

“The care experience – past, present...& future”



Learning from our shared experience.....



Welcoming us into the care experienced community

Designed and delivered with love
and care.....



Feeling loved & Valued

- The Care Experience Conference was an incredible shared experience for the Jersey group. It was an opportunity to spend valuable time together and to really connect and learn from each other.
- To be there to experience the inaugural conference, being part of a community of 170 plus care experienced people showing care, solidarity and support to each other was something very special.
- There was an overwhelming message that care experienced people just want to be heard and to improve things so that in future children in care feel loved, valued and have a true sense of belonging.”

Key Themes

What does
Jersey need to
think
about????

- Language
- Education
- Criminalisation
- Relationships
- Hope

Language

'Language is a powerful tool for communication but sometimes the way that it is used in social care creates stigma and barriers for understanding. Language is power, and we want children and young people to feel empowered in their care experience'

Language that cares
Tactcare.org.uk (March 2019).

These young people capture this beautifully.....

[Click here to view](#)

Education

- Workshop discussions with a shared experience of education systems and poor outcomes. Discussions on exclusions, suspensions, stigma, and the lack of aspiration for care experienced children, young people and adults
- Jersey is one of the lowest performing jurisdictions in the UK - just 4.2% of Looked After Children over the past three years have attained 5 A-Cs at GCSE (including English and Maths)
- Children who are currently living in care off-Island do not have their educational data recorded anywhere at the moment – and their outcomes are therefore not recorded as part of the overall Jersey picture
- The role of Virtual Head for Looked After Children

Criminalisation of Children and Young People

- Children in care are 13 times more likely to be criminalised than other young people
- Workshop discussions with real life experiences of being arrested and charged with criminal damage and assault for actions such as throwing a yoghurt pot and smashing a mug in a children's home
- Young people from the Jersey group were able to identify with this and openly joined the discussions, asking the question "If you lived at home would your mum or dad call the police? Of course not, they would help you".
- Discussions on the lack of insight, understanding and empathy. The need to understand the child's journey and the trauma they are experiencing and respond in a way that helps them feel safe.
- Criminalisation can significantly affect future job prospects. What about our future? How will we get a job? We are being punished for showing our pain.

Relationships

Love
Trust
Belonging



- Wanting to be loved – No hugs when crying and needing to be held. The only time I was held was when I was being restrained by staff. My only experience and memory of physical contact
- Never hearing the words 'I love you' and growing up not being able to say it to others
- So many people in my life, but not many people who have 'stayed' with me and are there for me
- Wanting to belong, to have a family and be loved



Charity
@MsCharityFlower

Just a couple of key (for me) comments from the [#CareExpConf](#) so far... 'Risk assessments don't keep young people safe, positive relationships do.' 'Less corporate, more parenting.'

11:31 · 26/04/2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

60 Retweets 129 Likes



Yesterday I was lucky to be able to attend the first Care Experience Conference. I'm overwhelmed by the sense of pride and admiration I felt being apart of this community. For the first time I met so many people with such similar experiences to me and have learnt so much. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity. This is just the start of the change that is to come. 🙏

Hope

I 🐝 🌿 in you!



chibird.com

- Shared lived experience created an atmosphere of love, belonging and connection that brought hope.....

- Hope for each other
- Hope for change
- Hope for the future



Ian Dickson #cep @IDickso... · 6h ✓
[@careexpconf](#) mustn't be an end in itself Ben. 270 folk came together, about 170 of them care experienced folk aged 14 to 82 from at least 5 countries, to show solidarity, support each other & seek change. Time for gov't to listen now. [#CareExpConf](#) must be a beginning not an end.

We are not someone's job.....we are children

@Careexpconf conference told us that the care system needs review & investment but not everything costs more money. Kindness, respect, affection, concern, empathy, attention, love - these were the most valuable commodities often lacking from 'care' - but cost no money at all.

Less 'Corporate' more 'Parenting'