



**Somerset
Council**

**Somerset
Care Councils**



Spring 2023

SICC & SLCC Newsletter

Somerset in Care Council & Somerset Leaving Care Council



www.somersetincarecouncils.org.uk



Who are SiCC and SLCC?

SiCC & SLCC stands for the Somerset In Care Council and the Somerset Leaving Care Council. We ensure that the voices of children looked after and care leavers are included within the planning and reviewing of services.

Who are the SiCC and SLCC Creatives?

The SiCC and SLCC Creatives are a group of young people who use art, poetry, and music to have their voice heard. The crew express their lived experiences, their needs and the things that they'd like to change through creative means.



Who are the SiCC and SLCC Films Crew?

The SiCC and SLCC Films crew help to develop films and animations to share their views, help other young people who may be going through - or are about to go through - similar experiences to them and to help shape services for other young people. The crew are directly involved with the creating, designing, writing, voicing and production of every SiCC and SLCC Films animation and film.

Dates for the Diary!!

Annual Achievements Awards – Tuesday 25th July at the Taunton Rugby Club

With nominations for social workers to nominate the children and young people they work with and also for children and young people to nominate their social workers and teachers.



Annual Achievements Awards nominations are open!

Nominations are now open for this year's Annual Achievements Awards. Get in your nominations for **Somerset Children's Worker of the Year** and **Teacher of the Year** by **Friday 23 June 2023**.

To place your nominations, visit: <https://www.somersetincarecouncils.org.uk/annual-achievements-awards/> or scan the QR code.

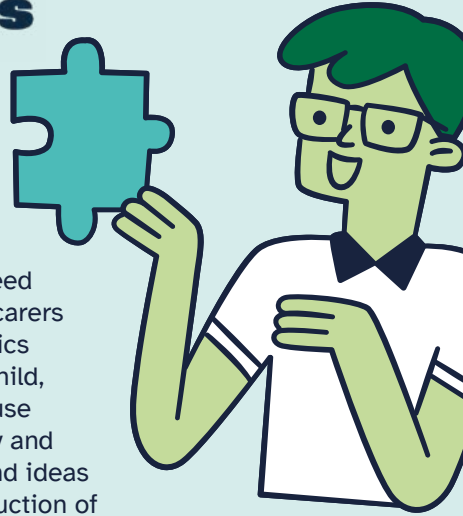




Homes and Horizons

Fostering Services

The group were visited by two representatives from the Homes and Horizons Fostering Services, who spoke to them about what they need to consider when recruiting and training foster carers for the new service. The discussion covered topics like consistency, considering the needs of the child, understanding negotiate and compromise, the use of mobile phones and spending time with family and friends. The representatives said the insights and ideas from SiCC and SLCC would be used in the production of their new fostering processes.

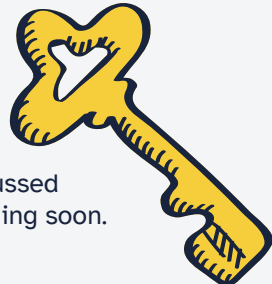


Quality Checkers

Young people will have an opportunity to take an accredited ASDAN course to become quality checkers as part of the Homes and Horizon project. This will enable young people to inspect children's homes to ensure that they reach the required standards. More information on this will follow.

New Children's Home

During their March meeting SiCC and SLCC discussed and named the new Children's Home that is opening soon.



Mind of My Own Consultation

SiCC and SLCC were asked to consult on the Mind of My Own app contract. They looked at usage across the county and reviewed a survey produced by Children's Social Care and agreed that there were some questions about the survey. The core group did support the wording for the imminent Somerset Mind of My Own consultation. The contract for Mind of My Own contract is due for renewal next year.



Getting to Know You Days

The group will be supporting Getting to Know You Days across the county this summer, with the first one taking place at the Ark at Egwood on 31st May, followed by a second Taunton and Sedgemoor day on 2nd June. The group will be running an activity at these days and are looking forward to making new friends at the events.



Independence Skills

SiCC and SLCC wrote a proposal on Independence Skills and sent it to the Leaving Care service. The group felt that generally children looked after know about Independence Skills but that it is different to the reality of living independently. The Core Group wrote the proposal around what independence skills children looked after need to have by the time they reach 14-16 years of age. This project will be continuing in collaboration with the Leaving Care team.



Plymouth University

In January the SiCC and SLCC Core Group worked with 15 third year medical students from Plymouth University and collaborated on a project to better understand the health needs of children looked after and care leavers. The students sent out their survey in February and we are awaiting the results.



New Director of Children's Services

We are delighted to announce that Claire Winter is now the Somerset Council's Director of Children's Services. Claire was previously the deputy director and has sat as the interim director. Claire's interview took place in March and a panel of young people interviewed Claire as part of her recruitment.

Corporate Parenting Board Missing Children Workshop

Young people were part of a Corporate Parenting Board workshop with the Prevention Missing and Exploitation Team (P/MEX) and the police to look at why young people run away and how services can help them to keep safe.



Corporate Parenting Board Meeting

In February members of the SiCC and SLCC Core Group presented an update on their work at the Corporate Parenting Board meeting.

SiCC and SLCC Creatives and Films

Recruitment

The crew are currently designing a recruitment film to encourage more people to join SiCC and SLCC. As part of this they have designed their own bitmojis and have drafted a script. Watch this space for the launch of the animation.



Vaping and E-Cigarettes

Our young people have collaborated on a Vaping and E-Cigarettes project with the Public Health team. This has resulted in an animation on what young people think about vaping and e-cigarettes for the Public Health team.

Watch the animation here: <https://youtu.be/bI5L2NbRd4A>





**Somerset
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What Makes Your Home Happy?

We want to hear from you!

Are you a child looked after or care leaver in Somerset? Have you ever had to move from where you were living to another home? Tell us about your experience. Your answers will help us to make positive changes to shape better services for children looked after and care leavers.

Did anyone help you to understand why you had to move?

What do you think could have happened differently?



All participants will be added in to a free prize draw to win one of three £10 vouchers

To take part:

If you would like to take part in our survey, please scan the QR code on this poster or visit

<https://tinyurl.com/ProvidersEvent>

The draw will take place on Thursday 1st June and winners will be notified.



The Somerset Care Councils **NEED YOU!**

We want to hear your views on things that matter to you, so come and join us!

Who are we?

Any young person in care or leaving care is automatically a member of SiCC and SLCC. We meet in person and online.

What do we do?

We meet monthly to help support the creation, review and updating of the services that we use. This includes creating films and animations, reviewing services, interviewing new staff, mystery shopping and the use of art, music & spoken word to have your voice heard.

Visit the Somerset In Care Councils Website at:
www.somersetincarecouncils.org.uk

To find out more, please email the team
somersetincarecouncils@somerset.gov.uk

Phone **07976 416 603**

Or complete our online form
<https://tinyurl.com/SiCCandSLCC>

