

Care Experienced Youth Voice

March - April 2024

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.
- Members include five young people in foster care, two young people in residential care and our five Care Ambassadors.
- 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

Older Care Experienced Young People

- We have five older care experienced young adults who have volunteer roles as Care Ambassadors. Three attend the 'You Matter to Us' - Corporate Parenting Board
- They have established a Care Ambassador Forum and will invite older care experienced people to join them, to have a voice and create events for their peers
- The Care Ambassadors support the work of 'We Matter' and the many other engagement activities that take place with young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the fortnightly Youth Council

The groups are supported by

- **Kathy Peacock - Voice and Influence Manager**
- **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**
- **Jacob Green - Care Ambassador**
- **Alisha James - Care Ambassador**

'We Matter'

March 2024

- Joe Tynan came to our group
- We all said goodbye to Susie, thanking her for all her support with the group and wished her well in her new job
- We heard that this would be Laurie's last group as she is leaving for a new job
- We looked at all your Pledges and wrote down what we would want



'We Matter'

People prepare me for Independence

- Preparation Booklets
- Key Workers for Preparation
- Preparation online app
- Budgeting Plans
- Teach me to cook
- Teach me how to survive (cook, clean + other skills)
- Knowledge of Safety in outside world
- life skill booklet
- teach me life lessons.
- Bills
- who to contact when first moving in

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- Who to contact when first moving in

Mental Health Support to young People.

- Speak to friends.
- ask me how I feel
- Chill out time (alone on computer)
- Speak to a counsellor / therapist
- Online forums
- Therapeutic music groups

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My Plan is right for me & aspirational!

- I know my plan and understand it.
- I want to be involved in decisions.
- Keep updated
- Communication (keeps me in the loop)

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'We Matter'

More people to hear our voice.

- More social groups
- Comfort bag - with note
- Social media
- Make an app - with contacts + emails
 You always have someone to contact.
- Have Guidance
 don't make promises you can't keep.
 Visit me and talk to me
 be interested in what I say.
 Campaign on social media.

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- You always have someone to contact
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- Campaign on social media

Someone to contact about my education & studies.

- So that you
 someone to talk to about my future,
 jobs and education. (IN School),
 Work experience.
- a named contact
- Someone from your career choice to speak to you about their job and what they do and think about it (pro's/cons - honest opinion)
- someone for a guide through school
 - adulthood
 option to try trades before like work experiences.

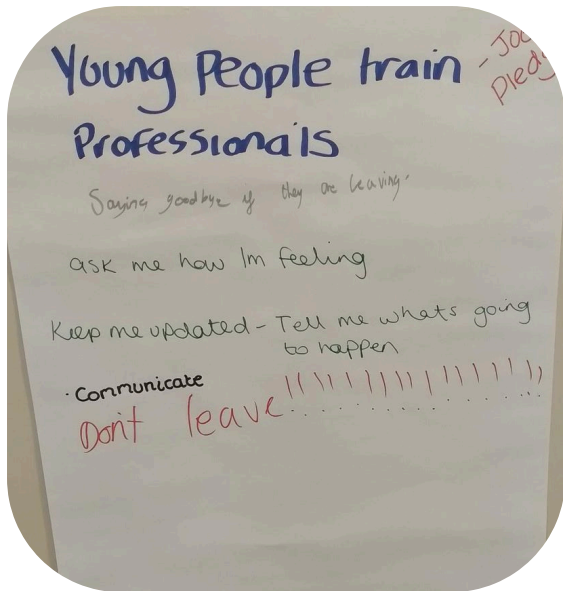
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- Jobs and education (in School)
- Work experience
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Moving to my own Place!

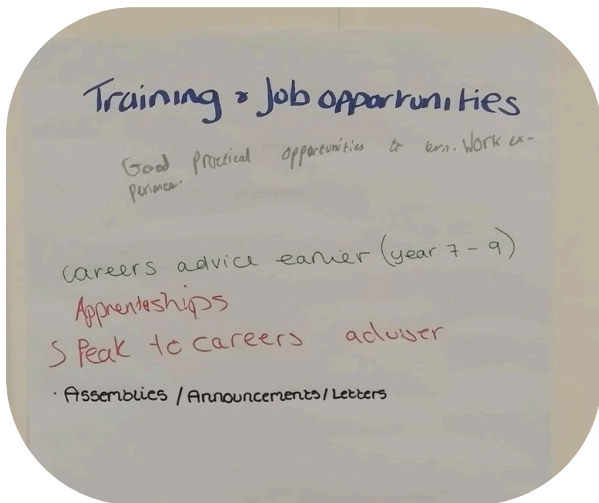
- Budgeting plans
 - If necessary, support
 - Knowledge on essential household jobs i.e. laundry (independence skills)
 - Local offer
 - Tell me my housing options
 - Advice on how to run my own house
 - check in that I'm ok.
 - Make sure I have enough money.
- Put in Place by age 16.
 Love more than one option.

- Budgeting plans
- If necessary support
- Before we turn 16 years - knowledge on essential household jobs i.e. laundry. Local offer
- Tell me my housing options
- Advice on how to run my own house
- Check that I am okay
- Make sure I have enough money

'We Matter'



- Saying goodbye if they are leaving
- Ask me how I am feeling
- Keep me updated - Tell me what is going to happen
- Communicate
- Don't leave!!!!!!



- Good practical opportunities to learn work experience
- Careers advice earlier (Year 7-9)
- Apprenticeships
- Speak to Career adviser
- Assemblies/announcements /letters

Some of us attended the 'You Matter to Us' engagement session and the training with Managers, Social Workers and Personal Advisors

Older Care Experienced Young People

March 2024

- Attended the 'We Matter' groups
- The Care Ambassadors supported the Participation Team with the engagement sessions at the special schools in Middlesbrough
- On the 26th March - Attended Adam Hart's engagement event with Pathways to support him with his North East and North Cumbria Child health and wellbeing network research and understanding what issues care experienced young people face in their every day lives.



- The 'Voice, Influence and Change' group met and started planning for the training session with Social Workers and Personal Advisors to be held on the 2nd April

Older Care Experienced Young People

April 2024

Ran a training event with Managers, Social Workers and Personal Advisors on the 2nd April

April 2024

Attended the Regional Children in Care Conference 'Let's Talk Change' on the 3rd April. Ran a workshop on 'Budget Busters' - playing a game on how to spend our setting up home allowance.



Cared For and Care Experienced Youth Voice

Over the next few months we plan to ...

- Take part in the Regional Children in Care Council residential 12-14th April
- Work with the Regional Children in Care Forum to improve support across the region
- Continue meeting with Corporate Parents and monitor progress with the Pledges
- Continue to work with the 'We Matter' and put on events to engage with more Children Looked After
- Engage with more older care experienced young people through the Forum and encourage them to become Care Ambassadors
- 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



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