

# Care Experienced Youth Voice

September - November 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 young adults who have volunteer roles (two as Care Ambassadors) and they are co-opted onto the 'You Matter to Us - Corporate Parenting Board
- The Care Ambassadors support the work of 'We Matter' and support them to create engagement events for their 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

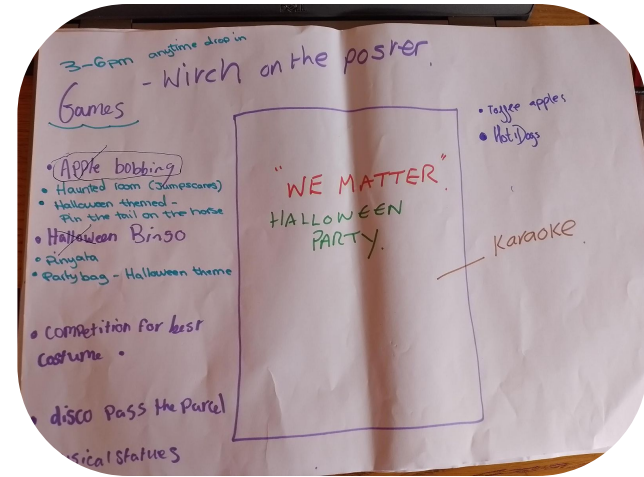
### **The groups are supported by**

- **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**
- **Holly Sharp - Care Ambassador**
- **Caitlin O'Connor - Care Ambassador**

# 'We Matter'

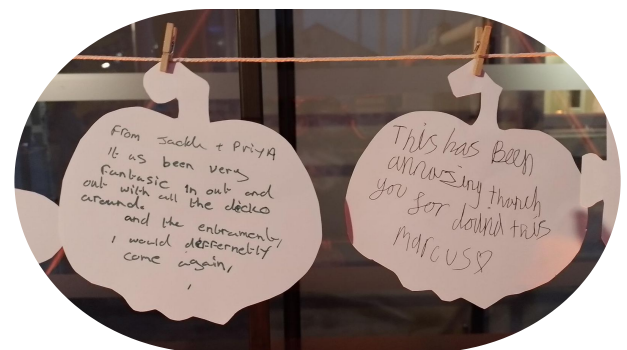
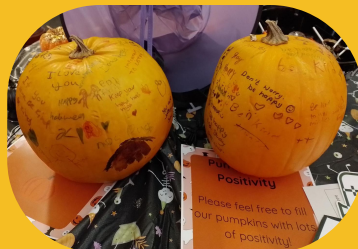
## September 2023

- 5th September meeting - Priya started the group and Gemma McLaren came to visit the group. We planned the Teesside engagement event
- 14th September event at Teesside University - Ralph Presgrave ran a session on staying safe on line
- 19th September meeting - Designed the Halloween and Christmas flyer and wrote a thank you letter for the food donated at the football event



## October 2023

- 3rd October - Catherine Prest (Fostering) talked to the group about meeting potential foster carers and delivering training to current carers
- 11th October - extra meeting with members of the Youth Council - look at being Volunteers
- 17th October - Rachel Harston came to the group to talk with them about what they would like to spend money on and she brought some pumpkins for them to decorate
- 27th October - 'We Matter' Halloween party. 49 young people came.



## November 2023

- 14th November - Looked at what information they would want in their support workers personal profiles

# Older Care Experienced Young People/Adults

## July/September 2023

- In July engagement with residential services started and we visited the homes to discuss with staff our plans and focus for our engagement with their young people
- As a result we have started to engage with young people and will be putting in consistent engagement sessions with homes to ensure we capture the voice of every young person
- In addition we are working with our private placements to ensure that all our Middlesbrough young people are heard regardless of where they live
- In July after the last 'You Matter to Us' engagement event we went to the Pathway's 'Core Offer' launch event
- Late August, we attended the Regional Children in Care Council meeting and helped them plan the 1st November event
- Corporate Parenting Board meeting - Our new Care Ambassadors attended



## October 2023

- Care Ambassadors start attending Pathways team meeting, they will go monthly
- 23rd October - Five young people met with Dawn Alaszewski and Sharon Hetherington to talk about their Journey with Pathways
- 26th October - Our Care Ambassadors presented at the Social Work Practice event



## November 2023

- 1st November - Holly and Alisha came to the Regional Children In Care Council event, Dawn Alaszewski and Rob Hamer attended - Everyone made a pinky promise
- 9th November - Five older care experienced young people engaged with their Corporate Parents to plan actions following the information they gave at the 23rd Oct engagement event
- Holly is working with young people, Pathways and 16+ provisions to design and develop a life skills course with accreditation

# 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 and fun events
- Have all our care experienced young people/adults set up as volunteers
- Create ASDAN awards to provide accreditation for their work and the young people they work with
- Work with the Commissioning team to create 'Young Commissioners'
- 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
- Involve We Matter and the Care Ambassadors to undertake Regional Children in Care Council work
- Hold our Christmas party for care experienced young people - 14th December 5 -7.30pm Riverside Stadium



**For more information:**

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