

Care Leavers Independent Collective Annual Report 2023



About CLIC

Care Leavers Independent Collective (CLIC) is a forum where Care Experienced Young People can have the opportunity to influence service delivery for the care leaving population of Wolverhampton.

This year has been a monumental year for the forum which saw the Motion to include Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic within City of Wolverhampton Council passed at

Full Council. This motion was presented by the Chair and Vice Chair of CLIC during the full council meeting. This report will highlight the work and achievements of the Forum over the last 12 months.

Background

Over the course of the last 12 Months CLIC have met twenty-one times. Each meeting lasts no longer than 2 hours. Care Leaver Meetings are held face to face, virtually whilst also offering a Hybrid model to support the involvement of out of city care experienced young people.

During the 12 months a total of 12 Care Experienced Young People have engaged in the forum. On average 4 Care Leavers attend every forum meeting. The Forum meets at the Oasis Coproduction Hub twice per month.

Celebrating care experienced young people success.

Care experienced young people hosted the I-Awards at the Start of 2023. Shawna Gibbs a member of the forum received the Inspirational Care Leaver of the Year Award for her work with the Forum and support to Cadets, The National House Project and other national movements that support care experienced young people. Kye Barton, Chair of the forum, was the Young Citizen of the Year due to his own personal development and ongoing support to ensure the voice of care experienced are heard and actions to support the betterment of their lives are implemented.

Each month forum as the opportunity to recognise the positive contributions the care experienced population of Wolverhampton make by judging the Care Leaver of the month award. On average 5 Care Leavers achievements are recognised each month.



What has happened at CLIC Meetings?

During the forums meetings members have met the following staff and engaged in the following pieces of work:

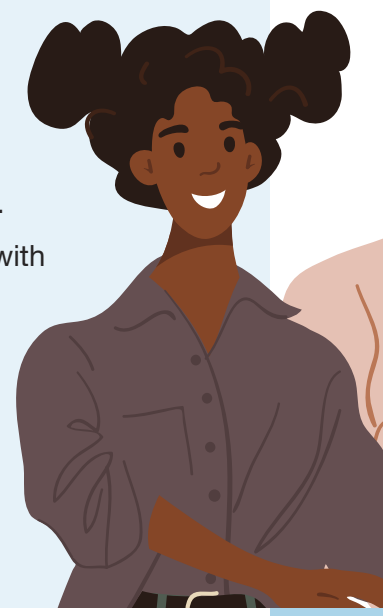
- Worked with Jazmine Walker, Head of Children and Young People in Care to collaborate with her in submitting the Staying Close funding application. On being successful with this application regular updates have been shared at forum meetings with opportunities for the forum to shape the work. Julia Thompson, Supported Accommodation Team Manager, continues to inform the forum of the progress of project as well as staff team that support the project.
- Review of materials produced by the Families Working Together Team
- Input into the Fostering Service development and how care experienced young people's experiences can help shape the work of the Fostering team this focused on the role that Care Leavers can have in sharing their experiences of fostering with the service on from Regional Bench marketing project the forum feedback that the region will considering how to support Post 25 care Leavers. This led to the Development of Post 25 Offer alongside the Reach Team
- Met with Commissioning team to shape the Supported Accommodation Tendering Process
- Met with Cabinet Member of Children, Young People and Families Councillor Burden and Alison Hinds (Director of Childrens Services) to update progress of the Forum.
- Involved in the development of the local offer for Care Leavers in Custody Offer
- Involved in the plans for Care Leavers Week with members attending various Care Leavers Week events.
- Received an update on the Care Leavers Survey and have shaped questions to be asked.
- Received an update on the EET Action Plan

- Receive updates from the NHS regarding there offer for Care Leavers and ongoing developments.
- Meetings to discuss the Digital offer for Care Leavers and how this offer can be increased further to Care Leavers who live in city.
- Regular meetings with staff from the Reach Leaving Care Team
- The forum works alongside the Hannah Bradely (Corporate Parenting Officer) to deliver positive outcomes for Care Leavers in the city. Hannah attends meetings on a frequent basis and as developed a positive rapport with members of the group.

Working with Elected Decision Makers of the city

The forum regularly meets with key decision makers within the City of Wolverhampton Council, they have so far:

- Meet with the Cabinet Members of Children and Young People
- Attended Corporate Parenting Boards to present progress of CLIC. The Forum also reviews any key reports linked to Care Leavers before they go to the Board.
- Presented the Equalities Motion at Full Council
- Attended the Children and Families board together meeting to raise issues of Oral Health for Care Leavers.
- Opportunity to engage with Senior Staff from Childrens Services during Care Leavers Week.



Regional Work

The forum have regularly engaged with other forums, bodies and decision makes across the Black Country region including:

- Attending the Regional Care leavers forum.
- Attending the Regional Care Leavers Local Offer Blueprint event.
- Attending Transport Regional Youth Forum Meeting in the attempt to raise the concerns of Care Leavers and the cost of transport.

Members of Forum have also Delivered Total Respect training to staff in Childrens Service this training gives professionals a real understanding of the day-to-day experiences of Children in Care and Care Leavers

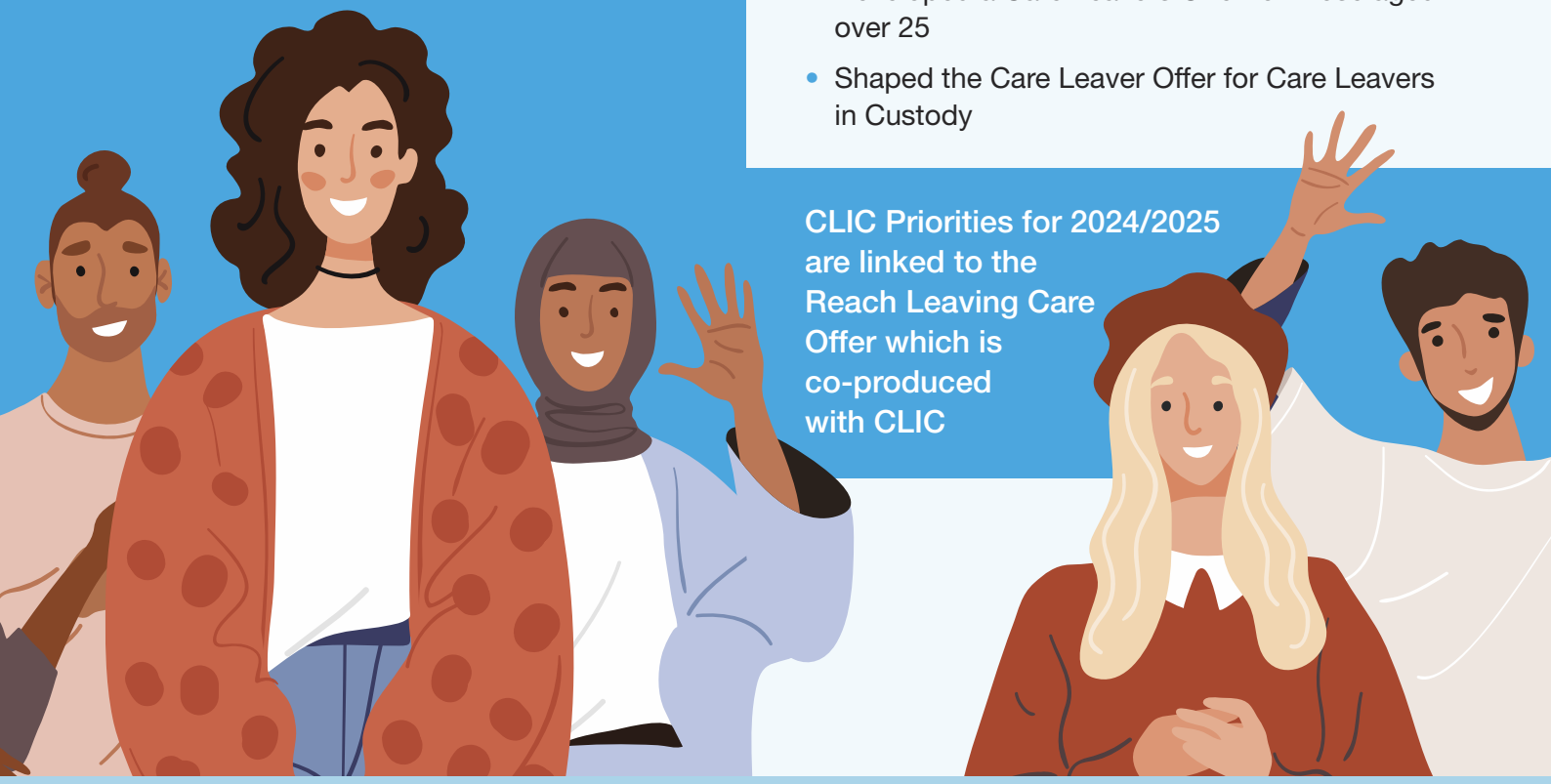
Members of the forum have been involved in interviews with a range of staff in Children Services, including the Deputy Director of Social Care to Social Workers and Young Persons Advisors who work with young people on a day-to-day basis.

Achievements

To date the Care Leavers Independnet Collective Forum are proud to have supported the achievement of:

- A dedicated leaving Care nurse for young people aged 18-25
- Free prescriptions for Care Leavers
- An Equalities Motion for Care Leavers developed by directly by the forum. The motion, presented by forum members and moved at Full Council, proposed including 'care experienced' as a protected characteristic in all Equality Impact Assessments carried out by the council – giving children in care and care leaves formal recognition and making sure that all decisions and policies consider their specific needs.
- Access to a supported rent subsidy for Working Care Leavers
- A strong apprenticeship and EET Offer within City of Wolverhampton Council.
- Care Leavers have the opportunity to access City of Wolverhampton Council apprenticeships at 2-week internal application stage
- Increased Wi-Fi access for Care Leavers
- Developed a Care Leavers Offer for those aged over 25
- Shaped the Care Leaver Offer for Care Leavers in Custody

CLIC Priorities for 2024/2025 are linked to the Reach Leaving Care Offer which is co-produced with CLIC



Care Leavers Independent Collective

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City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1SH