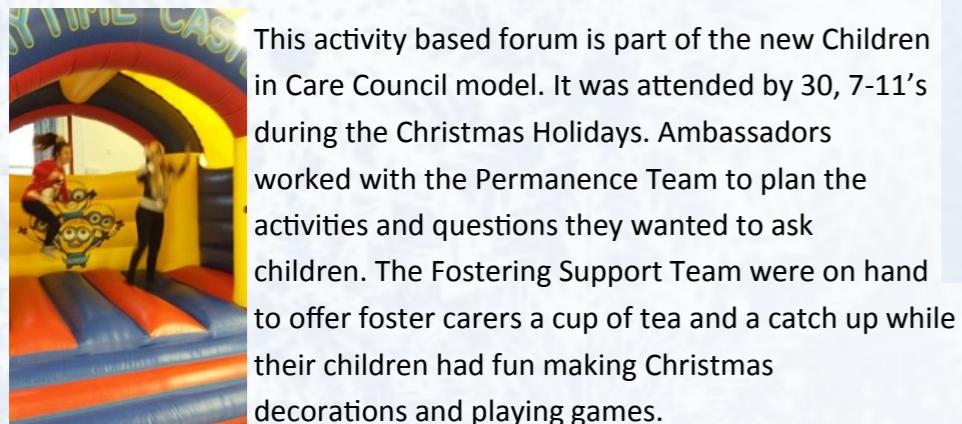


### 7-11's Arty Party Event



This activity based forum is part of the new Children in Care Council model. It was attended by 30, 7-11's during the Christmas Holidays. Ambassadors worked with the Permanence Team to plan the activities and questions they wanted to ask children. The Fostering Support Team were on hand to offer foster carers a cup of tea and a catch up while their children had fun making Christmas decorations and playing games.

### Key messages from the children:

- They had an idea about what their Social Worker does, to check that they are okay and safe - "Helps me and talks to me"
- They did not always know what their meetings were, the names of their meetings (e.g. Personal Education Plan or Children in Care Review)
- They would like to go out to places with their Social Workers (e.g. McDonalds, to the park or walk the dog)
- They would like their Social Workers to bring things to do, e.g. arts and crafts, colouring, play games and be fun.

### **Children in Care meet Corporate Parents**

15 members of the Children in Care Council (the largest group so far), hosted the third event with Corporate Parents at the University of Gloucestershire during October half term. The two main themes were debating priority actions for the new Aspirations Strategy and celebrating care leaver's successes as it was National Care Leavers Week. It was an inspiring event with lively discussion about what young people think we are doing well and what are the areas that need more work. Their ideas have been incorporated into 'Aspirations for children and young people in Our Care and Care Leavers' 2017-20.



**"A really good session. We need to continue the work so young people shape our services and determine our priorities. Well done and thanks to all". Corporate Parent**

**"I love that we are breaking down stereotypes people hold on young people" Young Person**

For a full copy of the report, please speak to Della in the Participation Team.

### Takeover Day 2016

Three Ambassadors spent a day with Kathy O'Mahony, Linda Uren and Julie Miles to find out more about their roles and for Ambassadors to give their lived experience of receiving services. Eliza worked alongside Kathy O'Mahony and gave her views on Child Protection Conferences and how to improve Child Protection Plans. Kathy reported how beneficial it has been and how it has helped shape discussions.

# Participation News

## Quarter 3 2016/2017



### GROW Awards – Outstanding Alice

In September, the Participation Team nominated Alice for 'Outstanding Young Person in the Workplace' for the GROW Awards.

*"We want Alice to be recognised for 3 years as an Ambassador, and in particular the work developing 'My Journey." Lyn (Participation Officer)*

She was shortlisted and in November at the GROW Awards at Cheltenham Racecourse, Alice won the category and we watched proudly as she received her award!



**"It came to me as quite a shock when I was told that I have been shortlisted as a finalist. I never thought I would win, I was so chuffed when it turned out I did. It still seems quite surreal actually! I have always done this job to the best of my ability because I love doing what I'm doing." Alice**

### GSCB Safeguarding Roadshows

The themes this year were : **Safeguarding Children with Disabilities, Early Help and Domestic Abuse/Teenage Abuse.**

Pia, Gareth and Eliza (Ambassadors) took part in the workshops and shared their experiences and top tips. Their input was really well received.



**"Brilliant to hear from young people who have been directly affected by issues we're trying to address." Participant**

### Participation Tools

### **Supporting Children through Bereavement and Loss – Stroud Children and Families Team**

As loss is a feature in the lives of many of the children in our care, we have put together a resource pack which equips practitioners with the tools and knowledge to give children an opportunity to work through their loss. This includes workbooks, memory jars, memory stones, boxes, etc. If you want to learn more about the bereavement process for children and young people and how to use the tools, Winston's Wish run training. For more information go to [www.winstonswish.org](http://www.winstonswish.org)

