CARE4US.CO.UK

PARTICIPATION NEWSLETTER

APR-SEP '23

What's in This Newsletter?

Find out about the activities and work we have done around the Children in Care Council's priorities, and how you can get involved and make a difference.

Message from The Children in Care Council:

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, it has something in it for everyone from age 5 to 18 years old. Please ask your carer to read it too.
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 make sure that children's priorities are adults priorities. 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

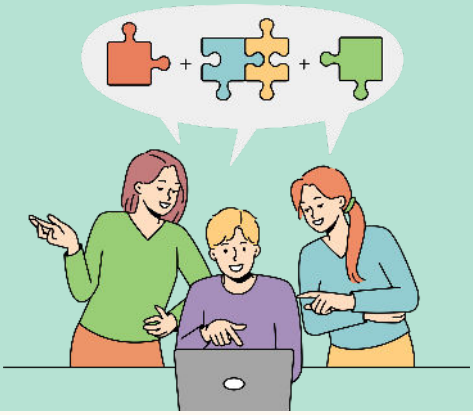
In 2021, care experienced young people decided what their main priorities should be:

- Lessening the Shock of the Move to Independence
- More Support for Care Leavers
- Brothers and Sisters Growing-up Together
- Social Worker Stability
- Better and Less Rules
- Reducing Childhood Poverty

Over the last two years our groups of young people have been meeting with foster carers, social workers, councillors and managers to talk about their priorities.

Our groups are safe places, where care experienced young people have felt able to talk about their experiences and feelings.

Because our young people are the experts, they have been able to work with adults to identify the problems and come up with some amazing solutions.



Then it's over to the adults to make meaningful changes to the way services are provided, and make things better for care experienced young people.

How we do it

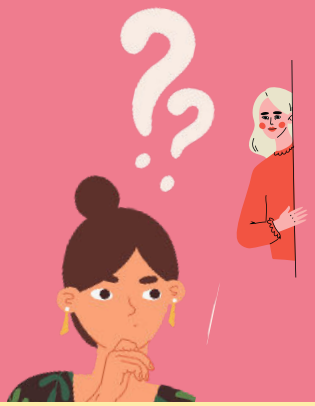
Young people training adults:

We help adults understand what children feel, need, and want. We design and deliver three different training courses:

- Challenging Stereotypes for Children in Care
- Preparation to Fostering
- Participation and Voices Training

Young People Interview Panels:

We check-out if the people applying for jobs working with children have the right skills and attitude.



Our Participation Groups:

- CICC Juniors
- The Children in Care Council (CICC)
- 16+ Forum
- Corporate Parenting Committee
- Head of Service Advisory Group (coming soon)

If you would like to know more, or get involved, check out: www.Care4Us.co.uk
email: BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk
or call 07920503473.

The Monthly Recap

APR '23

Members of our Children in Care Council met-up with peers from Yorkshire to discuss "Stable Homes, Built with Love," the Government's way of finding out what children in care really want from their homes.

In April, we delivered Preparation to Fostering training to people who wanted to become foster carers.
We shared ideas about making a home welcoming and looked at loss and how that can affect children. Part of our job is to assess if we think the people we trained would make good foster carers.

The Children in Care Council met at Pontefract Castle to make chocolate truffles and make a video about brothers and sisters growing up together.

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

The Monthly Recap

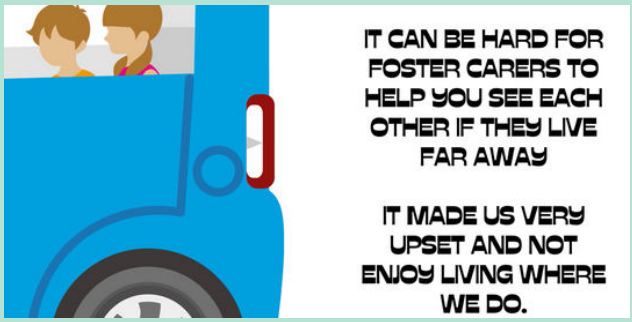
MAY '23

Members of the 16+ Forum got together for a game of tennis.

Are you 16 years are older?
Why not join our activities?
Find out more- ask your PA to help you join the Next Steps Facebook page

We planted wild flowers in Alverthorpe Meadow.

A group of young people recorded podcasts. They talked about why it is important for brothers and sisters to grow-up together.
Their words are being used to support social worker training and our Participation and Voices training.



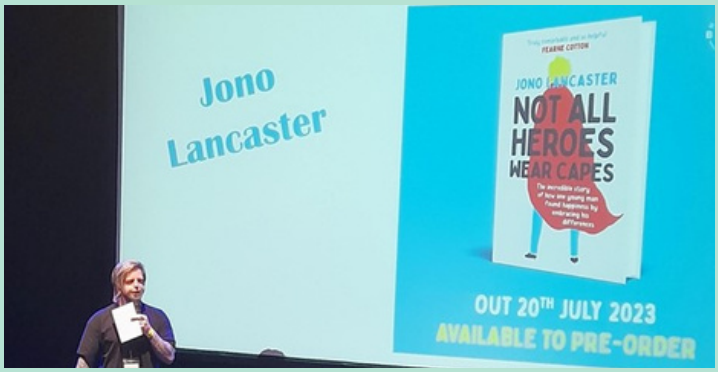
We delivered Challenging Stereotypes Training to PCSOs, Health Visitors and Residential Workers.
This important training gets adults to see children in care as individuals and not as a label.

The Monthly Recap

MAY '23

The Build our Futures Summit

Every year, young people from all over the Wakefield District meet together to talk about things that are important to them.



We had a special, care experienced guest star, Jono Lancaster, who told his story in our Human Library.

The Summit was hosted by Donnel and Sophie. Donnel told his story of how he became the National Tai-Kwon-Do champion.

During the event we found out what has been happening to make Wakefield a better place to grow-up in.

Young People's Priorities are:

- Education
- Health
- Identity
- Safety, and
- Our Futures

If you wanted to improve life for children in Wakefield District, and had a budget of £1000, how much would you spend on each priority and why?

E-mail:

BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk

and tell us what you think.

Do You Know Your Top 10 Rights in Care?

1. You have the right to be looked after well and have all the usual support and help a child or young person living at home would usually get.

2. You have the right to get involved in every decision that affects your life in care.

3. You have the right to information and to see what is written about you. This information should be given to you in an open and honest way and in a way you can understand.

4. You have the right to have contact with your family (including brothers and sisters) unless it is dangerous for you to do so.

5. You have the right to follow your own religion and be supported to do so.

6. You have the right to make private phone calls to your social worker and advocate.

7. You have the right to have your race, culture and language respected and supported.

8. You have the right to meet with your social worker without your carers and keyworker being there.

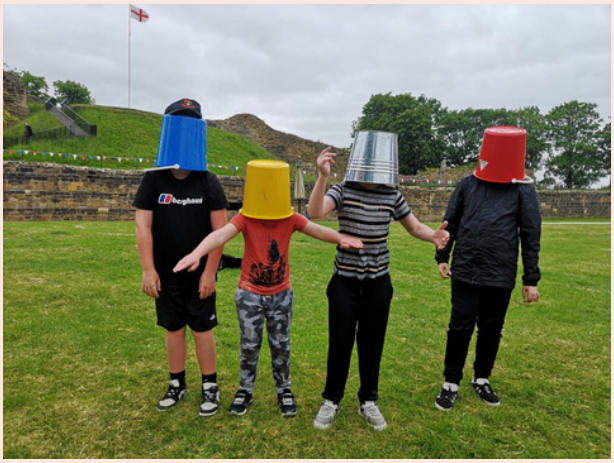
9. You have the right to be safe and protected from those who may harm you.

10. You have the right to make a complaint if you are not happy about the service you are getting from Wakefield Council, and you also have the right to have help and information from an independent advocate if you want to make a complaint.

MAY '23

CICC Juniors at Pontefract Castle

"It was great fun; we made catapults and played with water balloons.
We talked about the importance of brothers and sisters growing up together."



The Monthly Recap

JUN '23

Reece from the Children in Care Council joined Youth Parliament to meet Simon Lightwood, Wakefield's MP. He told Simon about Children in Care's Priorities.

Interviews

Did you know that you could be a part of a young people's interview panel ?
In June we interviewed for the top education job in Wakefield Council.

"It felt really empowering to have my say, it gave me much more confidence in my own abilities."

We met with the Corporate Parenting Committee to share the work we have all done to make things better for care experienced young people in the Wakefield District.

The Monthly Recap

JUN '23

The 16+ Forum met at Pontefract Castle to make pizzas and play rounders. Whilst there was lots of fun taking place, we also discussed how safe young people feel, what makes young people feel unsafe and some of the things that would help to make things better.

JUL '23

CICC have been working with Wakefield's Museums and Castles Team to develop an escape room in Pontefract Castle Dungeons.
In July they had opportunity to test it out.

Seth, Luka and Aiden were involved in interviewing for a new Service Director for Partnership, Strategy and Innovation.

The team did a great job and ensured that youth voice was a priority for the successful candidate.

Seth joined the Voice and Participation Steering Group and talked about how to the reduce barriers which stop children sharing their views.

Believe in children Barnardo's

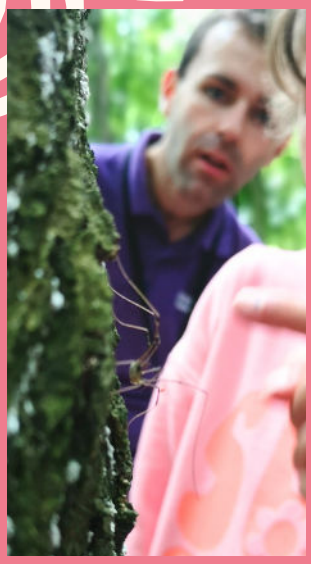
"Someone who can speak up for you and voice your point of view when you feel like you can't do it yourself."

Advocacy Service

Phone: 01977 552 493|Free phone: 0800 0121 552
Facebook: Wakefield CAPS
E-mail: wakefieldcaps@barnardos.org.uk

The Monthly Recap

AUG'23



CICC Juniors Minibeast Photography Challenge

We met to photograph the creepy crawlies that have moved into the spider habitats which we made earlier in the year. We also took some amazing pictures of Newmillerdam.

10 care experienced adults from Wakefield took part in a fun footy competition against peers from Bradford, Kirklees, Leeds, and Calderdale.

The Monthly Recap

SEP '23

Members of CICC, and the 16+ Forum, took over the Children and Young People's Partnership Board.

They told them that many young people don't feel prepared for adulthood.

They suggested developing an App, which provides activities that would help young people to develop the skills and confidence they need.

Three times a year, we meet with Councillors and Council Managers at the Corporate Parenting Committee. This month we shared our ideas about how to make sure children can grow up with their siblings. We worked together to make an action plan and they promised to tell us what improvements they are making.

Refer a Friend Scheme

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

SEP '23

CARE4US.co.uk Awards 2023

On the 17th Feb 2024, it's the Care4Us Awards. An event for 5-13 yr-olds.

CICC Junior's last Junior Ranger activity of the year was making sculptures in Newmillerdam Village Green.
We made natural sculptures and thought about the environment.

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.)

To express an interest in becoming a supported lodgings carer email the team at fostering@wakefield.gov.uk

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 saw it, I said it, it changed "- Reece

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

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 Rich on 07920503473 for more details

Check out our Website: Care4Us.co.uk

CICC JUNIORS 4-11 YRS

JUNIORS

"I think others should join because you make good friends and you don't feel left-out or lonely. Last year's activities were fun because we got to go in the forest making different things, learning survival skills."

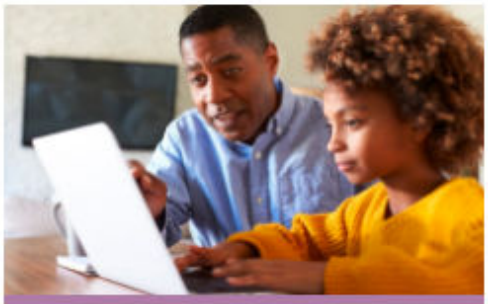
What activities would you like to do next year?

Send us your ideas!!

Visit Care4Us.co.uk for games, info, and help with preparing for 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

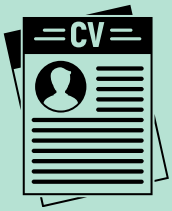
Email: BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk to find out more about our activities

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



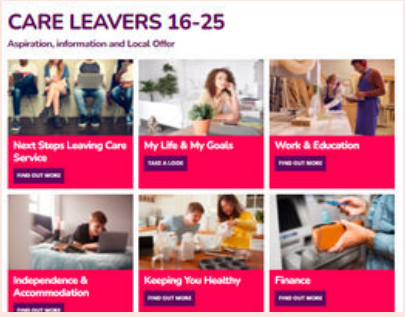
Increase Education, Employment and Training

"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.

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 are 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

Build Our Futures

Wakefield's Youth Voice Forum

What is Build Our Futures?

Build Our Futures is where young meet to share their views and experience to make Wakefield a great place to grow up.

What do you do?

- Hold meetings
- Interview
- Provide training
- Review Services
- Host summits
- Advise professionals
- Present our ideas
- Plan for the future

We make sure professionals understand what is important to us!.

Who can join?

Any one aged 11-19 (25 with SEND), growing up in Wakefield District.

For more information, contact:

call or text : Elaine Armstrong - 07920751202

BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk

Are you a

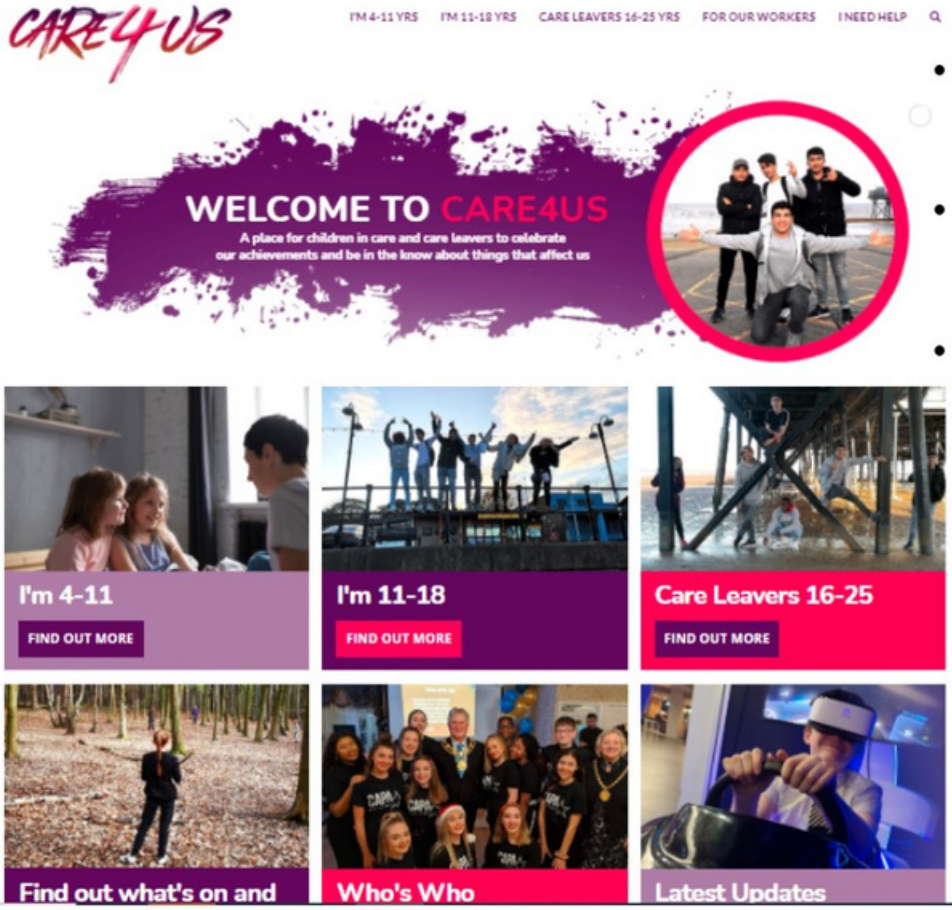
Child in Care from Wakefield?

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

Trinity's message

"We are like unfinished paintings,
we are still wet, there is still work to do.

We need you to help us fill in the gaps, and work out the small details.

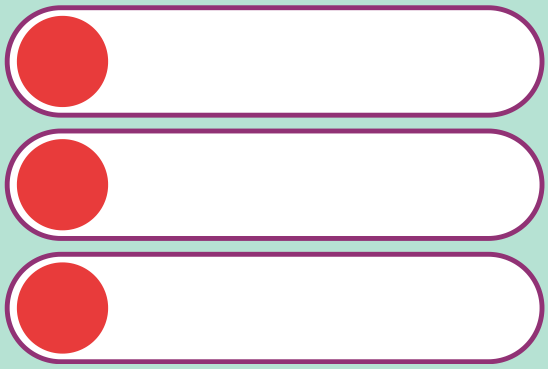
Please don't SMUDGE or Smear us."

Thank you for reading

Why not tell us what you have been up to?

Send your artwork, poems, photos and news and, if you like, we will put it on the Care4Us.co.uk website.

If you could improve three things about being in care what would they be?



Email: BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk,
call/text Rich on 07920503473
or download the Mind of My Own One App and send a statement to your Participation Worker

Mind Of My Own ONE

Next Newsletter, Summer 2024