deciding what refreshments to



provide. Some of us then actually went on stage to present the evening! We are really pleased how it went and thought that it was a great night! The Mayor of Dudley attended, we had a games party, candy floss maker, slush machines, a banghra band, our old friend BBC presenter Vital also helped us to present the event!!



Too often young people in care are only seen in a negative way, so we were proud to have been able to give a platform to celebrate everyone on the evening – so often the achievements of children in care and care leavers are overlooked in the news, and we think it's important to recognise their successes. Well done to everyone who was nominated, you are all incredible, and it was so hard to pick the winners for the categories!



If you would like to be involved in helping to organise next year's event, or have any ideas on how the event should be, why not get in touch with us?



Did you know...?

Dudley Virtual School (DVS) supports the education of all looked after children. We all have an Education Advisor who will link with your school/educational setting to help make sure you have the support you need to achieve your very best in your education. DVS has a number of additional offers to help in your learning. This could include helping to arrange extra tuition, access e-learning or be introduced to Arts & Cultural activities. It is important that you discuss your educational concerns and aspirations with your Education Advisor – it's important that you use your Personal Education Plan meetings to do this. If you aren't sure who your Education Advisor is ask your carer or Social Worker DVS want the very best for you – ***you are worth it!***



Please give your views - and the chance to win £20!!

We have been working with the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) team to help make your Review Meetings better, and involve you more in planning and running them. We have included a survey with this newsletter – we need you to complete these so that we can find out how they are working for you at the moment – it will only take you a few minutes! To encourage you, everyone who returns a completed survey will be entered into a prize drawer and could win 1 of 5 prizes of a £20 voucher. We are also organising an event for the February half term where you can give your ideas on how the meetings could be better, learn how you can take more control of your meetings..... and enjoy some tasty pizza.

If you are interested in finding out more please about this event please contact us.



Let's

Talk!

Dear Social Worker....

We wanted to let social workers know what you expect from them – we have asked all sorts of people – from young children through to care leavers. We then made a list of what we felt were most important and made them into a poster and flyer – these will be going out to all social workers very soon. We hope that we are listened to and that social workers and their manager's take notice of our suggestions.



Next time you meet your social worker why not ask if they have seen the poster?

Police Cadets Opportunity

The Police Cadets programme is for young people aged 13-17 and provides them with opportunities to gain experience and insights into the force. It's about giving you opportunities to help others and learn new skills. We have been able to get some places reserved just for looked after young people – if you are interested in joining, or finding out more please contact

a.peters@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or
k.russell@west-midland.pnn.police.uk



Cadets

New website launched!!



Shelley Brooks from the communications team at Dudley Council recently visited the CiCC - we have been working with her to develop a new website

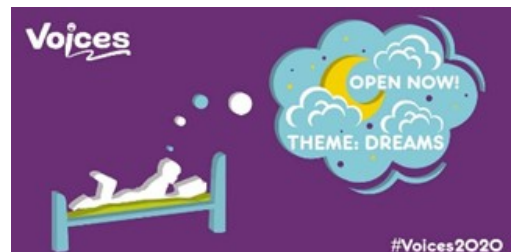
for those of us who are in care and it has loads of useful information. It will be officially launched in the New Year but you can get a sneak peak of it here:-

<https://cic.dudley.gov.uk/children-in-care-council/>

We will also be finalising the long awaited 'Life Pac' - this handbook will be given out to all of Dudley's children in care and will be based on the website.

A national creative writing competition for those of us who are looked after or care leavers has just been launched, with the chance to get your work published or even win Up to £100 of vouchers!

To enter you need to write up to 500 words about *Dreams* – this can be a poem, a short story, a song, a rap – anything. For more information please see the separate flyer or visit : www.coramvoice.org.uk/voices



Welcome to our new members who have joined us since our last newsletter – Mary, Madina and Tyler...and welcome back to Leroy, Connor and Dan who have recently re-joined us.



Are you interested in making a difference?
If so, we really want to hear from you!!!
Please contact Darren Foley on 01384 515172 or email

