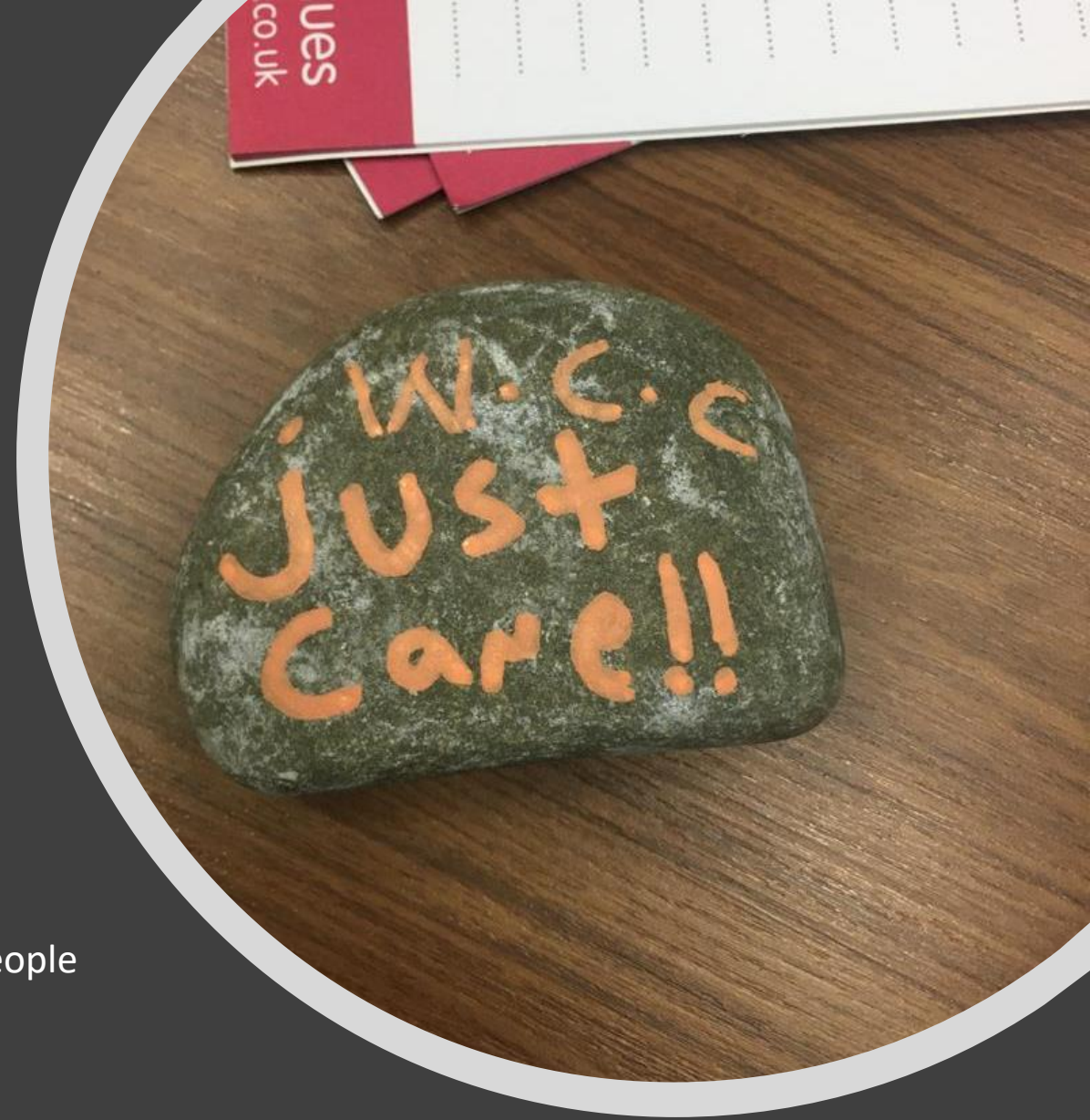


Participation Events Annual Report Jan 2019 – Dec 2019



A summary of key events and the benefits to children and young people



WCC Apprenticeships & Work Experience

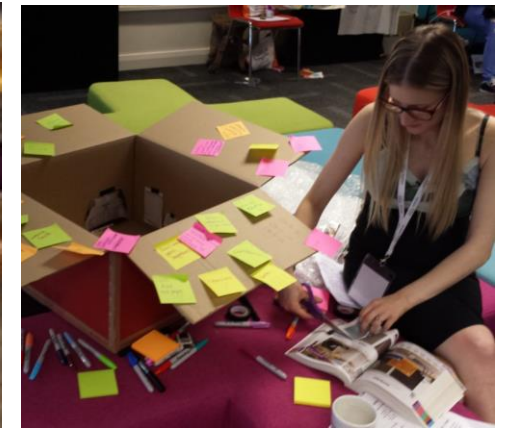
- Initial period of awareness building with the Apprenticeship Hub on additional support required for care experienced young people
- 2 apprentices initially 2018 - pilot
- 3 apprentices in the second cohort 2019
- 3 apprentices in the third cohort 2019
- 8 in total
- 4 finished or nearly finished qualification of which 2 secured full time roles within WCC in 2020
- 2 did not complete
- 7 WCC work experience placements offered of which 4 did not attend
- 10 apprenticeships external to WCC, 4 of which did not complete

Art Escape Workshops

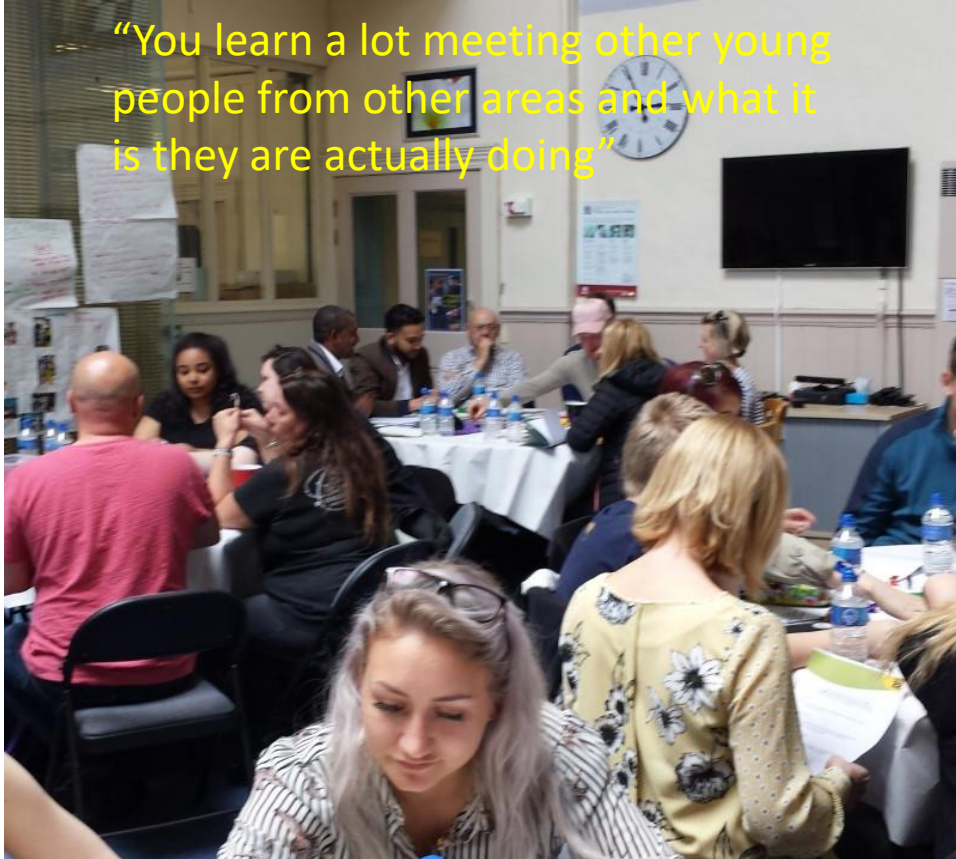
- 12 young asylum people cared for by Warwickshire participated in an “Art Escape” workshop
- They described their journeys and what challenges they faced when they were travelling from the African continent to the UK
- Each young person (female and male) had a different story to tell and these workshops helped young people to give clear messages about how they felt during their journey
- These workshops gave workers a deeper understanding of the journeys that young people experienced and what support they may need
- This work provides a visual representation of the hardships young people had to face whilst trying to get to the UK
- Young people found it easier to express themselves through their art and what an amazing job they did!



Young People Benchmarking Form & National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum



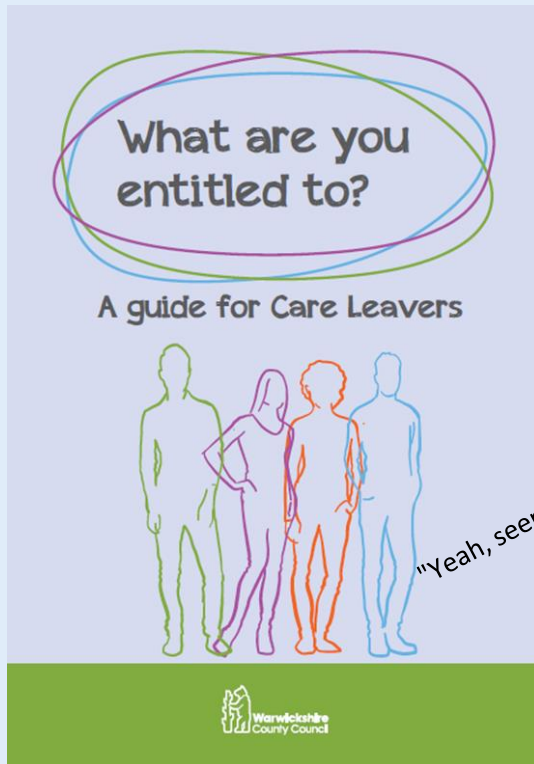
“You learn a lot meeting other young people from other areas and what it is they are actually doing”



- Both of these forums are run by a national charity to help improve the quality of leaving care services
- Young people get the opportunity to influence the national agenda and showcase good practice from WCC
- Jan 17th YPBMF - 2 young people in Hull
- 13th Feb NLCBMF - 2 young people in Birmingham
- 8th May YPBMF in Sussex - no one
- 10-12th July NLCBMF – Team Leader attended
- 17th Sept Birmingham Studio - no one
- 13th to 15th November – 1 young person attended in Leeds as a “young person's champion” from WCC
- Weds 22nd Jan YPBMF Coventry – 2 young people attended from WCC



Care Leavers Offer/Accommodation Guide



"Yeah, seen it and think it's a great idea!"

- In January 2018, the Care Leavers Offer booklet was co-produced by the leaving care team, and young people. The Accommodation Guide co-produced with Commissioning
- Both booklets have been very beneficial for young people to help them access their rights and entitlements
- The booklets are embedded in the Pathway Plan – a meeting that takes place with young people twice a year to help them prepare towards independence
- A recent short survey with 40 young people showed us that 35 young people had an awareness of the “What are you entitled to” booklet"
- Young people have less of an awareness of the Accommodation Guide.
- Both booklets have reduced the level of inconsistencies that existed between staff and young people
- The entitlements booklet is currently being reviewed using a national audit tool
- "Yeah... seen this, think it's a great idea. I know where to look now" - Young person

Coventry Uni and Warwick Uni

- 26th Jan Warwick University - 4 young people went to meet with BA Social Work students to share young people's perspectives of being in care
- 19th March World Social Workday – 2 young people shared their thoughts on being in care at a conference in Coventry University
- 24th June UASC conference – one young person attended a conference at Coventry University to talk about their experience as a young person seeking asylum
- 2nd November - 5 young people met with second year MA students to discuss the quality of support they receive from social workers
- Hearing from young people had a powerful lasting impact on audiences whether a large conference or small focus group
- "After listening to the young people my idea of social work has shifted from what I thought it was" - BA student



Care Leavers Covenant Launch



- On Friday 15th February businesses were invited to learn about the Care Leavers Covenant at Old Shire Hall in Warwick
- Approximately 20 businesses attended
- 2 young people spoke passionately about how being given an employment opportunity can transform the lives of young people
- The previous Childrens Minister attended and supported the event with his speech
- Following the event some of the businesses offered opportunities for young people for example, Wright Hassell Solicitors offered a week's work experience opportunity which was taken up by one young person
- Many of the businesses that attended commented that listening to the young people was "a big eye opener" for them

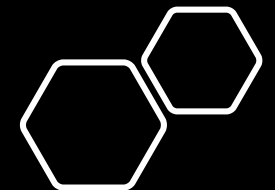


SECTIONS WITHIN THE STRATEGY

Information section	
We will do our best - our commitment	3
What is participation and why should we do it?	4
What is the national and local situation?	5
Children and Young People's priorities	6
Strategy section	
Where are we now? Where are we going?	8
Making this happen - how will we get there and what does success look like?	10
What's next?	11



- Participation Strategy Agreed
- Pledge to Children in Care Updated
- Posters to promote the Pledge circulated



Setting Up Home Furnishing Grant



The changes made to the Setting Up Home Furnishing Grant have been beneficial to many care leavers moving into their own property



Feedback from young people had highlighted that the grant was not fit for purpose



It did not cover the costs of the main items needed to set up a home. It was out of date with many items on the list no longer the same price as the allocated price, there was little flexibility and some items were provided with no choice available



The updated grant is still being piloted until the end of March 2020



Initial feedback from young people is positive



There is also much more flexibility giving the young person more choice and scope to make their house "a home"

Grandmentors Scheme



- Started April 2019 - the Grandmentors can help guide, advise and support young people
- One of those matches is LS with her mentor JW. After carrying out weekly visits at various coffee shops for the past 3 months, LS has shown some progress with an increase in her confidence to make her own decisions and to ask questions that concern her well-being and independence. She had already got an apprenticeship with a nursery in Leamington when she was matched but has now started a course that links in with her work experience and has also completed a First Aid course. Having JW has been a useful resource for her to keep her on track, and a reminder that positive changes are possible. LS also finds it useful to have regular chats with JW so that she doesn't have to keep worries, or even good news to herself. She has someone to share it with that has no direct connection to social services
- 11 matches have been made
- 38 volunteer mentors recruited
- 3 referrals left to match!
- BBC Radio and television have reported on this scheme
- A separate Peer to Peer Mentoring Project has also started this year with the House Project and one is planned with the Asylum Team



Farzana Topia @farzana_t... · 18/10/2019

Introducing Nasrdeen to his #Grandmentor

Tom today, along with his DA Charlotte



Star Awards

- On Thursday 23rd May, Liss, Katherine, Umar Charity and Courtney attended the Star Awards that took place in Warwick
- The Star Awards is an awards evening to celebrate staff achievements
- Umar was awarded Apprentice of the Year
- The Team received the Chairman's Special Award

Regular Groups

- NEET Group – There are 2 groups one in the North and one in being promoted in the South.
- Chill n Grill - Weds evening social event. Young people can also raise any ideas or issues of concern to them.
- Kitchen Session - Tues mornings to help young people learn about easy recipes, budgeting and food hygiene
- Bike Project – Tuesday nights young people can strip a bike down, rebuild it and learn valuable road safety skills.
- Football Group – There are 2 groups. One on Sunday which is a training day. The other on a Monday as part of a league in Coventry
- CiCC/CLF – once a month young people can meet to share ideas and thoughts with officers from the council. There are a range of activities and opportunities to help improve the quality of services to children cared for by WCC
- Interviews & Training- Young people take part in interviews within the council to help appoint staff and co-deliver training to staff
- Tiffin Club & Baradell Fund- These are charities which can help a young person to achieve other educational goals or hobbies.





Young People Being Heard

- Mtg Chief Exec – 4 young people met with Monica Fogarty in April 2019. This inspired a re-invigorated focus on young people cared by Warwickshire
- Leader of the Council – hosted a meeting to consult young people on the Council Plan in Dec 2019
- Children & Families SLT – care experienced are invited to attend Senior Leadership Team Meeting to raise and discuss topics that have been identified as important by young people in care
- Corporate Parenting Panel- care experienced apprentices are invited to this meeting to contribute to discussions
- Children's Overview & Scrutiny - receive and update on the Participation Strategy from young people once a year

Young Inspectors

- 8 Inspections were completed on supported accommodation throughout the summer 2019
- The quality of the accommodation varied
- Overall there had been some physical improvements to buildings following the Young Inspections in 2018
- The quality of support towards independence for young people living in supported accommodation remains a key concern for young people
- "My sister is 18 next year there is no way I'd let her live in something like this"
- 'I'm 21 I've not been supported to leave here.'
- Findings and reports are provided to the quality and performance team within commissioning



AGREE
Young Inspectors
REPORT

Pop Up Shop

- The pop-up shop was created within the Asylum & Leaving Care team at Myton Park
- How this shop works - staff within WCC and people outside of WCC donate items
- Example of items that are gifted include,
 - Clothes & shoes
 - Long life foods
 - Home items (kitchenware, lamps, heaters)
 - Bedding
 - Baby items
 - Books & and much more
- The shop is accessed by young people when there are events, when regular groups meet, or they attend with their worker
- It is low cost for WCC but good and effective for young people
- Feedback from young people has been very positive



Refugee Celebration Week



- “Refugee Week is important because it reminds us that refugees are not just statistics to be used and abused, they are living, breathing people. I am British, I was born here and I have no intention of leaving here, so I want to create a society here where compassion is built into our culture.” **Benjamin Zephaniah, Poet**
- On 17th June a celebration event was held at Old Shire Hall, Warwick
- Over 100 attendees at the event. Food, music, and an awards night





London & Other Trips Out

- In 2019 young people had the opportunity to take part in a social outing. One in April the other in August
- Over 80 young people in total participated
- It was an amazing opportunity for young people to visit a new place but also be able to meet lots of new people in a new environment



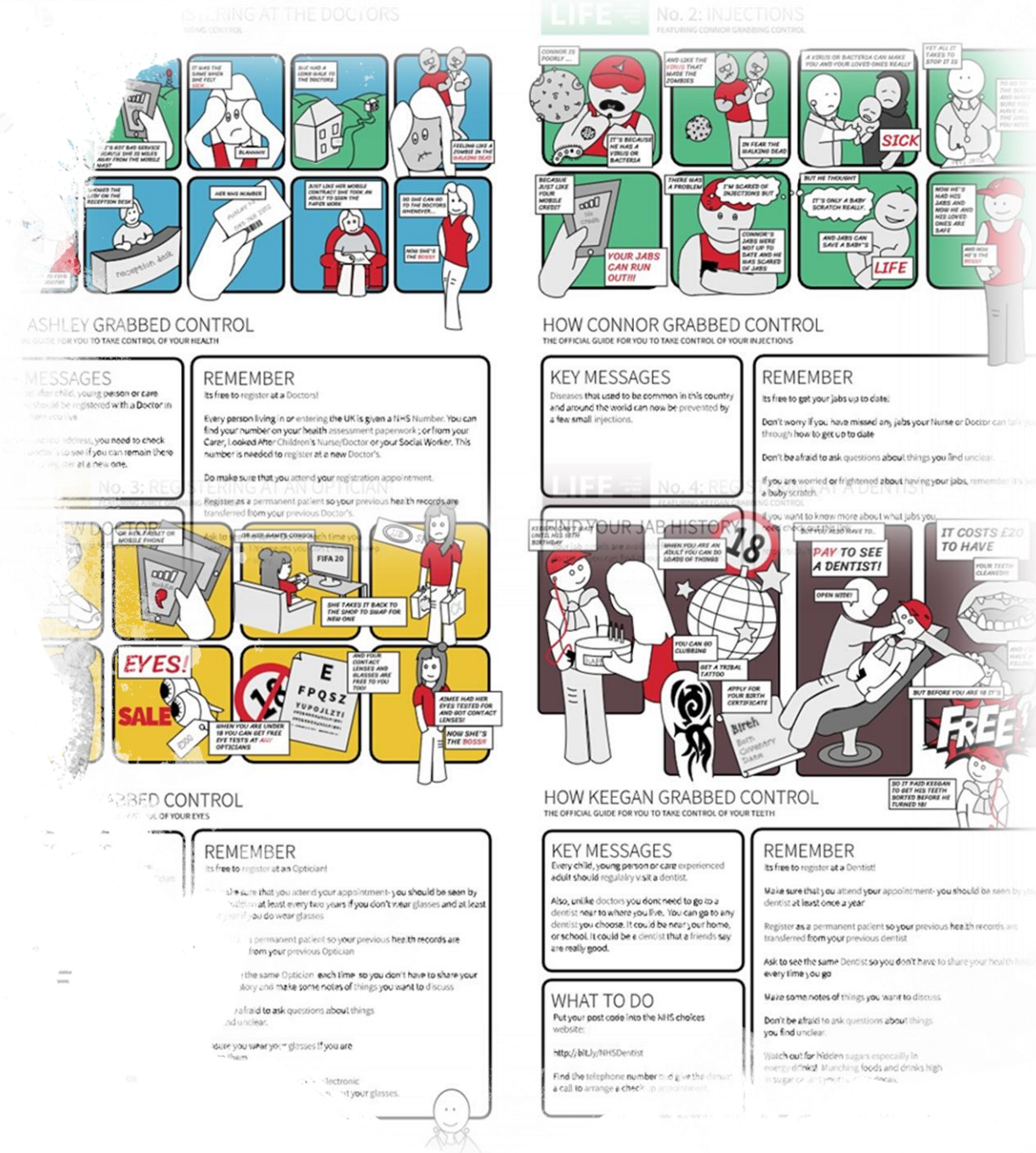
C&F conferences

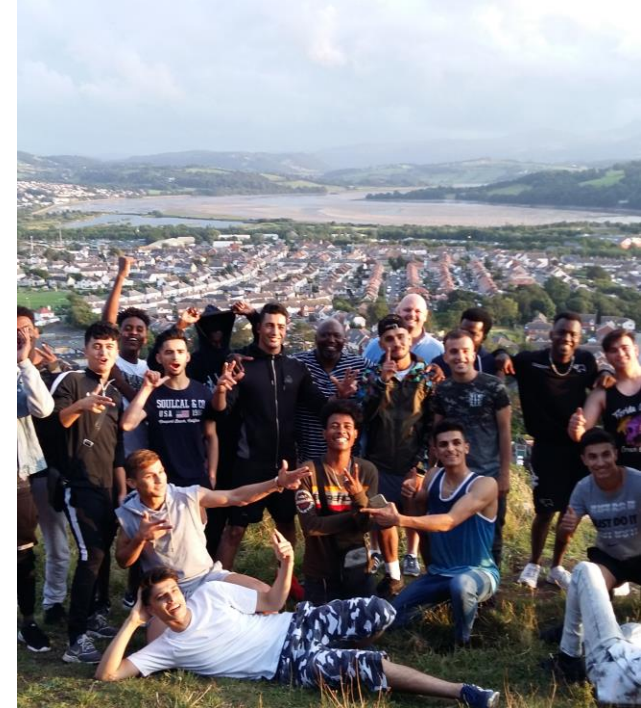
- 8th July Bedworth Civic Hall
 - 15th July Benn Hall (plus one other)
 - 16th July Warwick Racecourse
 - 20th Sept Pound Lane
-
- 2 young people were involved in delivering a presentation to all Children & Families staff over 5 separate conferences
 - They talked about Participation and how this way of working can make positive changes to improve public services



NHS Grab Guides

- 4 guides for children looked after produced in partnership with the NHS
 - Registering with a Doctor
 - Registering with an Optician
 - Getting all your immunisations
 - Registering with a Dentist
-
- June 2019 - Met with young people in Warwickshire
 - July 2019 - Sketches drawn by a professional artist
 - August 2019 - Re-visited young people in Warwickshire
 - September 2019 - Recorded young people's voices to accompany sketches and videos
 - Guides are now available for young people to access





Marle Hall x 2

- Week beginning 23rd July – Care Leavers building resilience
- Week beginning 20th Aug – Young people seeking Asylum having new experiences

Aqua Park Rutland Water

- Young people from the CiCC and CLF took part in a trip to Aqua Park in Rutland on 21st August
- This was to recognise that young people volunteer their time
- "I feel it really shows that they (staff) are wanting to spend time with young people and builds a good working relationship with young people"
- One young person was too nervous and didn't want to come into the water
- He had a greater fear of water then he realised. However, with encouragement he slowly got into the water and became more confident
- With the opportunity for him to experience that fear he was able to overcome it
- Once in, he shot off to do the activity without a thought and thoroughly enjoyed himself for the rest of the day!





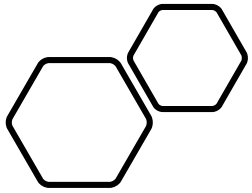
Virtual School Awards

- Sun 15th Sept – the awards took place
- This is the 3rd year of the new look awards
- The awards are less formal and more fun – lots of activities for children and young people as well as foster carers and staff
- Now a permanent change from the very formal award ceremony - initiated by young people



Foster Carers Workshop

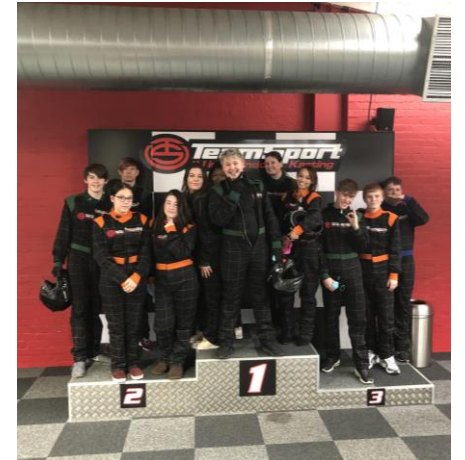
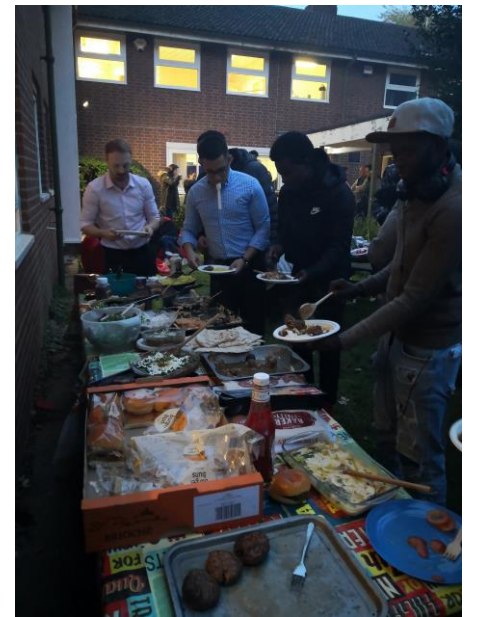
- Weds 25th Sept over 130 foster carers took part in a conference held at Bulkington Village Hall
- 3 young people delivered a very powerful workshop on their journey to the UK from the African Continent
- Foster carers found the stories very touching, emotional and upsetting
- Foster cares said that they gained a valuable insight into what it means for young people who have gone through these experiences and what support would be helpful to them once they arrive in the UK



Care Experienced Week

- Care Experience Week began on the 28th Oct and ran through until the 1st October.
- Monday 15 YP go-karting.
- Tuesday 8 YP baking and henna at Myton drop in
- Wednesday Animal Man, exhibitions, BBQ, lots of cakes, Pop Up Shop, Bike Project and a rock-climbing fundraiser.
- Thursday 15 YP cinema and pizza at Portland house
- Friday 15 YP bowling.
- The theme of the Care Experienced Week was #dearfutureme
- Young people were also asked to write a message to their future selves
- "This feels like a family party!"
- The event was received very positively by young people






Care Experienced Week
More photos from the event

Accessing Files Workshop

- 22nd November - Ree's Foundation funded a workshop for young people to learn how to access their personal file
- The person running the workshop was care experienced and had accessed their own file
- 7 young people attended this workshop
- Young people commented that the process to access their file is more complicated than they first realised
- They also commented that the files may not provide the information that they are hoping to get
- One young person said that she felt that she had a better understanding and felt more confident to ask for her files Especially knowing now what to expect and how to do it. She is currently asking about accessing her files





Filming young people talking about their journey

- Dec 2019 work started on creating a film to record the experience of young people seeking asylum when they first arrive in the UK
- The film will include the diversity of young people that have arrived in Warwickshire
- The film will be used to inform new arrivals of what to expect
- The film will also be used to train foster carers and staff
- Translation services have supported in the production of the film
- This film will be part of a series to follow
- It provides a positive resource to hear directly from young people on what works well and what needs further improvement



Christmas & Boxing Day Party

- 2nd Dec Parent and Baby Group an Xmas get together for young parents
- 9th Dec St Nicholas Church Hall Nuneaton, an event for over 100 young people to get together and enjoy the Christmas season
- 18th Dec Young Asylum Seekers, the party took place at Myton Drop in. The atmosphere was fantastic different cultures, music and dancing
- 26th Dec Myton Drop In, a boxing day Xmas Day meal was available to young people who would have been on their own



So what?

- It's social
- Reduces isolation and loneliness
- Helps improve emotional health and well being
- An opportunity they may otherwise not get
- It's not formal
- Builds trust
- Reaches young people we do not otherwise reach
- Better engagement
- Picks up any potential risks early
- Creates opportunities for young people to volunteer
- Provides ongoing feedback
- Alerts us to things that are not working
- Helps us to reflect on our service culture and our approaches
- It's fun!

