CARE4US.CO.UK

PARTICIPATION NEWSLETTER

OCT '23- MAR '24

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 early 2024, Care Experienced Young People decided what their main priorities should be

- Better info for care experienced young people
- More emotional support for Foster Carers, Social Workers and Care Experienced People
- Reducing loneliness for Care Leavers
- More support for Care Experienced Adults

Over the next two years our groups of young people will meet with Foster Carers, Social Workers, Councillors and Managers to talk about these priorities.

Our groups are safe places where care experienced young people can choose to talk about their experiences and feelings.

Because our young people are the experts, they will 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 let us all know how they have made 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 training courses:

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

OCT '23

We started working on a guide to making a complaint document for young people.

Watch out for it later in the year.

CICC juniors celebrated our year of activities and making sculptures at Newmillerdam Village Green.

More General Support for Care Leavers

Rich and Joy, one of our foster carers, met with the Mothers Union to find out how they could give support to Care Leavers in the community?
Watch out in our next Newsletter for more info!

CICC Juniors had a spooky time at Anglers Country Park. Children and Foster Carers all made new friends and had a great time.

The Monthly Recap

OCT '23

Every year we celebrate Care Leaver's week with activities and events.

Next Steps provided activities such as pamper sessions, Go Ape, Go Karting and Scaregrounds

We celebrated our amazing care leavers at our Annual Awards Ceremony.
It was very sparkly.

T

"It was a great to meet old and new friends" - Ashley

The Monthly Recap

NOV '23

We delivered Challenging Stereotypes Training to PCSOs, Health Visitors and Residential Workers.
This training was rated Outstanding.
We've been asked by Leeds University to deliver this training to their Social Work Students!

We delivered Participation and Voices Training to Social Workers and Foster Carers and talked about BETTER and LESS RULES!
Guess What?
Turns out most adult didn't like the same rules when they were children!

We also delivered Preparation to Fostering Training to people who want to become Foster Carers

Did you know we also have a say in the Foster Carer Assessments?

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

If you want to improve life for children in Wakefield District, you could join our Build Our Futures Forum.

They meet twice a month on a Tuesday to discuss our priorities, plan our twice yearly Summit, and MAKE A DIFFERENCE

E-mail: BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk

The Monthly Recap

DEC '23

Thanks to the kind donations received through the council and our foster carers we were able to give out 70 Xmas hampers to our Care Leavers

Why not join our 16+ Forum and help make things better for care experienced people

Next Steps and the 16+ Accommodation team did a week of Xmas Activities

Scarlett won our design a Xmas Card Competition.

Would you like to send us your designs for celebrations this year?

Rachel wrote an amazing essay about the importance of recognising us as individuals. This was adapted and used as a welcome to the Care4Us Awards in February.

Read the full piece on Care4Us.co.uk

The Monthly Recap

JAN '24

We met with the Corporate Parenting Committee

(Councillors, Managers and Workers in Wakefield Council)

We played a video and talked about the work we have been doing about the importance of including young people in making rules

It really made them think about why rules are set.

We all came up with a list of ideas about how to help everyone work together to help children be happy healthy and safe

Our young people delivered training about Children's Rights to the Regional CICC Meeting

The Monthly Recap

FEB '24

Young people in the Youth Council met the CYPPB

(Children and Young People's Partnership Board)

They talked about how children don't feel safe, in town centres, in their communities and in schools

What do you think would make you feel safer?
Tell CICC and we will share it with the Youth Council!

E-mail: BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk

Foster Carer Working Party

Some of our Foster Carers meet together to improve what happens for children in care.
If your carer is interested in being involved, ask them to get in touch!

Contact Fostering@wakefield.gov.uk

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

FEB '24

CARE4US

Awards 17th Feb

Unique Us!

A brilliant event

"It was breath-taking. It brought us all together, giving us hope and something to work towards.
We have come all come from different places, but these are my family and will be in my life forever." - Mason

The event was hosted by Piper and Alex.
We had amazing entertainment from Jasmin, Candice, Rosie, Lola, Sapphire, Sadie, Vendi, Mason, and Owen, and a great photo exhibition by Malachi.

MAR 24

Young People delivered training to Foster Carers about how to negotiate better rules!
Soon this training will be shared with all foster carers.

Interviews

Did you know that you could be a part of a young people's interview panel ?
In 2023 we interviewed for 10 jobs in Wakefield Council.

Join Us!

**Our CiCC Junior groups met to explore the elements.
In our Wind activity they made kites and windmills, flew frisbees and talked about their priorities.**

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

COMING SOON!

In July we will be taking our team of ten over 16s to the Regional fun footy competition against peers from Bradford, Kirklees, Leeds, and Calderdale. Would you like to join us?

We train on Thursdays.

CARE4US Fun Day and Awards

1st August 2024

for 0-13s and their foster or residential family

Ask your carers to send in their nomination forms now, and join us for a fantastic day at Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Exibition

In November our groups are holding an exhibition of artwork that we create this year. Would you like to have a piece of your work in a proper exhibition?

Please contact BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk for more information.

Children in Care Council (CICC) Priorities 2024-26

More Emotional Support for Foster Carers, Social Workers and Care Experienced People.

Better Information and Communication for Everyone.

"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.

Why do we do it?

- To make the world a better place for children in care
- To work on our priorities
- To make friends

What does it mean to us?

- It's important that we are helping children have a stable roof over their heads.
- We are learning people skills.
- It's improving our confidence.

Join Us!

Check out our Website: Care4Us.co.uk

CICC JUNIORS 4-11 YRS

"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."

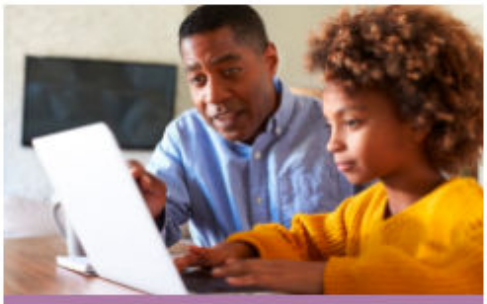
What activities would you like to do next year?

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

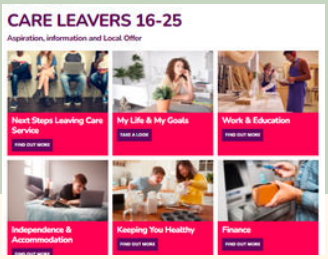
FIND OUT MORE

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

16+ FORUM PRIORITIES

Reduce Loneliness.

More Support for Care Experienced people of all ages.



"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

Fostering Wakefield are looking for supported lodgings carers.

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

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

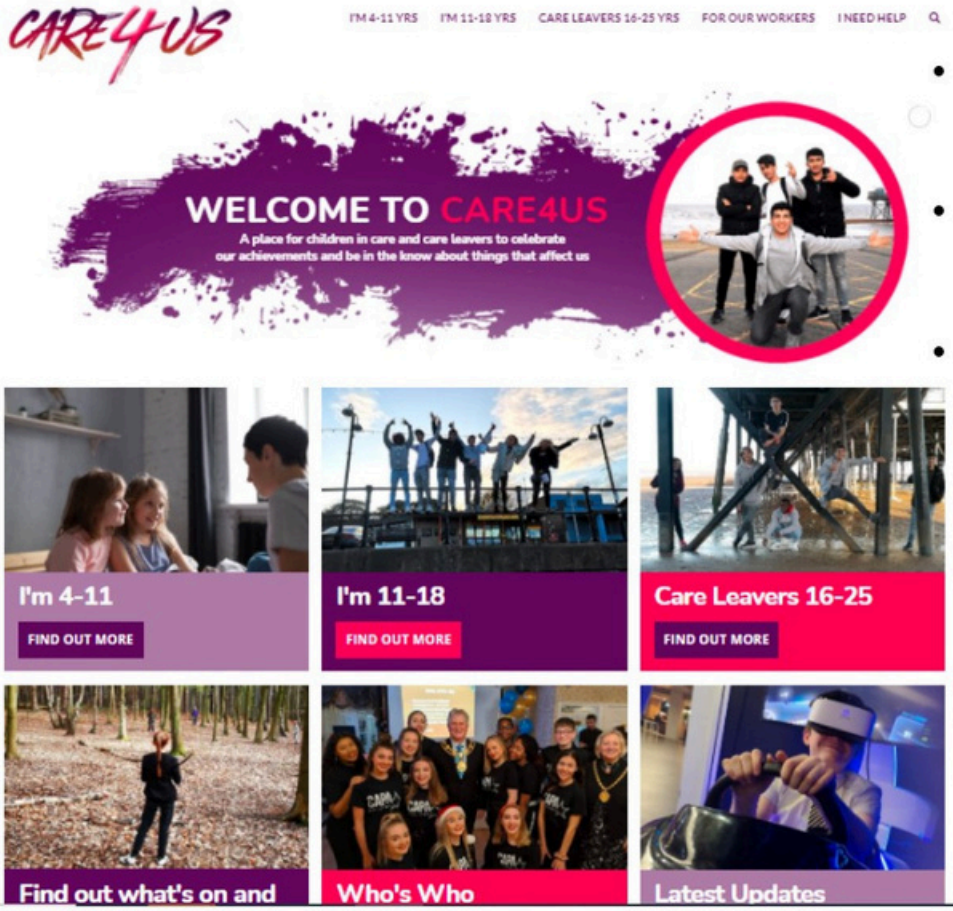
Child in Care from Wakefield?

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

I never thought I could get far due to being in the care system and missing lots of school.

I thought I would be working in a dead-end job for the rest of my life.

UNTIL...
I applied for a Youth Work Apprenticeship and thought 'Oh I'll give this a try.
A few years down the line and I finished my apprenticeship and passed my Level 3 in Youth Work.

I'm now a QUALFIED YOUTH WORKER!!

I never thought I would be able to achieve any of this or be where I am today.

SO, this just shows, whether you are in the care system, or you came from a "normal" background, we are ALL THE SAME.

IF you put your mind to it, YOU CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING YOU WANT!

WHEN people stereotype us because we're from a different background, just remember to tell them, 'WE'RE NO DIFFERENT TO ANYONE ELSE - everyone can achieve anything, when their head is in the game."

I'd like to thank Wakefield Council's Apprenticeship Team for giving me the opportunity, the Next Steps Leaving Care Team for having faith in me, and all of the Youth Service Team.

NOW, I have a permanent job within the Youth Hub as a Youth Community Support worker and I couldn't be happier.

I CANNOT WAIT FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER OF MY LIFE
Amy.

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.

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, Winter 2024