

## RCT Forum Quarterly Report

Introduction:			
Name of Project:	RCT Local Group	Funder:	RCT Local Authority
Team Member:	Francesca Pritchard and Annabel Galt	Project Timeframe:	Dec 2021 - Feb 2022

Project Summary:	
<b>Young People connected with</b>	<p>During the last quarter, the project has continued to engage with nine (9) care experienced young people throughout the RCT area. Of those young people engaged in the sessions - three (3) were aged 16 – 21-year-old and six (6) were aged 21+ year olds.</p> <p>Throughout this time, a total of five (5) consultations were held on a 1-2-1 basis – three (3) face-to-face and two (2) by phone. Through the 1-2-1 connections and engagement with young people; the Local Groups Officer has referred two (2) young people to VfCC internal services for additional support.</p> <p>A total of five (5) group sessions were held, focussing on good practice support for care experienced parents, care day and outreach activities.</p>
<b>Projects Themes</b>	<p>The RCT forum’s sessions principal areas of focus have been as follows.</p> <p><b>Engagement into the group:</b>            During the quarter engagement has been encouraged through promotion on social media, to maintaining connections with regular contact and information sharing directly to current members of the group and professionals within the local authority. The focus of engagement has been to bring the members together as a group to seek innovative approaches to engage with younger children (14-16); through our collaboration with Actif Woods - with the next session set to take place in Easter is April 11<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Care Day 2022.</b>            A number of events and activities took place in the lead up to and on Care Day of this year; throughout this time, we supported care experienced young people within RCT to link in with care experienced young people from across the 5 nations (Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, and England). Through the delivery of this young people provided us with feedback as to what they needed, as a care experienced child/young person to thrive. This feedback can be seen as below;</p>

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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. More counselling and Mental Health services.</li><li>2. Further emotional support (as the young people felt that there was not enough understanding of their feelings and trauma/behavioural responses.)</li><li>3. Wanting consistent and positive relationships, with Social Workers who could inform them of their rights.</li><li>4. Continued support post 25 from the local authorities through an outreach model (due to long term concerns regarding mental health, wellbeing, and isolation)</li><li>5. Continued support to manage longer term aspirations i.e. support in buying a car, insurance etc.</li></ol> |
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**Project Successes**

**Care experienced parents within RCT:**

We have supported local group members and other care experienced parents from the RCT area to contribute to several consultation opportunities throughout the last quarter. They have contributed to the Welsh Government's 'Childcare and Parental Employment Report - Minding the Future, the Childcare Barrier facing Working Parents'; supporting in the development of recommendations which can be found within the report.



A copy of the report can be found as follows -

<https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s122062/Report.pdf>

Those individuals have also contributed to Children in Wales Period Dignity Consultation providing their views and experiences, regarding the impact of being looked after upon their access to information, advice, and support around women's health issues. This feedback will support the work being completed by Welsh Government around the "*Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan*".

Given the success of our engagement with care experienced parents, Voices will now be involved in further opportunities in the next quarter for care experienced parents within the RCT area. This includes plans to meet with care experienced parents and the local authority in relation to the "*Supporting Parents in and Leaving Care*" charter; previously co-produced between CASCADE and care experienced parents from VfCC.



	<p><b>Basic Income Pilot.</b></p> <p>Throughout the last quarter Voices from Care Cymru have worked with care experienced young people within the RCT area, to support and provide feedback to Ministers regarding the recent plans for the Basic Income Pilot for Care Experienced Young People. Voices from Care Cymru, will be leading on further opportunities for care experienced young people from across Wales to provide feedback/support in the development and reviewing of the Basic Income Pilot Model.</p>
<p><b>COVID Recovery Response to Near Misses.</b></p>	<p><b>Steering Group</b></p> <p>Throughout the last quarter a total of three (3) sessions were cancelled due to concerns raised by both the pandemic and severe weather warnings. In addition to this, whilst activities have been planned over the last quarter to carry out face-to-face sessions, we have received no referrals for the group or outreach activities (with only current members engaging in the activities).</p> <p>Having recognised the difficulties in maintaining consistent engagement into the group, VfCC have begun work with the local authority to review the delivery of the group to increase its reach and establish engagement mechanisms, to work with a wider representation of the care community. Therefore, VfCC will continue to deliver face-to-face sessions and outreach activities; whilst working with the steering group to review the group’s model of delivery – in which feedback will be sought from care experienced young people.</p>