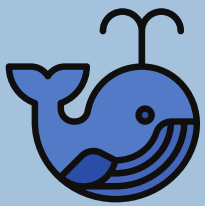




# PARTICIPATION NEWSLETTER

APR '24- SEP '24



## What's in This Newsletter?

Find out about our activities and the 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 21 years old. Please ask your carer to read it too.



## OUR AIM

We want to make sure that children in care 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...



**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 all Care Experienced people

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.



## Care Experienced voice groups:

- CICC Juniors
- The Children in Care Council (CICC)
- 16+ Forum
- Corporate Parenting Committee
- 

## Other youth voice groups

- The Build Our Futures Forum
- Youth Parliament
- Shout out For Change



If you would like to know more, or get involved,  
check out: [www.Care4Us.co.uk](http://www.Care4Us.co.uk)  
email: [BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk)  
or call 07920503473.

## Here's what we got up to...



Members of our 16+ Forum met to make memory books at Pontefract Castle.



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.

### 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!

[fostering@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@wakefield.gov.uk)



We delivered Preparation to Fostering Training to people who want to become foster carers. In this training we get a chance to help decide who will make a good foster carer.



## Making Memories

the 16+ Forum met at Pontefract Castle to make memory books. Are you doing life story work? If so tell us what you like/ don't about it



## The Build Our Futures Summit

In this year's summit Candice and Rachel delivered Children's Rights Training to adults and young people, We performed a brand new song, written by AJ, and we also looked at how Wakefield is addressing our priorities.



We delivered Participation and Voices training and Challenging Stereotypes training to workers.



Young people in CICC, CICC juniors and 16+ Forum decided their priorities.



Candice made a key note speech at Wakefield's Net Zero Summit. she shared her poem and talked about the importance of reusing and recycling.



CICC Juniors met at Pontefract Castle and told stories using natural found things which will be shown in an exhibition.

## The Corporate Parenting Committee

We met with the Corporate Parenting Committee and delivered parts of our Participation and Voices Training.

Six Special Things

**Feedback:**

• I will listen to

hear- not listen to

answer

• I won't assume anything



We also talked about Care Experience becoming a protected Characteristic

If Wakefield Council decide to do this it would make it illegal for anyone to discriminate against you because you are in, or have been in care.



# The Monthly Recap

# JUN '24

Members of our CICC Choir joined forces with Wakefield Youth Choir to practice for the Care4Us Awards performance

Wakefield Youth Choir are always on the look out for new singers.

If you'd like more info, please contact:

Manygates Music Centre  
Email: [music@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:music@wakefield.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01924 303306



## 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 regular football training sessions started in preparation for the regional Care Leavers Football Tournament. We chose our new Captain, Josh.

Have you seen the **CARE4US**.co.uk website?

It's full of important information about being in care in Wakefield

You can find out what activities are happening and how to get support if you need it.

If you'd like to write an article or share your work,

E-mail: [BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk)



# The Monthly Recap

# JUL '24

As part of Our Year, CICC helped the Museum Services deliver an escape room at Pontefract Castle

Members of the public had to fix a time machine to return to the future and Escape the Dungeon!



## Read The Review!

“We visited the new Escape the Dungeon event today with my grand kids. What a fabulous experience it was! They never stopped trying to solve the clues to get the keys that enabled them to escape. There was even a guard and a prisoner to give hints if you got stuck (which we did a few times lol.) It was a very authentic escape room attraction and a superb way to spend an hour!! Hopefully there will be more soon!”



## Footy!

Our Team, Wakefield Warriors, played in the Regional Care Leavers football Tournament.

We came 4th!!



Our logo was designed by the 16+ Forum and our kits were kindly donated by Castleford and District Lions Club.





## In August we had our Care4Us Awards and Fun Day at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



Foster families worked with artists, Vinnie and Oksana to make some amazing sculptures.

We enjoyed activities from all the teams who work with us.

The CICC Choir joined with our Foster Carer Choir to sing, "I'll Stand By You," and "Mamma Mia."



70 young people and their foster and residential families were celebrated, receiving awards for:

- Being Kind
- Education
- Recreation
- Being Involved
- Making Positive change

Nominations for the Care4UsAwards for YP aged 13-17 are open until 17th January 2025.

E-mail: [BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk)

## The Foster Hub home

In the Corporate Parenting Committee, Chantelle spoke about the values that our new home should have.



This home, which opens in Jan 2025, is to help children who are in residential care outside of the district move to a foster family.



The 16+ forum met to discuss Care Leavers Week Activities. They also discussed the upcoming exhibition. See more in the next issue.

## 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](mailto:Fostering@wakefield.gov.uk)

# COMING SOON!

## CARE4US Awards

20th February 2025

Celebrating Young People in care aged 13-17yrs .

Ask your carers to send in their nomination forms now,  
and join us for a fantastic evening.

Look out in your emails for our  
new Participations Activities.



New guides to  
care published  
Feb 2025.

Are you somebody who wants to make Wakefield a great  
place to grow up?

Why not join Build Our Futures?

They meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday every month.

For more info about anything in the  
newsletter, please contact  
[BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk)

# Children in Care Council (CICC) 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](https://www.Care4Us.co.uk)



# CICC JUNIORS 4-11 YRS



## JUNIORS

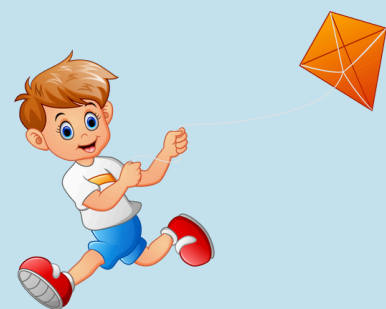
**“I think others should join because you make good friends and you don’t feel left-out or lonely.**

**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!**

**Look out for the new list of 2025 activities which will be sent by email at the end of January.**



Visit [Care4Us.co.uk](http://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](mailto:BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk) to find out more about our activities.

# 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.



or





# 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 Or Care Leaver 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

CARE4US

FM 4-11 YRS FM 11-18 YRS CARE LEAVERS 16-25 YRS FOR OUR WORKERS I NEED HELP

## WELCOME TO CARE4US

A place for Wakefield children in care and care leavers to celebrate our achievements and be in the know about things that affect us



I'm 4-11

FIND OUT MORE



I'm 11-18

FIND OUT MORE



Care Leavers 16-25

FIND OUT MORE



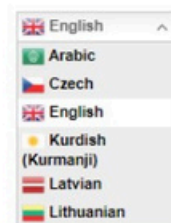
Find out what's on and



Who's Who



Latest Updates





# Other useful websites and apps

## IMO | Children's Commissioner for England

**IMO: a voice for teenagers in care and care leavers.**  
Here you can share your stories, experiences and achievements, get and give advice, and find plenty of great free stuff.  
[Read our story](#)

**Get opportunities**  
Information on education, careers and other opportunities

**Giving you the advice you need**  
Visit Help at Hand today

## Download Our App | HDFT Childrens Health Service

**Download Our App**

**Harrogate District Foundation Trust Childrens Health Service App**

A platform stacked with up to date technology that will assist service users with their everyday Healthcare needs whilst also connecting health workers closer to service users in every community.

- Health Chat – Message health workers direct
- Up to date contact information
- Childrens Health information
- Video Library covering health, sleep and infant development
- Push Notifications keeping you informed
- Essential services Tracker – Find all the services you require within seconds
- Activity Tracker – Walk, run and cycle. Have fun gaining medals and trophies along the way
- Plus many more features

Download it from the App Store & Google Play

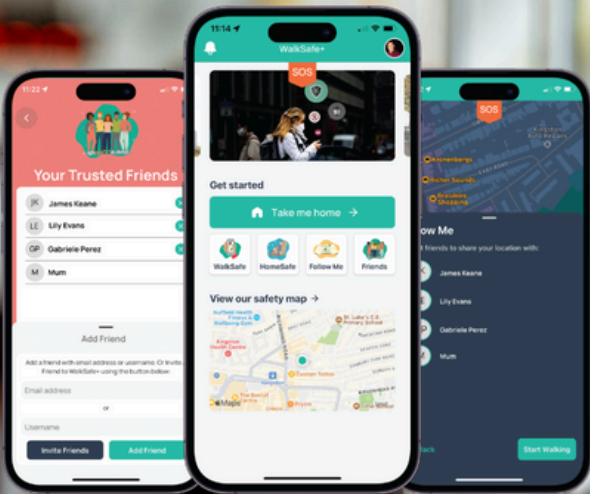
[Download on the App Store](#) [GET IT ON Google Play](#)

Download Our App

Give them a try

# Stay Safe

## Home - WalkSafe



DOWNLOAD  
WALKSAFE TODAY!



# Get Support

## Home - Help at Hand

0800 528 0731 Contact Us

I need help, information or advice About us

Help at Hand

### We're here to help you

If you're a child in care, living away from home, have a social worker or are a care leaver under 25, we can offer you free support, advice and information.

[SPEAK TO US TODAY](#) 0800 528 0731



### About us... Who are we?

Help at Hand is the Children's Commissioner's advice and assistance service for children in care, children living away from home, children with a social worker, and care leavers.

[OUR STORY](#)



# 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](http://Care4Us.co.uk) website.

Email:

[BuildOurFutures@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto: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.



Next Newsletter, Summer 2025