Ambassadors for Vulnerable Children and Young People
Who are we?

- Role of the team
- Voice of the child and young person
- Staff
So...

Why did we become Ambassadors?
Project allocation process

Ambassador Request Document

Participation Officers

Project lead support

Ambassadors

Project begins

We want to highlight some of the things that made the biggest impact.
Engagement Events

Fun in The Sun

Fun in the sun is an engagement event for Children in Care and their families.

Consultation

11-16’s Forum

MOMO
Fun in The Sun: MOMO
My Journey

Originally known as ‘My Plan’, ‘My Journey’ has gone through a major change.

‘My Journey’ is a document designed as a tool to translate the Care Plan in a more child friendly way. It is also a way to find out the situation from the child’s point of view and to see what the child or young person would like to see happen or what they would like to change.

The aim is for every child in care to have a ‘My Journey’ document.

‘My Journey’ comes in various designs that the child or young person can choose.
The documents are now being used across Social Care teams
8 Top Tips for Professionals when working with Children and Young People
Written by Ambassadors for Vulnerable Children and Young People

1. LISTEN
We all know listening is vital but parents experiencing substance misuse problems, domestic abuse, disability, etc. are very good at lying and sometimes so am I. Read my body language, see my surroundings, take time to really know and understand me as an individual.

2. FOCUS ON THE CHILD
Talk to me - not my mum or dad or carers. Find out what is going on in my life and how things look from my perspective.

3. LANGUAGE
Professional's language and young people's language are very different - find a balance!
You talk about case files; that case file is a child/young person and you need to remember that.

4. RELATIONSHIP
Build a relationship with me. Trust is very important and this can take time.
Learn about me, observe me play, allow enough time to get to know me.

5. DRESS CODE
Find out where you're going and think about what family you are seeing. Remember I could be scared of you because of the authority you could have.

6. BE HONEST
Offer constructive criticism - sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind. Be clear on what needs to change and give examples.

7. BE RELIABLE
Always do what you say you're going to do.
Let me know if you are going on holiday or if you are leaving your job.

8. BE POSITIVE
Don't focus on the negatives - I have lots of skills and abilities. Focus on what I can do.

Gloucestershire County Council
Training practitioners

- Foster Carer training
- Designated Teacher training – Virtual School
- Team manager/Deputy training
- My Journey workshop
- GSCB Safeguarding Road shows
Recruitment and Selection

- Principal Social Workers interviews
- GSCB interview panel for the Chair
- Monthly Social Worker interviews
- Virtual School Head Teacher Panel
- Fostering Social Worker
- Service Leader for Children in Care
- Children in Care Nurse
Young Peoples Guide to...

Long Term Matching Panel
Feedback from young people

- Consultation sessions – Make Music Gloucestershire
- The Big Vote
- 11-16’s Forum
- MOMO – Mind Of My Own
- Mystery Shopping
11-16’s Forum and the Children in Care Council

- PAST 11-16’s Forum...
- FUTURE 11-16’s Forum...
- The Voice Magazine
- Big Vote
- Projects
- Corporate Parenting Group
Advice to internal services

- Evaluating Team Plans
  - Attending team meetings
- Attending team development days
- Social Care webpage
- GSCB Advisor – around disability issues
You said, we did

Change in Strategy

- Children in Care Council members told us that they don’t like to be called LAC. From now on all communication and correspondence will use the term Children in Care.

- Services strategies and policies have been amended to reflect this.
What we think you could do as the Scrutiny Committee:

- When you see reports or have presentations you could be thinking ‘where is the voice of the child?’

- Have a check and challenge role to see if the voice of the child is included in their practice.

- Are there any areas that you think Ambassadors could help improve?
Q&A

Your opportunity
to ask us questions
If you’d like some more information or to contact us email:

cypvoice@gloucestershire.gov.uk