

# Care Experienced Youth Voice

## Update: February - August 2023

**Middlesbrough's Participation Team facilitates open, safe, and inclusive spaces for care experienced young people to tell us what is important to them. We capture this information and support them to tell you so you can improve the support they and others receive.**

**We support our care experienced young people/adults to be engaged in a variety of different ways.**

### **'We Matter' (Middlesbrough's Children in Care Council)**

- Care experienced young people aged 11 - 16 years meet fortnightly at Easterside Hub 17:00 - 18:30pm. We have five members
- They have fun, have a voice and create events to hear from their care experienced peers
- They share their views with key decision makers who act on what they say and positively change services to meet their needs
- They will support teams to act on what they say and help monitor the 'You Said, We Will, We Did' reporting tool
- We meet with young people at their residential homes

### **Older Care Experienced Young People**

- We have three older care experienced who have volunteer roles as Care Ambassadors and are co-opted onto the Corporate Parenting Board
- The Care Ambassadors will support the work of 'We Matter' and create engagement events for their older care experienced peers
- We work with Pathways to support them with their events - Annual celebration event, Christmas dinner and we will engage with their care experienced young adults at the Forum

### **The groups are supported by**

- Kathy Peacock - Voice and Influence Manager
- Laurie Hunter - Communications and Engagement Officer
- Susie Blood - Democratic Services Officer
- Kelly Cowie - Independent Reviewing Officer (CiCC) and Youth Voice Practice Lead
- Adam Hart - CAMHS Head Start Apprentice and Care Ambassador
- Caitlin O'Connor - Care Ambassador
- Holly Sharp - Care Ambassador

# 'We Matter'

## Update: February - August 2023

### February 2023

- Two members of the group went to a 'Care Day' at Durham Council to learn about their CiCC groups
- Met with the 'You Matter To Us (Corporate Parenting Board), then went for tea

### March 2023

- Met with the Youth Council to look at working on a project with James Cook Hospital
- Supported the group to meet with two OFSTED inspectors
- Took one member of the group to Durham to hear what will happen on the residential

### April 2023

- Supported the members to be part of the Care Leavers Celebration event
- Met with the Corporate Parenting Board to talk about education
- Two members of the group took part in the Regional Children In Care Council residential - Cumbria 14-16th April

### May 2023

- Craig Povey (Finance Business Partner) came to their group to help them work out finances and spend. Gary and Natalie from Teesside University also visited them to work out using their space for our engagement events
- The group met with Wendy Kelly (HeadStart Service Manager) to help tell them what mental health means to them. They also met with Catherine Prest (Fostering Team Manager, Recruitment) to look at them getting involved meeting prospective foster carers

### June 2023

- Shannessa re-joined the group after her operation
- Had planned an engagement event on the 27th June but had to cancel as no one booked on

### July 2023

- Had tea with the new Mayor and Vice Mayor
- Met with Corporate Parenting Board to talk about what we have told them and what they will do. Pathways and the Virtual school brought some care experienced young people/adults

### August 2023

- Supported them to hold their annual Football event - 3rd August. 24 young people (eight who live in foster care) attended. Councillor Peter Gavigan stayed with us the whole day. Councillor Sharon and Jim Platt popped in to see us. Rob Hamer and Sharon Hetherington visited and several Pathways staff brought their young people and stayed. Andy Appleyard came with his son and Susie Blood brought her daughter. Louisa Jefferson and Kelly Cowie helped us during the day

# Older Care Experienced Young People/Adults

## Update: February - August 2023

### February 2023

- We worked with Adam and Middlesbrough college students to develop a video for the local offer for our care experienced young people

### March 2023

- Met individually with three older care experienced young adults to see if they wanted to get involved in the work we do.

### April 2023

- We Matter went to the Care Leavers Celebration event
- Decided the Care Leavers offer video was not fit for purpose and will explore other options with Pathways

### May 2023

- Visited three children's homes to talk to staff about engaging with their young people
- Adam supported Julie O'Connor to interview candidates for the Relief Restorative Practitioner roles 23rd May and 29th June

### June 2023

- Met with two young people in one of the homes to chat about them getting involved in the work we do
- Voice and Influence Manager met the Manager at Level X to talk about offering discounted sessions for Middlesbrough young people
- Voice and Influence Manager spoke with 15 stakeholders about what enhanced offer they could give to our care experienced young people. Information shared with Pathways

### July 2023

- We Matter, several Pathways young people and the Virtual school brought a couple of care experienced young adults to attend the Corporate Parenting Board and helped them work out how to better support care experienced young people with their Mental Health
- The Participation team attended the Pathways event

### August 2023

- We recruited two older care experienced young adults to be co-opted onto the Corporate Parenting Board. They have called themselves - Care Ambassadors
- These Care Ambassadors will support the engagement of care experienced young people
- Adam and two members of the Youth Council interviewed candidates for the DCS post. Nobody was appointed so the Care Ambassadors and Adam interviewed two more candidates a couple of weeks later.

# Care Experienced Youth Voice

**Over the next few months we plan to ...**

- Continue to work with the teams to promote the We Matter group to increase membership and attendance at the engagement events
- Have all our care experienced young people/adults set up as volunteers
- Create ASDAN awards to provide accreditation for their work
- Work with the Commissioning team to create 'Young Commissioners'
- Have the new Care Ambassadors attend the Corporate Parenting Board - 13th September
- Hold an fun engagement event at Teesside University - Looking at Safety - 14th September
- Meet more care experienced young people who live in residential care
- Support We Matter and the Care Ambassadors to work with the fostering service to talk with potential foster carers
- Work with the fostering service to put on a 'Halloween' event - 31st October
- Involve We Matter and the Care Ambassadors to undertake Regional Children in Care Council work
- Work with Virtual school to create a music group
- Invite our care experienced young people with special educational needs and disabilities to attend the Choice event - 7th November
- Hold out Christmas party for care experienced young people - TBC December



For more information:  
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