

February – Young Carers' Forum

Date: 26th February 2024

Attendees: 5 members of staff

6 young carers

Visitors: Anne Grimes - Young People's Participation Officer, North Tyneside Council

Cameron –Young Mayor North Tyneside

Discussion topic:

Prior to today's group session, Cameron and Anne had visited NTCC to collect the views of young carers. Today's visit is to run through some questions he had in regards to the feedback provided on the following topics:

- Anti-bullying (homophobic bullying in schools)
- Safety on metros
- Safe spaces in the community
- Vaping

Outcomes:

Anti – bullying:

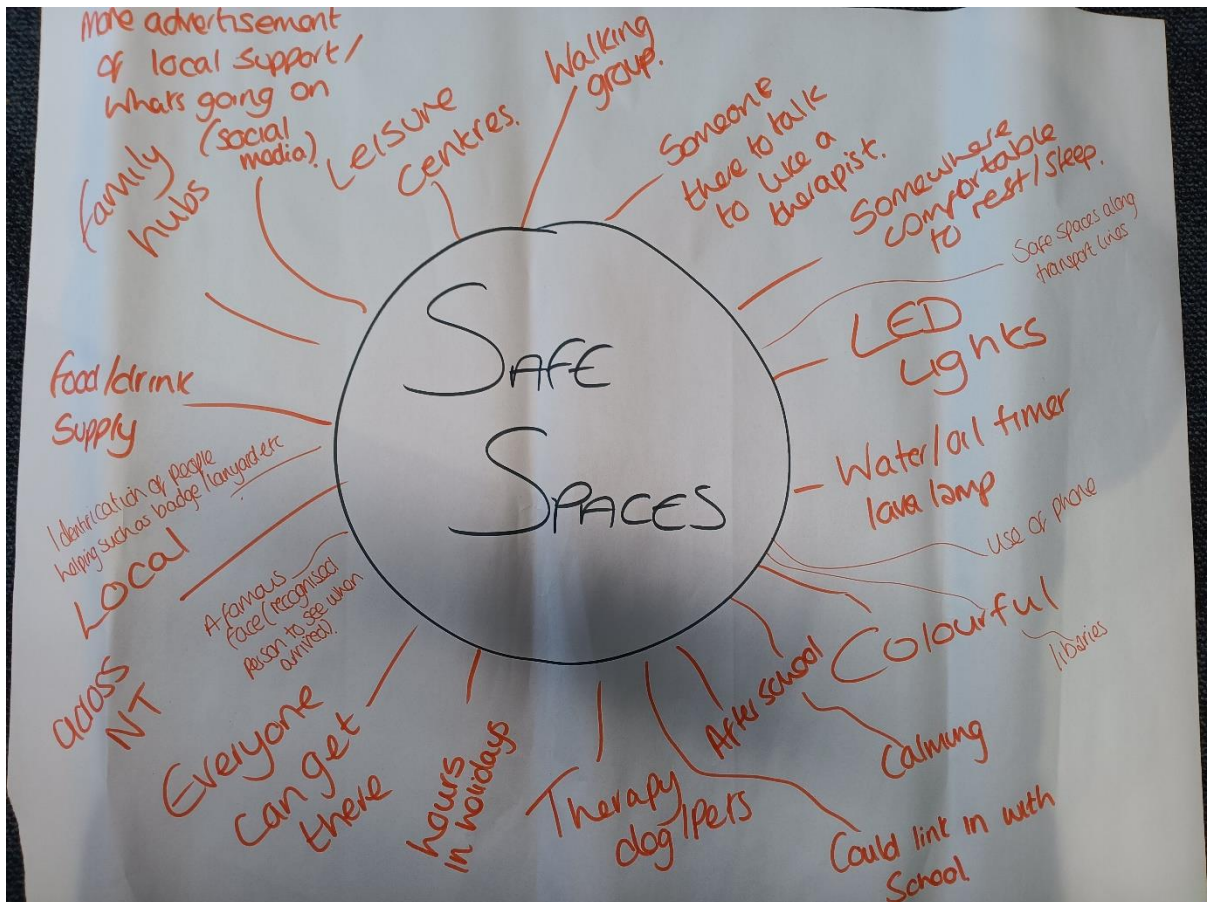
- All young carers agreed that more needs to be done to raise awareness of bullying in school.
- They want ways to communicate with trusted adults in a confidential way. We discussed using online communication methods such as a chat box or supplying an Anonymous box in school.
- Young carers would like teachers to gather all information regarding bullying and look into why the person is bullying.
- They would like parents to be notified of bullying
- They don't think detentions defer a child from bullying others.
- They want PSHE lessons to offer more education of bullying and the effects.
- Cameron has drafted a letter to head teachers which contains suggestions to make improvements (attached). He will revise this on reflection of the group discussion.

Safety on metro's:

- Young carers agreed that the metro's can be intimidating.
- They all agreed lots of anti-social behaviour takes place.
- Cameron shared with us that he has been working with Nexus and they are looking at making changes to the carriages to make them safer. This includes having 2 security on each metro after 7pm, changing seating so each seat faces inwards, better lighting will be installed and the driver will have a microphone system to address certain behaviours on board.
- The young carers questioned security before 7pm and put forward that they would like security from 3pm when school finishes.
- Cameron shared that there has been a reduction in anti-social behaviour across Nexus since they have been implementing more security and through spending more money on the service.
- Young carers were reminded that there is a text service which they can use to alert Nexus of any concerns or worries. This can be found on carriages.

Safe Spaces in the community:

- Cameron and Anne were unable to stay for this discussion due to other commitments. The young carers were supported by NTCC staff to discuss this topic.
- Young carers all agreed, having safe spaces around NT would be very beneficial and help them.
- They would like hubs, libraries and community settings to have allocated workers who would greet them and provide them with a safe space.
- They discussed having access to a telephone and wifi
- They would like to be offered a drink and snack
- Young carers felt a relaxed, calming space would help if they felt overwhelmed
- They also discussed walking groups and community events which young people could be offered as a way to have space from every day events.
- They would like social media to show them where safe spaces are located
- Goggle maps could also support locations, opening hours etc.



Vaping Survey:

Anne is to share this with Kate who will share with the group

Other info:

Kate shared with one young carer who is 18 some opportunities for paid surveys through Carers Trust.

Discussed young carer forum wanting hoodies for events and groups. We discussed what they would be used for, most agreed they would use them to advocate for young carers and raise awareness. We discussed having the alternate colour for them to staff and at events they could support the staff to facilitate. Kate to price up and look into this.

Next session to be held: **Monday 25th March 2024**

Next discussion topics-

- Do you want to be involved?
- Young carers welcome pack
- Any questions for our centre staff