

# Children and Young People in Care

Newsletter Volume 2  
Issue 1 July



Care Leavers  
Independence  
Collective

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## ABOUT US

If you are interested in joining our Children in Care Council (ages 11-16), Care Leavers Forum (17-25) or have any improvements for the newsletter please contact the participation team on:

Telephone- 01902 550892

Email- [Corporate.Parenting@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Corporate.Parenting@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

# KINDNESS CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May members of our Care Leavers Forum and Children in Care Council joined members from the city's Youth Council and Mini ambassador groups for our first annual Kindness Conference. The conference took place during mental health awareness week and focused on the theme of kindness.

Mental health awareness week is an important week which allows us all to focus on and highlight the different struggles which at times we can all face. It is our opportunity to share experiences and discuss how we can support others who are experiencing these feelings. In a time where we are all still isolating from our friends and families due to COVID-19 mental health week this year was even more important so we could focus on how we are all feeling and what support we feel we need.

Our young people took part in a feedback activity highlighting what they think kindness is, what others does for them which is kind, what they do for others which is kind, who is kind to them and how we can encourage each other to be kinder in our communities.

During the conference there was also a round of kindness bingo and the opportunity for young people to make pledges on how they would be more kind to others. There was also a discussion about what support would be needed for young people after the current pandemic and period of isolation.

**Please visit our website to keep up to date with the latest events, conferences and opportunities that you can take part in.**



Young People's Kindness Conference  
2020

Celebrating Mental Health Week in Wolverhampton

# CARE LEAVERS

## [Virtual Meetings](#)

During this time, it is extremely important for our young people to stay connected and talk about what they are experiencing. Our Care Leavers forum provides young people with the opportunity to express themselves and contribute to the improvement of services available for Wolverhampton's care leavers and connect and form positive relationships with other care leavers. Currently due to Covid-19 we are meeting with our forum virtually over Microsoft Teams every two weeks on a Wednesday afternoon at 1pm. To find out more about our virtual meetings please visit our website [www.wolveschildrenincare.com](http://www.wolveschildrenincare.com) where you will find the links to our meetings, guides on how to use Microsoft Teams and contact details for our staff.

Next meeting is: Wednesday 29th April 11am.

MEETING LINK



## [Care Leaver Offer Review Conference](#)

Our annual care leaver offer review will be held on Wednesday 5th August 5-6:30pm using Microsoft teams. The review is the opportunity for care leavers to review the support and opportunities they receive through our local offer. We will also be highlighting findings from our annual care leaver survey to outline how we will look to further improve our offer. You can access the link for the conference on the events section on our website and your YPA can also send you the link. You will be able to take part in the conference on mobile, tablet and desktop.

## [Team Name Change](#)

In March a survey was completed to change the name of the current 14+ leaving care transitions team.. The poll was posted on Facebook with care leavers voting for their preferred choice. The decision was that the team will now be called the Reach leaving care team which also ties in with the name of our local offer for care leavers. The name is in the process of being changed and there will be further updates once this has been completed.

## [Song Competition](#)

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July a music competition was held for care leavers to take part in. The theme of the competition was based around Covid-19 with young people sharing their experiences and thoughts of the impact of Covid-19 using poetry, rap or a song. Reece was the winner of the competition and received a £50 voucher for his fantastic rap. Well done Reece ! More competitions could take place over the next few months and your YPA will update you on this.

Which name do you prefer for the Transitions Team?

Reach Leaving Care Team

Spark Leaving Care Team

Vote

Results

Share

### Music competition.

Be in with the chance of winning a £50 voucher of your choice!!!

Have a go at creating either a poem, rap or a song relating to COVID-19 / lockdown....

Age 14-25

Document, video or audio

Deadline: 01/07/2020

Winner to be announced on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm via Microsoft teams. Contact your YPA for the link to the video call.

Please send your entries to: [heather.edwards@wolverhampton.ac.uk](mailto:heather.edwards@wolverhampton.ac.uk) with the subject Covid19 Competition. Or WhatsApp: 07464981813.



# CHILDREN IN CARE

## Virtual Meetings

Next meeting is: Wednesday 29th April 5:30pm.

MEETING LINK

As our children and young people in care are spending most of their time in their homes some young people may feel isolated and may not be in regular contact with other young people in similar situations to them. We are meeting our children in care council every two weeks on a Wednesday evening at 5pm using Microsoft Teams. Our children in care council gives all children and young people in care between the ages of 11-16 the opportunity to stay in regular contact with likeminded young people and share their experiences to improve the services for all our children and young people in care. We have already recruited new members during this period who have settled well into the group and have made a positive impact with their ideas and creativity.

**Please visit our website for more information on how to join our children in care council and get involved with our virtual meetings**

[www.wolveschildrenincare.com](http://www.wolveschildrenincare.com)

## Annual Children in Care Conference

Our annual children in care conference will take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July at 2-3:30pm on Microsoft Teams. The conference will be hosted by our children in care council and will highlight key issues from our annual survey. There will be activities and opportunities for young people to share their views on key areas of the survey. There will also be a prize draw for those who attend. The link for the conference will be available on the events section on our website and your Social Worker can send you the link. You will be able to take part in the conference on mobile, tablet and desktop.

## Children in Care Council Logo

During the pandemic members of our children in care council produced keeping safe videos and suggestions for young people to keep themselves active and entertained whilst at home. Our chair for our children in care council Jerry produced a graffiti video to encourage young people to get involved with creative drawing. While creating this video Jerry made a graffiti drawing of the words CiCC. The group liked the drawing so much they voted for this to become the new logo for our children in care council. The group are still making changes to the final design to make sure the logo represents the group in the best way possible. Well done Jerry !

## Virtual Squad Summer Activities

WV holiday squad is now providing virtual activities due to the social distancing measures put in place. Young people and their families can access online activities including exercise classes and arts and craft sessions to give you something fun to do while at home.

**Please visit** [www.wvvirtualsquad.co.uk/](http://www.wvvirtualsquad.co.uk/)



**WOLVERHAMPTON  
CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL**



# EDUCATION,EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Adult education providers funded by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) are changing the way they deliver training during the Covid-19 outbreak, so that local people continue to learn new skills.

Training colleges and private providers have moved swiftly to deliver adult education courses online instead of face-to-face, or by telephone or post for those learners who do not have internet access.

Mayor of the West Midlands Andy Street said: “We know that this is a very difficult time, both for our adult learners and our education providers.

“It is, however, crucial that local people can continue to gain the qualifications and skills they need throughout this period, and the WMCA has been talking to all our providers about holding classroom sessions in a different way to make this happen.

“I am pleased to say that there has been a very positive response, and that a vast number of courses are being made available online.

“We have collated a list of all the training available for adult learners, and are publicising it on our [Covid-19 support](#) site. I would urge anyone who is interested to sign up now.”

<https://beta.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/covid-19-support/online-resources/>

## [Connexions](#)

Connexions Wolverhampton has a new daily online duty arrangement in place for young people living in Wolverhampton and their parents/carers.

Young people can still seek impartial careers advice, guidance and support from the Connexions Team who are currently working from home. Check out our video below for more information.

<https://youtu.be/dYYnWKR0wBk>

Colleges are conducting virtual open days for young people wishing to start September and will complete interviews over the phone for guaranteed places for September start.

For year 11 school leavers you can use your expected grades to apply!

Wolverhampton College: <https://www.wolvcoll.ac.uk/>

Walsall College: <https://www.walsallcollege.ac.uk/modes-of-study/courses-16-19s/>

Sandwell College: <https://www.sandwell.ac.uk/>

Dudley college: <https://www.dudleycol.ac.uk/>

**A Level results day-** Will remain the same and your grades will be released on the **13<sup>th</sup> August 2020**.

**GCSE results day-** Will remain the same and grades will be released on the **20<sup>th</sup> August 2020**.

**Please visit the link below for more information.**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-52309763>



