CARE4US.CO.UK

PARTICPATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

BUILD OUR FUTURES

What's in This Newsletter?

- A look at some 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 newsleter, 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 isn't good enough. So to 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...

CARE4US.co.uk

WAKEFIELD FAMILIES TOGETHER
happy, healthy, safe

Youth Voice and Participation Team

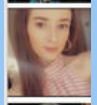
Participation groups and activities are available to support young people to learn how to positively express their thoughts feelings and wishes and influence the services that are there to support them. Talk to us by calling 07920503473 to find out more or get involved.

Elaine

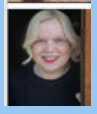
Rich

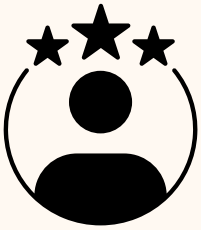
Sughra

Chloe



Jane





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

Fostering Wakefield are looking for supported lodgings carers.

If you've got a spare room (or even two), or know someone who is 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

The Monthly Recap

SEP '22

Our Emotional Wellbeing Group met with staff from CAMHS to share their experiences of the sevice they received and provided ideas about how to improve the experience for young people

Did you know there is a website to help with emotional wellbeing which Wakefield children and young people have helped to develop?
It is run by the Young Lives Consortium who also have a Young Healthwatch Forum who make sure that health services are working for young people

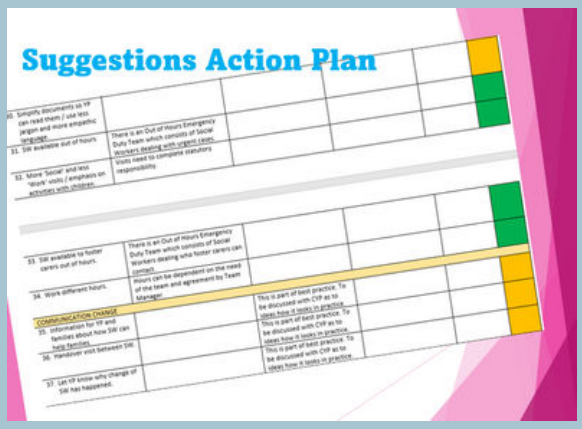
Kate Honeyman - Young Healthwatch Coordinator
Email: Kate@ylc.org.uk

I am one of the Coordinators for Young Healthwatch. We work to give local children and young people a 'voice' about their experiences of health and care services. I help run the Young Healthwatch Volunteer Forum with young people, who organise events and groups.

The Monthly Recap

OCT '22

On Oct 19th, members of CICC and the 16+ Forum presented their ideas to the Corporate Parenting Committee. They worked with foster carers and social workers to suggest ideas about how to build relationships with social workers



These suggestions have been made into an action plan

CICC took part in an online meeting with the All Party Parliamentary Group about the new Children's Social Care Review. It was a bit boring but the ideas are good. The next step is for the Government to ask Young People about their thoughts and wishes. They call this "Stable Homes Built on Love." If you'd like to take part in these discussions please get in touch.

Find out about more about your rights and opportunities when you are in care on our website www.CARE4US.co.uk

Care Leavers Week and Awards Ceremony

We had a great time celebrating all the amazing achievements of our Care experienced young adults.

We visited Scaregrounds, had a pamper session, a cinema night, all topped off with a great night out

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?

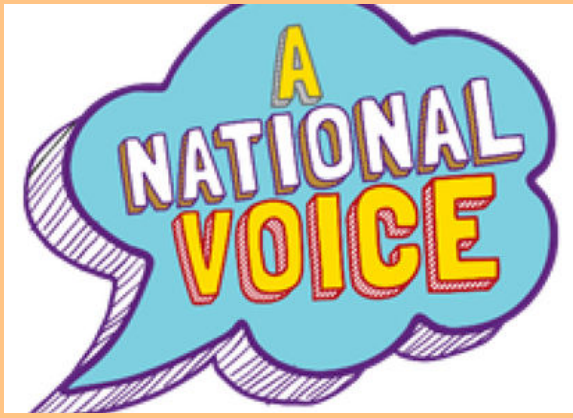
OCT '22 CONT.

A group of care experienced young people took part in the National Children in Care Council. We shared all the work we have been doing and took part in the consultation about Josh Mcallister's Care Review

JUDGES COMMENTS

This is a really lovely nomination compiling a series of highlights for the group. We particularly love the examples of training being implemented for newly qualified social workers. Also that engagement goes up to theage of 32!

Overall it's really amazing to see the range of work, training and activities taking place in Wakefield. The young people seem really involved with their local council, and that is amazing.



Pontefract Castle Escape Room

After months of planning our young people were imprisoned in Pontefract Castle dungeon and had to use their intelligence and imagination to time travel to freedom.
CICC have been working with the castle staff to develop this fantastic adventure.

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

NOV'22

The Build Our Futures Summit

The 6th Summit's theme was antibullying . This work is ongoing and has led to the development of the Respect Charter. Young people planned the event, hosted and facilitated, workshops and were involved in the 'Human Library' where they told their own inspiration stories

Seth and Troy

Council tax discount announced for Wakefield foster carers

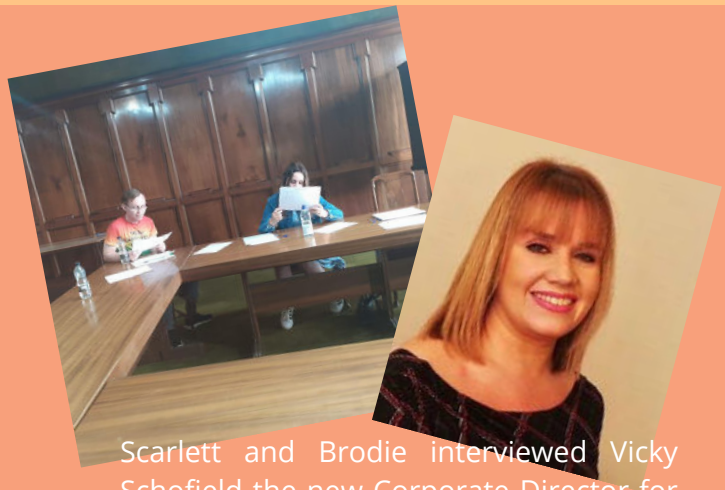
Wakefield Council has announced that foster carers will see a pay increase of around 12% to their maintenance rates with mainstream foster carers also benefitting from the 70% reduction in their council tax. The whole family benefits from fostering with Wakefield, from free gym memberships, railcard and now a 70% reduction in council tax, alongside specialist support teams and a network of foster carers.

The Monthly Recap

DEC '22

Interviews

Did you know that you could be a part of a young people's interview panel ?
In November and december we interviewed adults for 6 different jobs including the top job in Children's Services.



Scarlett and Brodie interviewed Vicky Schofield the new Corporate Director for Children and Young People

Xmas Gifts for Care Leavers

The Christmas Parcel scheme proved successful in its second year with 50 Christmas Gifts being provided to Care Leavers across the district. It is great to see an idea from a young person do so well and for so many people to benefit. Thank you to everyone who donated to the scheme, your generosity is very much appreciated.

Xmas Dinners

This year over 20 care experienced young people received Xmas dinners from the Next Steps team
We hope to make Xmas dinners more widely available at Warren Court in December. Watch out for more details on Care4Us.co.uk

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.

The Monthly Recap

JAN '23

Our young people met the decision makers to talk about Support for Care Leavers.
There's been lots of progress and we are updating the local offer for Care Leavers in July this year.
If you want to make things better for care leavers, join the 16+ Forum

Our Connect Café at Warren Court is open daily helping care leavers to make the most of what support is available.
Come and meet our apprentices.
The Next Steps numbers are:
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? Join our NextSteps private Facebook Page:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/nextstepswakefield

FEB '23

In Feb we interviewed for the Head of Service for Corporate Parenting. The successful candidate was Claire Smith. Claire has already met with our groups and is keen to make sure young people have a voice.

The Monthly Recap

FEB '23

Junior Rangers Badge 4-11yrs

This is a new activity for CICC Juniors. We are doing a lot of activities with the Countryside Rangers. In Feb we started with the Spider Badge.

Still to come this summer:

- Monkey Badge
- Witchetty Grub Badge
- Minibeast Photography
- Footprints Badge
- Get in touch to boook your place

The CARE4US Awards 2023

Over 70 young people 's achievements were celebrated on this fantastic night at Unity Hall. We had nice food, mocktails, a raffle, karaoke, and lots of dancing.

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

Already a foster carer and thinking of a transfer?

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

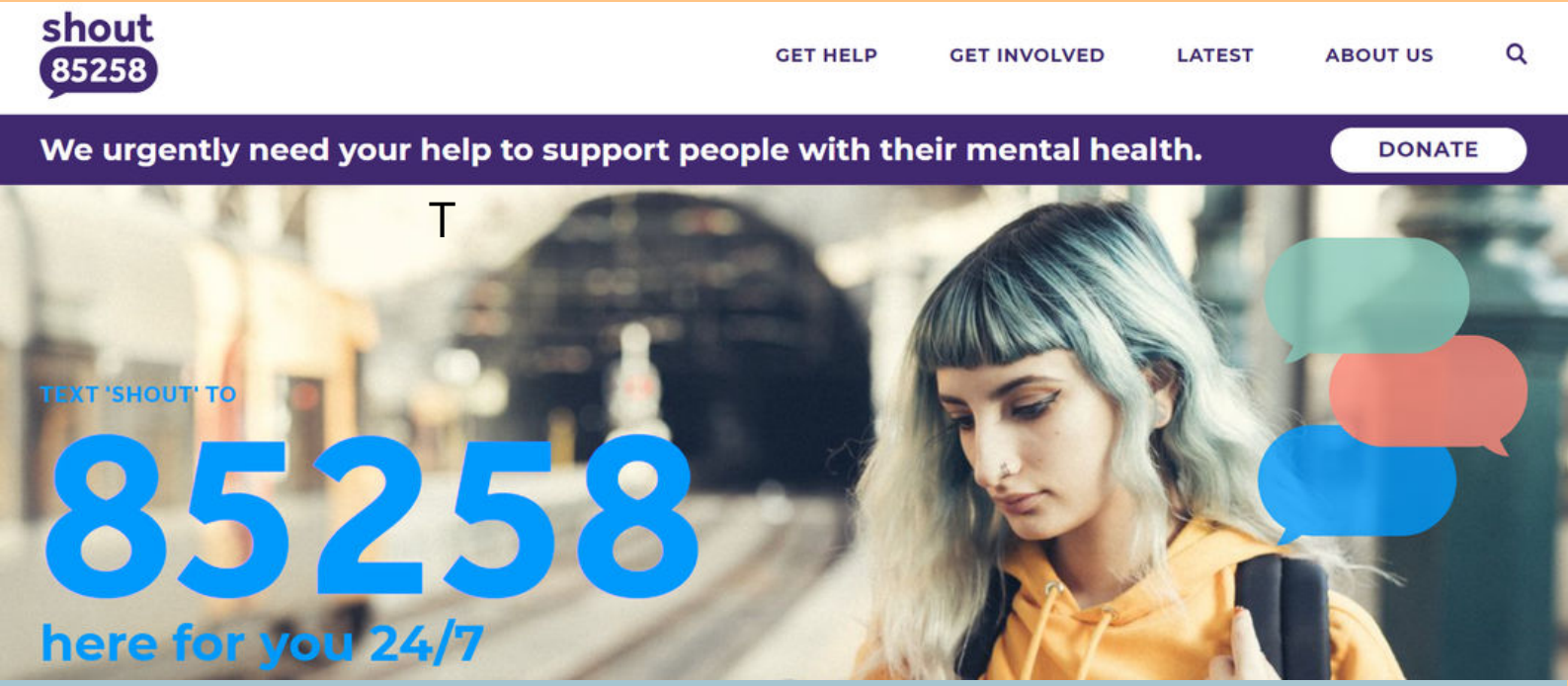
- You're more likely to have children placed with you – so no gaps in pay.
- We'll guarantee any payments you're getting from your current provider when you transfer.
- Unlike most agencies who expect their pay to cover all costs, we pay special allowances to cover items like school trips, clothing, 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.

Compass Wakefield

emotional health and wellbeing service

Compass is now the provider for emotional wellbeing support for Children and Young People in Wakefield.
They have a 24/7 support line called **Shout** and information and help at **Buzz Us**



T

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

CICC JUNIOR EVENT PLANNER

2023 PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES FOR 4-11 YR-OLDS

SCHEDULE

2nd May, Wildflower Planting	4:30-6pm	LOCATION : ALVERTHORPE MEADOW
31st May, Water Warfare	11am-2pm	LOCATION : PONTEFRACT CASTLE
27th June, Monkey Badge	4:30-6pm	LOCATION : NEWMILLERDAM
24th July, Bush Tucker Trial	4:30-6pm	LOCATION : ANGLER'S PARK
15th Aug, Minibeast Photography	11-2pm	LOCATION : NEWMILLERDAM
12th Sep,Footprints Badge	4:30-6pm	LOCATION : NEWMILLERDAM

TO DO LIST

Booking is Essential:

Email
BuildOur Futures@wakefield.gov.uk

- [ ] With Child and Carer's Name,
- [ ] Child's DOB
- [ ] Carer's telephone number
- [ ] Any Additional Dietary or support requirements

BUILD OUR FUTURES

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

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?

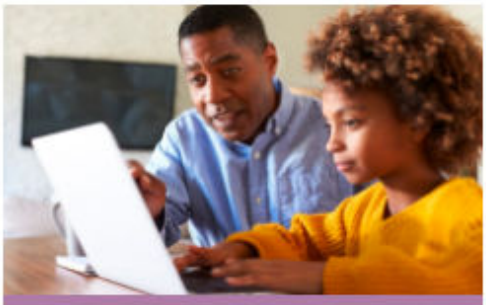
send us your ideas!!

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

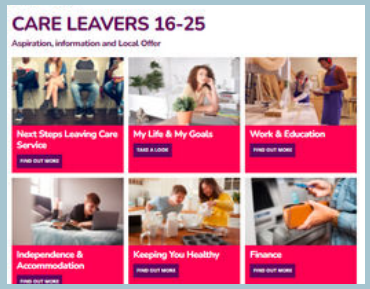
"Being involved is good for my CV and I've made new friends"- Scarlett

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



Does anyone listen- really listen- just to you?

If you're finding it hard to talk to a social worker, health professional, PA or teacher?

Mind Of My Own One App is a great way to put down your thoughts and send them to those who need to hear from you.

Download on the App Store

or

GET IT ON Google Play

Are you a

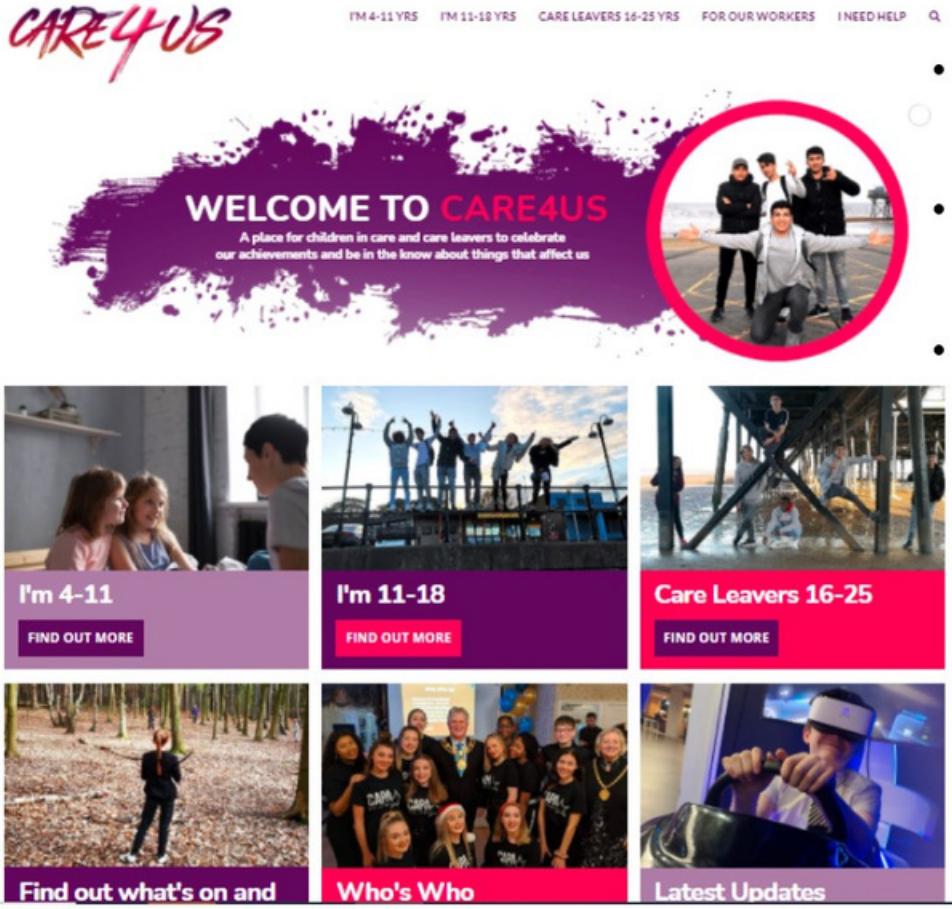
Child in Care from Wakefield?

Then visit

CARE4US.co.uk

Find out about :

- Activities
- Your Rights
- The Children in Care Council
- How to get Involved and make a difference
- Making the most of your review
- Future Pathways



wakefieldcouncil working for you

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 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 Autumn 2023