



York's Children In Care Council and Care Leavers Forum ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023



Show Me That I Matter and I Still Matter are the groups that make up York's Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum.

The groups give young people in care and care leavers the opportunity to share their views and help shape and influence the services and policies that affect them and other children and young people in and leaving care.



During the last year we have consulted with over **56** individual people.

22%

This is approximately 22% of care experienced people currently receiving services from York.

we've also eaten lots of pizza 🍕 and enjoyed some great cake 🍰 at our Bake off events.

Scan to find out more about what's happening and when!



34
SMTIM
and
ISM meetings

9
Consultations
and
projects

16
Recruitment
and
training sessions

We've also had fun at Hollywood Bowl and Flamingo land !



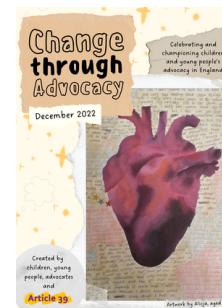
CARE PLAN DOCUMENTS

Show Me That I Matter have had their say in creating a template Care Plan for Children and Young People in Care so that young people will have their own copy of their plan, written and displayed in a way which is appropriate for them but contains everything they need to know. Young people decided what content was needed, how it should be worded and what these should look like.

There are now two versions which we think look fantastic!



CHANGE THROUGH ADVOCACY MAGAZINE



Young people from York contributed to the Change Through Advocacy magazine which celebrates and champions children and young peoples advocacy in England. The magazine was created by Article 39 and is entirely created using artwork, stories, letters and poems from children, young people and their advocates.



Scan the QR code



to view the fantastic magazine.

MY THINGS MATTER!

Last year a young person shared that they were unhappy with how their belongings were treated when they moved home. Show Me That I Matter discussed this and shared their own experiences and said they wanted to make a positive change.

The issue was raised with decision makers and we are pleased to say that City of York Council have signed up to the NYAS pledge.

The pledge is a commitment that you and your belongs will be treated with respect and dignity if you move.



NYAS (National Youth Advocacy Service) is a charity that supports and empowers care-experienced people.

COST OF LIVING

ISM discussed the impact of the cost of living crisis on care experienced young people. To get a better understanding of the experiences they created a survey to enable people to have their say about the impact of the crisis by sharing their worries, views and suggestions.

The responses were shared anonymously in a report to the Corporate Parenting Board.

As a result the Pathway Team have just launched a voucher scheme to support care experienced people with the cost of living by providing vouchers to support with costs such as energy bills, food shops and essential items.

HOUSING PROTOCOL

Last year a number of young people raised concerns about housing and asked ISM to raise it as an issue.

The group undertook some consultation and presented a report to the Corporate Parenting Board.

As a result a new housing protocol has been developed for Care Leavers.

This information can be found in the Local Offer.



Scan the QR code



INDEPENDENT CARE REVIEW

York's Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum had their say last year about the proposed changes to improve Social Care for Children across the UK as part of the Independent Care Review.

Corporate Parenting Advisors, Ellie and Jade were invited to attend Parliament in London to speak directly with decision-makers about what needs to change in the care system and share their views on the Independent Care Review. They presented the views gathered from York to Members of Parliament.



APPRENTICESHIPS

In February we invited Alison Edeson, Skills Manager at the Council to our meeting to talk about the apprenticeships and employment opportunities and the support available to Care Leavers. We had some great discussions that highlighted gaps and made a number of suggestions for consideration all of which were presented to the Corporate Parenting Board. We know its only the start of the discussions and will be working closely with Alison in the coming months.

CORPORATE PARENTING

When a child goes into care in York, the City of York Council becomes their corporate parent.

That means that they are responsible for making sure children and young people (in care and care leavers) have the best possible care, life chances and that they are safe, in the same way that a good parent would.

Members from Children's Services, Corporate Parenting Advisors, elected members and most importantly representatives from York's Children in Care Council and Care leavers Forum meet regularly to talk about issues for children and young people in care and care leavers; it then takes steps to fix them.

This is called the **Corporate Parenting Board**.

What is Corporate Parenting ?

What is a Corporate Parenting Advisor ?

Our job is to make sure that all Corporate Parents understand their responsibilities and listen to the views and experiences of children in care and care leavers.

We do this by talking and listening to children and young people in care and care leavers and sharing their views and experiences (anonymously) with Corporate Parents.

We will then work with Corporate Parents to help shape, design and improve services for all children and young people in care and care leavers.

We attend **I Still Matter (ISM) and Show Me That I Matter (SMTIM)** meetings and providing updates of the work we will be undertaking. Our first piece of work will be looking at the Local Offer for Care Leavers.

We would love to hear your views so please feel free to get in touch so we can share your views directly with our Corporate Parents who can help us make a change!

To share your views please email corporateparentingadvisors@york.gov.uk

JOIN

There are lots of different ways for you to get involved

- **SMTIM** for children and young people in care aged 11+
- **ISM** for care leavers upto the age of 25.
- **Day group** for care experienced people upto the age of 25
- **Individual** and **one off** consultations - If you don't want to attend the groups you can still have your say by speak to one of our Corporate Parenting Advisors.
- **Online** - We also have a facebook group where you can get involved and share your views on the issues we are consulting on.

Contact us :



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