

LEAVERS COME FIRST NEWSLETTER

MONDAY 23RD
JUNE
2025

Welcome to this edition of our Care Experienced Young Persons Newsletter

This newsletter is packed with:

- 🎉 Chances to take part at different events with other young people and practitioners
- 📁 Opportunities to build your future
- 🧠 Tips and tricks for everyday life
- 💬 Real voices from young people like you

We believe your story matters. Your voice matters. And this newsletter? It's all for you.

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VOICE OF THE CHILD

APPRENTICE TEAM



Leona Jones



Jamie Perkins



Liam Bradley



Rhianna Nielsen

Hello!

We are the Voice of the Child Apprenticeship Team, a group with real lived experience. We're here to make sure you feel heard and to shout about things that could be better and ensure that your voice is at the heart of everything that is happening in children's services!

What have we been up to?

🎉 We're setting up some exciting forums and activities just for you!

From Pamper Sessions to Minecraft Events and Pizza Making, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

📌 Keep an eye on our Instagram page and newsletters for upcoming events and opportunities to join in the fun!

🗣️ Getting young people involved in recruitment!

We support interviews for senior roles and practitioners – making sure your voice is heard when it comes to choosing the right people to work with you.

🎙️ We're launching podcast sessions with our Leavers Come First team!

These sessions will feature inspiring guest speakers who'll share motivational stories and important info to support and uplift young people.

🏠 We're visiting Accommodation Providers to learn more about what's available for young people – and to hear directly from those living there!

💬 It's a chance for you to share your thoughts and experiences about where you live, so we can take your feedback to our team and help make positive changes where needed!

🏆 Supporting amazing events like our annual Hotshots awards!

It was fantastic to see so many young people being recognised and celebrated for their incredible achievements. We're proud to be part of it!

Want to see our latest updates or get in touch?

Our contact details are below:



yourvoicematters@telford.gov.uk



@yourvoicematterstwc

Below are a few examples of events and activities that we have been working on in the Voice of the Child Team!



We have been arranging lots of fun activities and have asked for donations from different places including Madlug bags for if you need a bag to move home!

30 people MAX so please email YourVoiceMatters@telford.gov.uk if attending

22ND AUGUST 2025

Sibling Day

bring your sibling you haven't seen for a while and come along to spend time with them!

- this is for care leavers and children in care
- You must come along with siblings and not be alone!
- we will be doing a range of different activities for people to take part in!

Madlug bags

Madlug bags are a bag for life. The bag is for those in need so they do not have to carry their life/belongings in a black bin bag as this is not fair on them at all! These bags are much nicer and more convenient as The man himself who created these bags said

"No child deserves to carry their life in a bin bag".

Please get in touch with hubprojectteam@telford.gov.uk if you require a bag for a child in need!

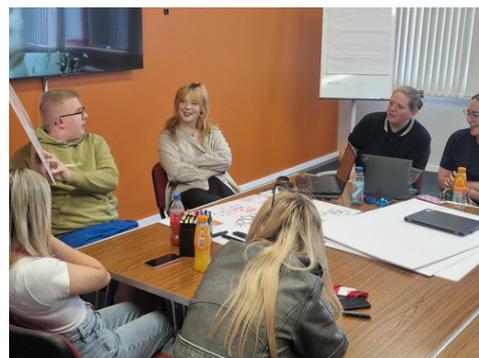


FOLLOW OUR INSTA

YOURVOICEMATTERSTWC
AS A PRACTITIONER, PLEASE SHARE THIS TO CARERS/YP

- Meet the apprentice team of the voice of the child. We are all care experienced!!
- We post different events coming up that YOU can join along.
- We post any important and cool stuff we have done!
- We have interactive posts.
- And most importantly, we are here to capture your voice and make your time that bit easier.

YOURVOICEMATTERS@TELFORD.GOV.UK

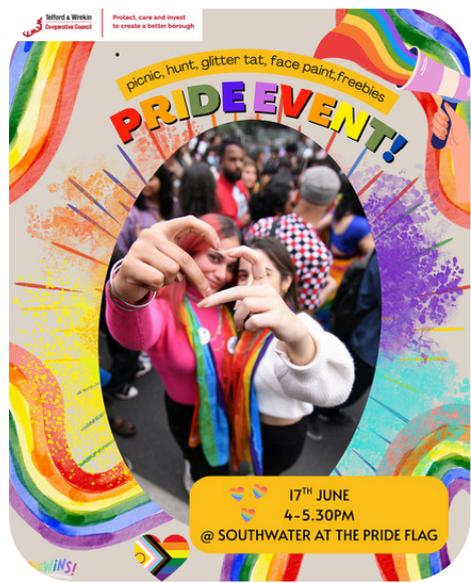


Visit to Parliament with the NCLBMF

Live Scribe Art Workshop focused on the Voice of the Child



Below are a few examples of events and activities that we have been working on in the Voice of the Child Team!



Celebrated Pride



One of us passed our driving test!

Welcome to our pamper session

- face masks
- nail polish painting
- hair styling (curly, crimped, straight)
- makeup tutorial

with **Leona, Rhianna and Mya** ❤️

We want to welcome you to come to our pamper day session that is being held at the leavers lounge on at

We have decided to do this as we know salons and beauty places are very pricey but this is FREE!! so please attend you do not have to have all of it or you can it is entirely up to you! We want you to feel great and who doesn't want to feel a bit better about themselves after a little pamper because I know I feel fresh as a daisy and it is my excuse to feel better! We will ask for you to sign a letter to say you allow treatments to be done. Come on down and have a PAMPER!!!!

Our email is YourVoiceMatters@tefford.gov.uk please email us to confirm you will be attending



Recorded Podcasts and attended Annual Hotshots Awards



Hosted a Pamper Session

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Come and speak to us for support - or just to say HI!

WHO ARE WE? 🧑‍🤝‍🧑
We are care experienced young people who have now took on the role of becoming experiences to help people like you as we have been in similar positions! Some of us are care leavers now and we want to support you to help make a difference. We know how tough it can be and how sometimes your voice isn't heard but we care and we want to hear and we will fight to get you heard!

WHAT IS IT? 🌸
This is a safe space for you to be able to pop in and to speak to any of us. It is a non-judgmental space where we will listen to whatever BIG or small you have to say and just give us your feedback on your experience, your social workers, what you feel like they could do better or what else you want support with? We will then get your voice across to others and fight for you. Remember, we care. YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

WHERE? WHEN? 📅
This will be based at _____ on _____ from times _____ - _____

WHAT'S NEXT? 📝
We will take the information you tell us and reflect as a team to report it back to PA's, social workers, etc to change and improve the support you receive and what you want to be different to make your experience that little bit easier!!

For more information you can contact us on by email yourvoicematters@tefford.gov.uk



Met some inspiring people!



Did you know?



Telford & Wrekin has a Local Offer to Care Leavers!

Who is the Local Offer for? To be able to get the support set out in the Local Offer, you must have been in care for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 18 and also including at least 24 hours aged 16 or 17.

If you are not sure whether you qualify for support, then ask your Personal Adviser (PA). Your PA will talk with you about the information in the local offer.

Every care leaver gets a PA to help with:

- Housing
- Education and work
- Health and wellbeing
- Life skills and budgeting



Below are a few examples of what's offered in the Local Offer:

Housing & Home Setup

- Help with setting up your first home (up to £3,559 allowance)
- Support with TV licence, home contents insurance, and redecoration
- Help with broadband costs and water bills
- Council tax exemption up to age 25



Education, Training & Work

- Support you with work and interview clothing costs.
- Ringfenced apprenticeships within the council
- We can provide a grant of up to £225 per year to support your further education course (level 2 or above) to go towards stationary, field trips, books and IT equipment.
- If you start an apprenticeship will receive a £3,000 bursary
- A free Arriva Bus Pass to travel around the borough, for instance to and from interviews, work experience, jobs until first wage, college until bursary in place, and university visits.
- If you attend University, we provide a Higher Education Grant of £2,000 up to the age of 25.



Health & Wellbeing

- Offer free prescriptions up to the age of 25.
- Free access to council leisure centres, which have gyms, fitness classes, yoga and swimming pools – as we know that physical activity is beneficial to having good mental health. You can also bring a friend for free!



The Leavers Lounge, at Meeting Point House is a friendly, informal place to come and receive support, participate in lots of different activities and meet other care experienced young people. Come join our Leavers Come First Forum, see your PA, and use our sensory room to chill out with a cuppa.

Want to Know More?

Speak to your Personal Adviser or email:
TWCareLeavers@telford.gov.uk

You can also check out the full offer online:
[Telford & Wrekin Local Offer](#)

Young people Summer Programme!

Archaeology experience

Archaeology, the scientific study of the material remains of past human life and activities. These include human artifacts from the very earliest stone tools to the man-made objects that are buried or thrown away in the present day: everything made by human beings—from simple tools to complex machines, from the earliest houses and temples and tombs to palaces, cathedrals, and pyramids.

We will be doing a number of sessions with the National Trust at Attingham Park:

Wednesday 9th July 10.00am - 2.00pm
Introduction and Geophysics
Monday 22nd September 09.45am - 3.30pm
Excavation
Monday 13th October 10.00am - 2.00pm
Finds Processing



**SUMMER
VIBES**

Arts and Drama

29/06/2024 at 1.00 - 3.00pm

Outdoor Activities

We will be meeting at the Leavers Lounge, having a chat about what we are doing and then once everyone has arrived, we will head over to the Town Park for fun and games. We will provide transport and snacks and cannot wait to see you all!
3rd July 2025 5.00pm - 7.00pm



Football Sessions

Madeley 3G Pitch
Court Street
TF7 5EE

Thursday 3rd July 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Monday 21st July 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Thursday 25th September 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Thursday 30th October 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Thursday 27th November 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Thursday 18th December 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Transport provided if required

**IF YOU WANT TO BOOK
ONTO ANY OF THESE
EVENTS JUST GET IN TOUCH
WITH LOUISE BULL, CARE
LEAVER PARTICIPATION
LEAD BY TEXTING 07530
097681**

**WE CAN PROVIDE
TRANSPORT TO SESSIONS!**



Armed Forces Day

In honour of Armed Forces Day, we will be doing a group visit to Cosford RAF Air Museum. You will be able to see the history of older generations and be amazed by the aircraft.

Please come along and have a day out with us!

Monday 23rd June 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Employment and Training Opportunities

Civil Service Care Leavers Internship Scheme



Have you heard of the Civil Service Care Leavers Internship Scheme?

This is an award-winning scheme run by the Department for Education. Offering jobs for care leavers in either a central government department or agency. The duration of the internship scheme is 18-months. You can be made permanent after the first 12-months depending on:

- your performance over the 12 months
- headcount within the department
- funding within the department
- Eligibility Criteria
- To apply for the scheme, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - entitled to a leaving care package*
 - aged 18-30
 - meet the Civil Service nationality requirements
 - *You must have been in care for a minimum of 13 weeks. Some of this time must have been after your 16th birthday. If you are unsure whether you meet this criteria, please speak to your personal advisor or local authority.



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Telford & Wrekin Council Apprenticeships

The council offers apprenticeships in:

- Social work
- Civil engineering
- Project management
- Housing
- Adult care
- Business administration

Visit their [Apprenticeships Page](#) or email apprenticeships@telford.gov.uk for help and advice.

The Wrekin Housing Group

The Wrekin Housing Group

They offer a structured apprenticeship programme with real qualifications and community impact. Learn more at [Wrekin Housing Apprenticeships](#)

Local training providers - Maths and English support!!



Landau – Supported Education & Internships

Landau offers:
Maths and English support
Small class sizes
Tailored learning and confidence building
Vocational training and internships
📍 5 Landau Court,
Tan Bank, Wellington, Telford

[Visit Landau's website](#)



Learn Telford – Functional Skills Courses (Ages 19+)

For young adults aged 19+ who don't yet have a Level 2 qualification in English or Maths:
Free Functional Skills courses
Gain a recognised qualification
Friendly, supportive learning environment
📍 Various locations across Telford

[Register your interest here](#)



Nova Training – Study Programme (Ages 14–24)

Nova Training offers tailored learning plans that include:
Functional Skills in English and Maths
Small group or 1:1 support
Vocational training (e.g. motor vehicle, business, retail)
Work placements with local employers

📍 Location: Telford

[Learn more at Nova Training](#)

Are you aware of The Care Leaver Covenant (CLC)?

This is a national initiative in the UK designed to support young people aged 16–25 who are leaving the care system, helping them transition into independent adulthood.

The CLC is part of the government’s “Keep on Caring” strategy. It brings together public, private, and voluntary sector organisations to offer real-world opportunities to care leavers, such as:

- Education and training
- Apprenticeships and internships
- Accommodation support
- Free or discounted goods and services
- Life skills and mentoring



Want to know more,
click the link to visit
their website..
[Click Here](#)

Examples of Support

- Government departments offer 12-month paid internships.
- Businesses may provide CV workshops, interview coaching, or job placements.
- Universities and housing providers may offer accommodation support for students who are care leavers!!

Did you hear?

Telford and Wrekin are hosting an event for local businesses, organisations and charities to support more of us and make the pledge!
So watch this space, so many exciting offers coming - we will update in a later edition of our newsletter

HINTS AND TIPS

In this weeks edition, we have included a quick and easy recipe for tasty noodles as well as a creative idea you can do (YOU Wall)

Quick and tasty Chicken Noodles!!

Ingredients:

40g Finely sliced chicken or ham
1 spring onion
Leeks or Shallot work well here too!
1tsp grated carrot (no need to peel)
1tsp grated courgette
1 handful of spinach
1 nest of rice noodles (the kind that only need soaking in water)
Chicken stock cube
½ tsp Chilli OR Curry Powder



Preparation:

Prepare the vegetables keeping them small or grated
Finely slice the chicken or ham
Place noodles in a bowl, cover with boiling water and place a plate on top leaving for 5 minutes
In another bowl, add all the vegetables, chicken/ham, chilli powder, stock cube and half a mug of just-boiled water.
Drain the noodles
Transfer the noodles to a bowl and add the vegetable and chicken/ham mix.
Stir well - Enjoy!

YOU WALL!

How to create a “You” Wall:

Turn a corner of your room, board or even a notebook into your personal celebration space! Fill it with:

- 📷 Photos of people and moments you love
- ✍️ Quotes that inspire you
- 🎯 Your goals and dreams
- 🎨 Drawings or art you’ve made
- 🏆 Achievements you’re proud of

Every time you look at it, you’ll be reminded of how unique and amazing you are. It’s your space—make it loudly and proudly **YOU!**



Hey there! We want to hear from You!



Thanks for reading this edition of our newsletter—we hope you found something inspiring, helpful, or just plain fun!

Got ideas? Thoughts? Something for to share which is helpful to other young people?

We'd love to hear from you! Whether it's:



- A cool tip or life hack you want to share
- A question you'd like answered
- A shout-out to someone awesome
- Or just your thoughts on what we should include next time...

Get in touch with the team!!

yourvoicematters@telford.gov.uk

