

**Open Report on behalf of Janice Spencer OBE,
Interim Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	23 January 2020
Subject:	Young Inspectors Project Update

Summary:

This report gives a summary and overview of activities with regard to Lincolnshire Young Inspectors project.

Young Inspectors is a Lincolnshire County Council project that comprises of young people from across the County aged between 11 and 19 (25 if they have any SEND or are care-leavers) who volunteer to undertake inspections to offer feedback and evaluation.

The Young Inspectors project gives young people positive opportunities and support to become active volunteers. By carrying out various types of Inspections of services used by young people across the County, Young Inspectors help to improve the services offered in order to promote active change in order to benefit other young people, children and families.

There are currently 2 meeting bases at Lincoln and Grantham which meet monthly to discuss and plan Inspections. The majority of Inspection work is carried out during half term.

Actions Required:

The Corporate Parenting Panel is requested to comment on the content of the report and the work of the Young Inspectors, and provide any recommendations as appropriate.

1. Background

The following items are discussed within this section:

- Young Inspectors project structure
- Historical Inspection work
- Current inspection work
- Scheduled inspection work
- Other work carried out by the Young Inspectors

Young Inspectors project structure

The project consists of Project Officer: Katrina Hewitt, Young Inspector Apprentice: Amy Lavery, Young Inspector Apprentice: Vacant role, 24 active volunteers of which include:

- 4 young people that are looked after
- 2 young people that are open to Early help
- 1 young carer
- 8 young people with SEND
- 2 Young people open to TAC
- 1 care-leaver
- 4 adopted young people

Historical Inspection work

- C-card Audit:
 - The purpose of this Inspection was to re-inspect the C-Card scheme (a free condom scheme for 13-19 year olds provided by LiSH - Lincolnshire Integrated Sexual Health; an LCC commissioned service) to ascertain if there had been any improvements made to the service following from a previous Young Inspectors evaluation.
 - Over 50 access points offering the C-Card across the County were inspected last summer half-term.
 - The Young Inspectors as a group devised a criteria inspection checklist and nine Young Inspectors undertook the Inspections.
 - The group met afterwards to collate the findings and to make recommendations for the C-Card service.
 - The final report was shared with and presented to DLT and also to LiSH.
 - LiSH have advised the Young Inspectors group that as a result of their findings and recommendations, improvements have been made to the service and the C-Card scheme is now under evaluation to ascertain how to improve the scheme delivery.
- BOSS Evaluation.
 - The BOSS Service is an LCC commissioned service delivered by Family Action.
 - The BOSS projects' aim is to support schools in a variety of ways to enable them to more effectively support their pupils that display behaviour that challenges, with a view to delivering an inclusive approach to learning.
 - The purpose of the inspection was to gain feedback from Young People receiving intervention from the Boss service to ascertain their views and gain feedback on the service.
 - The Young Inspectors devised an interview questionnaire including 19 qualitative questions to gain their views.
 - 1:1 meetings were carried out with the pupils, within their education setting.
 - The final report included the young people's feedback and opinions of the Boss service and this was shared with the service provider.
 - Katrina Hewitt is currently waiting to hear back from the Boss service about a re-inspection of the service in order to ascertain any improvements made since the Young Inspectors recommendations were passed to the service.

- Film Festival Sheffield Teaching Partnership Feb 2019: The project was involved in the planning of the event and obtaining feedback on the day.
- Youth Offending Service (YOS).
 - The Youth Offending Team deliver sessions for Young People who have offended or were at risk of offending.
 - 'Attendance Sessions' are delivered on a weekly basis and include sessions on self-esteem, drug and alcohol abuse and also a session with a beat boxer for the young people to rap about their lives.
 - The purpose of the Inspection was to evaluate the staff; how they deliver the sessions, interact with the attendees and to provide feedback on the structure and content of the sessions.
 - Feedback was provided to the service and Katrina Hewitt is waiting to meet with the Team Manager for details of any changes made as a result of the Young Inspectors feedback.

Current Inspection work

The project has had a busy 2019 and undertaken evaluations of the following:

- Futures 4 Me summer youth development days; feedback from the young people taking part in this scheme was obtained by the Young Inspectors at six sessions over the summer half term and this has been shared with the Youth development team.
- Children's Centre Inspection; 25 Children's Centres were visited and inspected by Young Inspectors over the course of 2019. KH is currently compiling the final report which will be shared with the service.

Current on-going inspection works include:

- Missing return Interview evaluation; Young people who have been reported missing are offered an interview upon their return. Young Inspectors devised a questionnaire to ask these young people their views of the interview and to provide recommendations for the service. This questionnaire was used as part of a recent audit of the Missing and return service by the Quality and Standards team and Young Inspectors were credited within the final report for this.
- Barnardo's Transitions Inspection; Young inspectors are asking young people who are care leavers about their views of the leaving care service. This feedback will be shared with the Barnardo's leaving care team and will include recommendations.
- Joint Inspection of disabled toilets with Lincolnshire Young Voices; Young Inspectors are working with Lincolnshire Young voices (a group run by and for Young people with additional needs and disabilities) to inspect accessible toilets across the county in order to ascertain the availability of accessible toilets and facilities within towns. We are currently carrying out a pilot inspection within Lincoln and hope to widen across the county later this year.

Scheduled Inspection work

- Liaise Service Inspection; Liaise is an LCC commissioned project; it is a free, confidential and impartial Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Information and Support Service for Lincolnshire. They offer information and advice about SEN and Disabilities to parents, young people and children (0-25). The Young Inspectors will be starting an evaluation of the service in February half term which will include "mystery shopper" evaluations of their advice lines and they will also be evaluation their sessional work and their training.
- Church of England Safeguarding evaluation. In response to Operation Redstone, Young Inspectors have been asked to provide a young person's perspective of safeguarding literature and policies within the churches across Lincolnshire. This planning for this evaluation is in its infancy and will resume once a new Lincolnshire Diocese Safeguarding Lead is appointed by the Church of England.
- Professional Supervision Audit; the Young Inspectors will be interviewing Children's' services professionals about their views on professional supervision at various locations across the county. This is planned to commence during April half term.
- Youth Centre Sessions. KH is arranging to meet Youth development team managers to discuss a re-inspection of the YOS group sessions in order to ascertain if any changes have been made following on from the Young Inspectors previous inspection report.

Other work carried out by the Young Inspectors

- Being involved in recruitment: Young Inspectors have been invited onto recruitment panels and have also provided young-person's perspective interview questions for recruiting managers.
- ASYE Recruitment Days; ASYE (Assessed and supported year in employment for newly qualified social workers); Young Inspectors have been invited several times to be part of the evaluating team at ASYE selection and recruitment days. The feedback they we receive from this is overwhelmingly positive and the Young Inspectors input is greatly valued.
- Offer evaluation of presentations, leaflets and websites for various services (including a JDP (Youth Offending Joint divisionary panel) leaflet aimed at young people).
- Professional Judgment Conference: An annual LCC conference that Young Inspectors plan, develop and deliver a 45 minute session for as part of the conference. Previous themes have been about Gender, Mental Health and last year was a presentation about their project which was delivered as a result from feedback the previous year.

2. Conclusion

Lincolnshire Young Inspectors are a well-established team within Children's Services and has a good number of volunteers actively engaging. The project has produced a number of successful inspection reports which have promoted positive change.

Young Inspectors has a very clear remit to quality assure services which are accessed by other children and young people; making recommendations for improvement and change and providing positive feedback where a service or project delivers a quality provision. Young people are uniquely placed to take on this role, providing an independent perspective which may not be gained through an adult evaluation.

The young inspectors programme aims to support young people, including those who have experienced Children's Services and from hard to reach and underrepresented groups to participate in volunteer inspection opportunities increasing their self-esteem and self-confidence leading to improved life chances.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Young Inspectors information leaflet.

5. Background Papers

This report was written by Katrina Hewitt, who can be contacted on 01522 554948 or katrina.hewitt@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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