



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	14 January 2021
Subject:	Young Inspectors Project Update

Summary:

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

Actions Required:

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

1. Background

Young Inspectors is a Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) project that comprises of young people from across the County aged between 11 and 19 (25 if they have any Special Educational Needs and Disability (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 two 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. Since the restrictions put in place due to Covid-19, Young Inspectors meetings have taken place online and have included activities such as online bingo, quizzes and a virtual Christmas party.

The following items are discussed within this section:

- Young Inspectors project structure
- Completed Inspection work in 2020
- Scheduled inspection work for 2021

- Other work carried out by the Young Inspectors

Young Inspectors project structure

The project consists of Project Officer: Katrina Hewitt, Young Inspector Apprentice x 2 Vacant roles, 20 active volunteers of which include:

- 4 young people that are Children in Care
- 2 young people that are open to Early help
- 1 young carer
- 8 young people with SEND
- 2 Young people open to Team Around the Child (TAC)
- 1 care-leaver
- 3 adopted young people

Completed Inspection work in 2020

- Liaise Service Inspection; Liaise is a LCC commissioned project; it is a free, confidential and impartial 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 carried out an evaluation of the service during February half term which included "mystery shopper" evaluations of their advice line, evaluation of their sessional work and of their training. The final report was completed and shared with the Liaise team who have since attended a Young Inspectors meeting to provide feedback and an update on their recommended actions from the report.
- Children's Centres Inspection; 25 Children's Centres were visited and inspected by Young Inspectors over the course of 2019. The final reports were completed and shared with the relevant teams.
- Missing Service Audit and 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.

Scheduled Inspection work for 2021

- 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.
- 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 piece of work has already been planned by Katrina Hewitt and the Young Inspectors volunteers in conjunction with Elita Cozens, Transitions Quality and Audit Officer, within the Quality and Standards team. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this project is currently on hold until face to face meetings can be held again.

- 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 piece of work has already been planned by Katrina Hewitt and the Young Inspectors volunteers in conjunction with April Bourke, Practice Advisor, within the Quality and Standards team. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this project is currently on hold until face to face meetings can be held again.
- Training evaluation; a potential plan to utilise Young Inspectors to speak to staff who have undertaken different LCC training courses to gain staff views on how training has positively impacted upon practice. This is to be discussed with the Young Inspectors in early 2021 once Covid-19 restrictions are less limiting.

Other work carried out by the Young Inspectors

- Being involved in recruitment; Young Inspectors have been invited onto recruitment panels and have also provided a young person's perspective interview questions for recruiting managers.
- Sharing good practice about the Lincolnshire Young Inspectors project with other services including Coventry City Council and North East Lincolnshire Council Participation teams.
- ASDAN qualifications; these have been implemented and supported online by Katrina Hewitt, Project Officer.
- 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 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 Judgement 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. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the scheduled 2020 Professional Judgement Conference was cancelled.

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. This has proved challenging during 2020 amidst the restriction of Covid-19 but the group has met regularly in order to sustain momentum and participation.

Young Inspectors have 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, and leading to improved life chances.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risk assessments are carried out via the Project Officer. Currently following local and national guidance in regards to Covid-19 restrictions.

4. Appendices

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

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Katrina Hewitt who can be contacted on 07824 301167 or by e-mail at katrina.hewitt@lincolnshire.gov.uk