



# THE INFLUENCERS NEWSLETTER

9<sup>th</sup> Edition July 2025



## Welcome to the new Council4Kids Newsletter

What we've been up to...

### Staff Festival

On Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of July it was so nice to see so many of our C4K group and Care Leaver forum members at our staff festival. We are so grateful for those of you that attended! You helped us with the activities, worked with the Virtual School, and helped on the day in general.

Amazing!! You are all very appreciated, so thank you.

### Review meetings

The Council4Kids group have been working hard to develop some material to encourage young people to attend their child in care reviews. We created a video to show staff and young people, highlighting some of the reasons why it is good for young people to get involved and be heard. We have also produced a short leaflet so keep your eyes out for it.

To also help us understand how you feel about your reviews, we would love for you to complete this short survey, which one of the members of our groups created.

Please scan the QR code to take part:



## What's coming up...



### Training for Foster Carers

One of our young people came up with an idea of developing training for foster carers.

She feels it's important that when adults want to become a foster carer, that children in care should have the opportunity to help train and guide them on this journey. She would like to develop a short training course, using activities and the voice of young people to help us get it right for children when thinking about foster homes.

We will start to look at how we can develop this, taking on board young people's ideas and will hopefully, be able to deliver this training with some of our young people. If this is something that interests you then please reach out to us.

Please contact:

**Care Leaver Ambassador:**

Jada-Marie Saltibus  
Jada.Marie@walsall.gov.uk  
07561 600 697

**Children's Champion:**

David Hughes  
David-J.Hughes@walsall.gov.uk  
07787 284 682

### Podcast

Something else we have coming up this year, that some of you may want to be involved in, is our upcoming podcast. The group have been discussing what things we may want to talk about, and we have started to trial this idea during our group session in July. On the podcast we discussed - letters from Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's).

There's a lot of opportunity for young people to get involved with these podcasts so please come along and get involved. If you want to be heard, and want to help improve things for children in care, then this is the place to be!



## Total Respect Training

This is a training course where people with care experience train professionals. We do lots of activities and group work, push staff out of their comfort zones, and have a real good time while giving people a taste of what it's like for children in care and for care leavers. What's more, we pay for the young people that deliver the training. This happens once per month and each session starts at 09:30 and is usually finished by 15:45.

If you would like to be involved in the delivery of our important training for professionals, please get in touch.

## Advocacy

In September we are starting an advocacy project. Every child that has a social worker is entitled to an advocate, it is one of your rights.

This project will help us highlight what young people need to know about advocacy, and how we can promote this service to people that may benefit from it.

We want to explore how we can find creative and exciting ways to promote advocacy, to other young people.

If you would like more information yourself on advocacy, please visit the website:

**<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>**

**Again, if you want to get involved with this work then contact us and come along to the council4kids group on a Thursday.**



## C4K Logo and Branding:

We want to create a new logo and branding for our group. Something that makes us stand out, that when people see it, they can instantly recognise it's the voice of young people from Walsall Council4Kids group. If you have some good ideas, are good at drawing and have a creative flair, then please get in touch and share this with us.

## Some messages from the group:

"I love this group, I've made some good friends here."

"Jada and David always make it fun, and always treat us to nice food."

"I feel comfortable being there, it's a nice chilled atmosphere."

"Some of the things we discuss are really important, and I hope this helps other kids in care."

# Competition Time

## Celebration Card Competition

We currently have a competition for you to create a birthday card that will be sent to young people involved with children's social care. There will be a First, Second and Third place winner and there's a chance to win a £20 voucher! The deadline for the competition is Monday 22 September at 12:00, and the winner, plus runners up will be contacted by Friday 26 September! Good Luck!

To enter this please send your entries via email to our Care Leaver Ambassador – Jada, contact details are at the end of this Newsletter.



## Council4Kids Group

### Join our supportive community

#### Are you aged 11 to 16 and currently in care?

If you'd like to connect with others who understand your experiences, share your thoughts on topics that matter to you, and discuss things that affect your life, we'd love for you to join our Council 4 Kids!

Our sessions are a welcoming place where everyone's voice is heard – and we always make sure to have food and refreshments available. Council 4 Kids meets every other Thursday.

Come along and be part of our community!

To find out more and to get involved scan this QR code:



## How to get in touch

### Care Leaver Ambassador

Jada-Marie Saltibus: Jada.Marie@walsall.gov.uk (07561600697)

### Children's Champion

David Hughes: David-J.Hughes@walsall.gov.uk (07787 284682)



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