



+ PARTICIPATION + NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022



What's in This Newsletter?

- A look at some of our activities for children and foster carers.
- Find out about Children in Care Councils priorities and how YOU can make things better.
- Check out some plans for the future and how to get support when you need it



Message from The Children in Care Council:

✦ We hope you enjoy this newsletter, it has something in for everyone from 5 to 18 years old. Please ask your carer to read it too. If you want to take part in our activities, learn how to become a young trainer, or if you have a big issue you want to talk about then get in touch by phone 07920503473 or email: BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk

OUR AIM

We want to make sure that children in care and their carers have a say in the services that they receive and feel valued. We could ask what you think of our ideas? But we think this is tokenistic. So make sure that children and carers lead the agenda, during the year, we will create lots of opportunities for you to have your say, make new friends and have fun.



So take a look inside
and find out what's
been happening...



Hi, I'm Casey I've been the Apprentice Youth Support Worker for the last year.

In that time, I have developed and supported participation activities, chaired meetings and help plan events.



I delivered Participation and Voices Training and Preparation to Fostering training to social workers and foster carers.

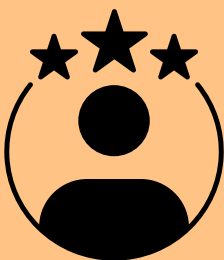
I interviewed adults for new jobs working with children in care and care leavers, and supported young adults to make budgeting plans.

Last Christmas, I ran an activity where we gathered donations and made Christmas boxes for care leavers who live on their own. We are doing it again this year. If you would like to help by sending us donations, please let Rich know by texting 07920503473



In this newsletter you will hear about lots of things that Wakefield Council do to give young people the opportunity to get their voices heard by people who can make things better.

It also helps young people to make decisions, grow in confidence, learn new skills, and make new friends



So happy reading and if you would like to know more check out: www.Care4Us.co.uk
email: BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk
or call 07920503473

CARE4US.co.uk 13-17yrs Awards 2022

Our Overall Winner, Donnel, seen here with the Right Worshipful Mayor and a member of the Children in Care Council



Every year Wakefield Council celebrate the amazing things you have achieved
This year we met at Ossett Town Hall and had an amazing time!
The Children in Care Council (CICC) and enthusiastic workers planned and set up the event.

The Awards were presented by The Right Worshipful Mayor of the District of Wakefield supported by a member of CICC whom she asked to be her consort for the evening. Our disco was provided by a young person working with Simon from Five Towns Radio.

There were some breath-taking achievements celebrated on the night including a young person who started her NHS Apprenticeship just before Lockdown

"She showed amazing empathy as she looked after ill and dying patients during long days wearing PPE, caring for those with Covid 19. Her motivation was outstanding, and carers were in awe of her 5am get-ups to start her day with a smile on her face and a can-do attitude."

The overall winner was celebrated for gaining the title, Grand Master Supreme in his age category at the National Tae-Kwon-Do Championships, then winning 1st and 2nd places in Sparring, Power Testing and Tag Team in the British Championships.

The Five rules or tenets of Tae-Kwon-Do are **Courtesy, Integrity, Perseverance, Self- Control and Indomitable spirit**. Something our young champion, and indeed all of our young people in care from Wakefield display in abundance.



LOOK OUT FOR THE NOMINATION FORMS ARRIVING IN NOVEMBER FOR NEXT YEARS AWARDS. THE AWARDS ARE OPEN TO ANY CHILD WHO IS IN CARE AGED 13-17YRS WHO COMES FROM THE WAKEFIELD DISTRICT (EVEN IF THEY LIVE ELSEWHERE.)

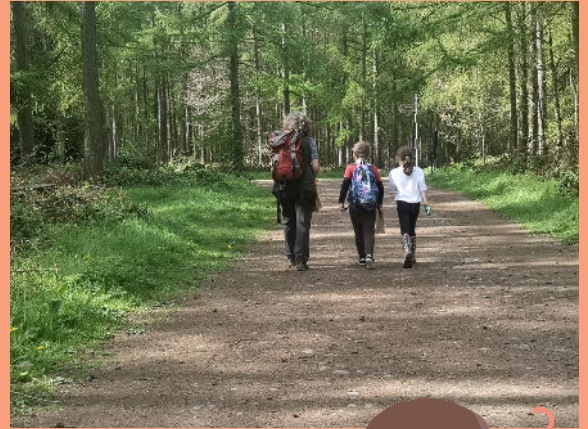
The Monthly Recap

MARCH

CICC Juniors met up with our Countryside Officers to make mud faces, nettle soup and wild shelters.

They talked about what they'd like in a Children's Guide to Foster Care.

These important guides are going to be relaunched in the spring and will be available for children who are new to care



APRIL

Find out about more being in care in our website CARE4US.co.uk



We visited Hemsworth Water Park where Children planned the Care4Us Fun Day and played in the adventure playground

A group of care experienced young people delivered Participation and Voices Training to newly Qualified Social Workers



We support children and young people to deliver training, and interview staff. This helps develop confidence and builds lasting friendships. A real way to influence services and make difference! Why not have a go?

The Monthly Recap

MAY

In May we had a sports session for 11-18's and a few young people who have left care. It was a chance to show some brilliant skills and talk about preparing for living independently

Last year we asked what activities young people would like to do and quite a few said they love sports

What activities would you like us to do?



BOF SUMMIT 14/05/22

Over 100 of Wakefield's young people met up to talk about what is important to them

It made me feel unique

I enjoyed having a voice and being able to have an opinion

I met some extraordinary people

A great way to identify who we are, wish we had more time.

I started reading again thanks to the free books (one book is LGBTQIA+ inclusive)

I now want to be a youth worker and I have been looking at how to make that happen

As well as talking about climate change, safety and transport the Summit explored identity.

CICC members ran a workshop where everyone was encouraged to celebrate what makes us all unique

Our next Summit is in November

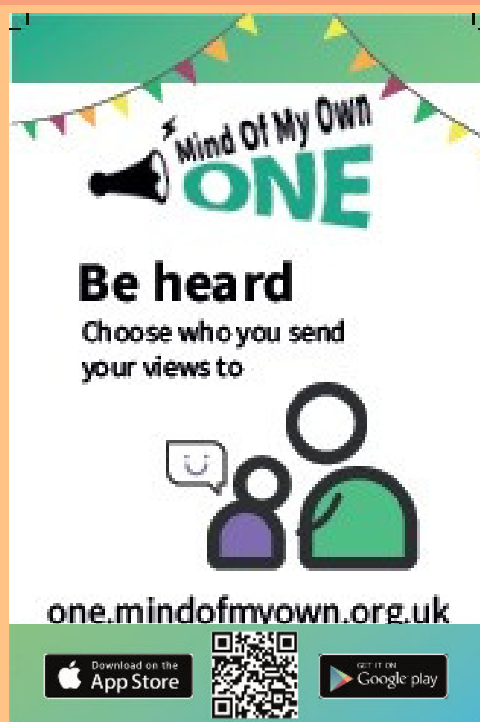


The Monthly Recap

JUNE

Our young people met the decision makers!

Casey, our apprentice, took part in discussions at the Houses of Parliament and Our BOF Forum presented the Children and Young People's Plan to the Cabinet of Local Councillors



A group of young people looked at Mind Of My Own, an app that is available to young people from Wakefield. They said "It's great for sorting out problems and letting your workers know how you feel and what you really think"

The app is easy to download in all the usual places. If you'd like help setting up or to get any more info, please contact us BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk



Olivia and Dan (at either side of the pic) are our new, NextSteps, Leaving Care Service Apprentices

**They are working from the Connect Cafe at Warren Court, off Park Lodge Lane, supporting care leavers to make the most of what support is available. The Next Steps numbers are:
Telephone 01924 304100
Freephone 0800 1380073**



Are you 16 yrs or older? Why not visit to find out what activities are taking place and what support is available? Or join NextSteps private Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nextstepswakefield>

CARE4US Fun Day and 0-13yrs Awards Celebration



BY MIA FROM THE CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL:

We were lucky to get almost perfect weather, not too hot, or cold and no rain!

The highlights of the day included having fun on the inflatable, listening to Elsa singing and meeting with people who work for us.

I really enjoyed keeping busy, being in charge or helping with six activities: count the pennies, tombola, treasure hunt, giving out certificates and picnics, and getting people involved in football. Phew!

A lot of children have said that celebrating their achievements and having a picture with the Mayor was their favourite moment in the day. We will be able to keep these picture in our life story books and memory boxes.

I think it is important to get children out and meeting other children in care so they can make new friends. My carer, says it was great to see other carers and see how other children are getting on- it's nice to have a catch-up!

Fostering Wakefield are looking for supported lodgings carers.

If you've got a spare room (or even two), are interested in the welfare and development of older young people (over 16) and want to make a positive difference then supported lodgings could be for you!

By providing supported lodgings you can help young people in the transition from being in care to being an independent adult. Supported lodgings providers can work full time hours (both can if you're a couple.)

By providing a steppingstone to independence you can really make a difference to the lives of young adults and you get a good rate of allowances too. To express an interest in becoming a supported lodgings carer email the team at fostering@wakefield.gov.uk

Help build skills for independence

Fostering Friendly

The Fostering Network

WF SINGS

In August, at Wakefield's Grand Day Out the new Children and Young People's Plan was launched to the people of Wakefield.

Our Choir joined up with members of Wakefield Youth Choir and Dazl Dance group to celebrate and perform. **Would YOU like to join our Choir?**



The Fostering Team organised a SUPER PARTY at Aspire@The Park and a SEASIDE TRIP to FILEY
These were fantastic opportunities for children and carers to make new friends in a safe space. Rocks were climbed, inflatables were jumped off and hotdogs were eaten! The feedback for both days was brilliant- **Get in touch if you'd like to go next year!**

Already a foster carer and thinking of a transfer?

Here's some of the reasons to transfer to Wakefield:

- You're more likely to have children placed with you – so no gaps in pay.
- We'll guarantee any payments you're getting from your current provider when you transfer.
- Unlike most agencies who expect their pay to cover all costs, we pay special allowances to cover items like school trips, clothing, and educational expenses.
- We'll help with mileage payments for certain activities when it links to care.
- We're 100% non for profit.

Remember, you don't need to tell your current fostering agency that you're thinking of transferring, but you'll need to resign from them if you decide to transfer to us.

AUGUST continued

CICC Juniors and their carers met at Anglers Country Park to do some lovely crafts and games.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE
OOGLIE GOOGLIES?



CICC met up with 16+ Forum to do some Pizza making at Pontefract Castle and talk about their priorities

Three new trainers delivered "Challenging Stereotypes for Children in Care" Training to colleagues from Health, the Police and the Youth Team



Our Baby Carer Support Group is now up and running.

This is organised by carers for carers and gives children an opportunity to interact, play & learn. As well as a chance for carers to network, widen their circle and provide a practical and emotional support system.

The group will run on the second Thursday of every month – for more information please contact the team on fostering@wakefield.gov.uk



Children in Care Council (CICC)

Priorities '22 -'23



Brothers and Sisters Staying Together



Foster Carer and Social Worker Stability



Reducing Poverty



Fewer and Better Rules

*"I know that I'm
doing good for for
children in care"-
Reece*

Every month young people
in Wakefield meet up to
talk about things that are
important to children in
care in Wakefield.



Check out our
Website

There are lots of activities
for you to enjoy where you
can learn new skills, make
new friends and talk about
things that are important to
you.

We think you are important and
we want to hear from you!

Join us!!

Call 07920503473
for more details

Care4Us.co.uk

CICC JUNIORS 4-11 YRS



What Activities
would you like to
do next year?

send us your ideas!!

JUNIORS



Visit Care4Us.co.uk for games, info, and help with reviews for children in care in Wakefield



Have fun & Make a
Difference

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



My Home, My Life

[TAKE A LOOK](#)



Me & My Review

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Email: BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk
to find out more about our activities

16+ FORUM PRIORITIES



Lessening the shock of the move to independence



More support for Care Leavers 18-21 and beyond



Better access to activities and opportunities



Increase Education, Employment and Training

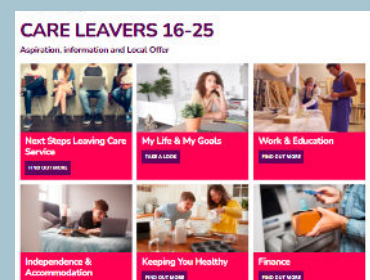
"Being involved is good for my CV and I've made new friends"- Scarlett

Every month Care Leavers in Wakefield meet up to talk about things that are important to them and have something to eat and drink.

Want to be heard?
Download:

We think you are important and we want to hear from you!

Why not get involved and have your say? Ask your social worker or PA or contact Rich on: 07920503473, or email BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk



Thank you for reading

**Why not tell us what you have
been up to?**

Send your pictures photos and
news and if you like we will put it
on the [Care4Us.co.uk](https://www.Care4Us.co.uk) website

Refer a friend scheme reminder

Just a reminder that the refer a friend scheme is still ongoing!

**Do you know someone who has the skills and qualities to be a foster
carer?**

**There's a fantastic £1,000 referral payment to any Wakefield carer
who refers someone who then goes on to become a foster carer and
has a child or young person in placement for three months. To
qualify for the payment, you'll need to ask the person you refer to
tell the foster service your name at the point of enquiry.**

Contact Fostering@wakefield.gov.uk

Next News Letter Spring 2023