

Transport for Freedom Campaign



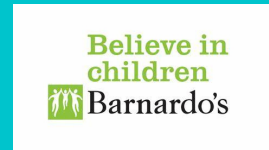
A Research Project and campaign for free travel for Care Experienced Young People in Cornwall



Barnardo's Care Journeys

is a group of programmes in Barnardo's Core Priority Programme that aim to support care experienced young people in to a "positive destination" in their lives, alongside supporting them to have their voices heard and create real change in their communities.

We are driven by a vision that it is possible to make a world where care-experienced young people feel loved, supported, and are given meaningful opportunities.



Triangles is a national scheme for transformational change building on the ideas and insight of care experienced young people and the staff, carers or volunteers that they have positive relationships with.



Carefree is an independent charity in Cornwall that supports care experienced young people by engaging them in positive social education activities. They work across the whole of Cornwall and offer positive activities, events and projects that help young people develop their social and emotional skills so that they have a better chance of growing up into positive healthy citizens



***"The bus pass just
made me feel free,
it's about
freedom... getting
out there . It gave
me hope"***



Contents



1. **Summary of Key Recommendations**

2. **Introduction**

3. **Methodology**

4. **Findings**

-Impact on Care Experienced Parents

-Impact on Loneliness and Isolation

-Impact on Independence

-Impact on Education, Employment and Training

5. **Learning**

6. **Future Recommendations**

7. **What's Next?**

Key Findings

25

Care experienced young people given a free bus pass as part of the research project

100%

of the care leavers in this campaign stated at some point that they have had to choose between food, or paying for the bus to go to work

50%

of the care leavers we worked with were young parents who all said that the bus pass improved their child's life as well as their own

100%

of young people said having access to a bus pass improved their mental health and wellbeing

70%

of the care leavers we worked said that having a bus pass meant they could access education, employment and training easier

2. Summary of Key Recommendations

Key Recommendations

We believe that offering access to free public transport for Care Experienced young people is a solution to supporting care leavers.

Our research project has evidenced the impact that access to free bus travel has on a on care leavers lives- including

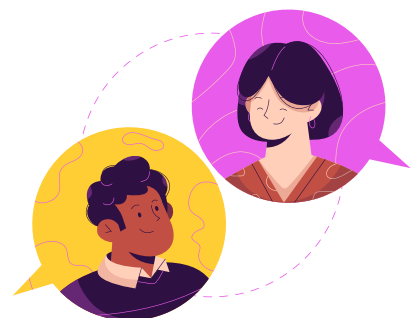
- **Ability to access positive social connections**
- **Ability to access work, education and training opportunities**
- **An enabler in positive parenting skills including access to childcare, health appointments and quality time with wider family and connections**

This project is a great example of how a rural authority such as Cornwall can get this far in making free bus travel for care leavers sustainable and part of their local offer.

Recommendation

Provide care leavers with free bus travel to help tackle social isolation.

Local authorities to offer free bus travel as part of their local offer to care leavers, as a means of tackling loneliness and help keep young people connected.



Key Recommendations

1

Increase and amplify the voices of care experienced young people through an embedded co-design ethos. Get care experienced young people around the table as decision makers alongside other decision makers.

2

Find other solutions to alleviate loneliness and isolation, free transport is only one solution, others need to be found to stop it from being a reality for many

3

Embed or build on collaborative working to identify and solve problems and build out conflict that can stop progress being made.

2. Introduction

Foreword

The pandemic has shone a light on the impact of loneliness. The measures to control the virus have had a devastating effect on our collective mental health and wellbeing. We have been deprived of the very thing that makes us human and gives meaning to our lives - our physical connection with other people. For many of us, this was only short lived and life appears to be going back to normal. However for others- loneliness and isolation was a part of their lives before the virus, and the COVID measures just highlighted these issues further.

For Care Experienced young people- loneliness and isolation can stem from a wide range of barriers they are often met when 'leaving' the care system. This is often described as a cliff edge- where support drops off as they reach 18, but research has shown that young people with care experience will deal with loneliness from an earlier age- especially if moving from placement to placement or having to move to a different city and leaving behind friends and your community.

In their survey of more than 1,800 care leavers*, Coram Voice, has found that around a fifth (22 per cent) reported high levels of loneliness. This is more than double the 10 per cent of 16-to 24-year-olds in the general population who report often feeling lonely. The proportion rises to 35 per cent among care leavers with a disability or long-term health problem.

The survey was conducted before the Covid-19 health crisis and Coram Voice is warning that many of these problems “are likely to have been exacerbated recently”.

Throughout this campaign and research project it was clear that having access to free public transport meant that the young people were able to access positive social connections, see family and friends more and access support. However, we must acknowledge this is only one solution to combating loneliness and isolation for care experienced young people.

We must ensure we are looking at other solutions alongside this and are committed to making sure we are building pathways, communities and systems that enable care experienced young people to access meaningful opportunities that help them get where they want to go.

We believe in building a better world for all care-experienced people. A world where everyone who interacts with the care system feels loved, supported and cared for by others involved with it

Introduction

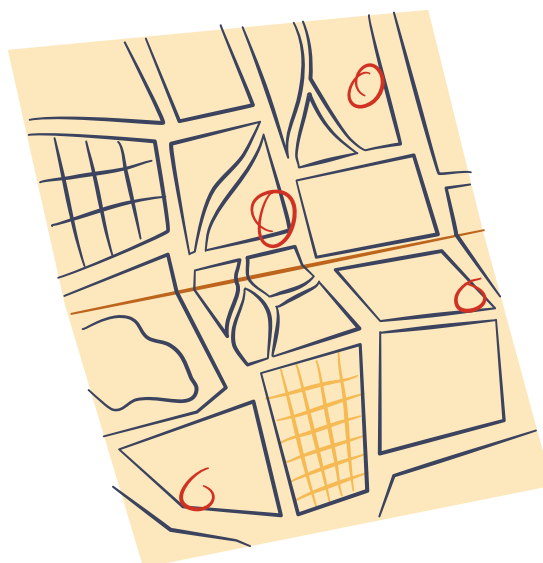
The Transport for Freedom Campaign is a research project funded by Barnardo's Care Journeys- Triangles which is part of Barnardo's Core Priority Programme and brought to life by the youth work charity Carefree in Cornwall.

The project was originally an idea from two care experienced young people and their frontline worker who formed a Cornwall 'Triangle'. They worked hard to identify where they could create real positive change for care experienced people in Cornwall.

Their mission was to create a campaign for free bus travel for care experienced young people to help fight isolation and loneliness. This involved developing a research project that offered free annual bus passes whilst exploring young peoples experiences of free bus travel. The aim was to create a campaign to change policy in Cornwall, whilst establishing a meaningful research group of young people exploring loneliness and isolation.

The group also created a film for the campaign to highlight the impact access to free bus travel had on their every day lives and wellbeing.

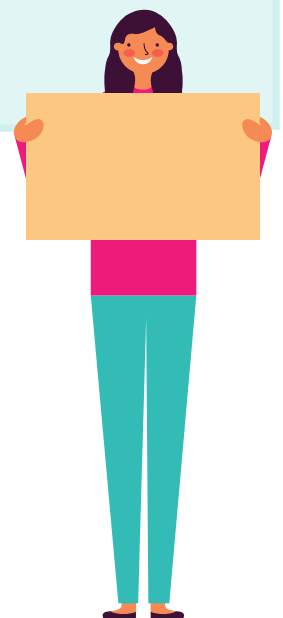
Massive thanks to everybody for their incredible hard work!



The 'Mission'

"Our Care Journey mission is to get free bus passes for all Care Leavers in Cornwall in order to support them against social isolation, improve their emotional wellbeing and extend their opportunities both in and outside of their local community.

Cornwall can be a very isolating county and without the support young people can find themselves only really knowing what is around them in their local town. We would like all young people who are Care Leavers to have the opportunity to visit other areas of Cornwall and beyond as well as seek the best work and educational opportunities, easily be able to see family and friends and be involved in activities and groups with their peers."



Context

Cornwall's geography and public transport system infrastructure, provides a real challenge for all of its residents when trying to access people, places, or things day to day, including care experienced young people. Many care leavers leave their foster or residential placements without a driving licence, or struggle to purchase a car with insurance and tax. For young first time drivers insurance alone can cost well over £1000. Care leavers then have to maintain the car on the road.

In addition, the cost of public transport in Cornwall is disproportionately expensive in comparison to its wages. The super saver ticket in Cornwall, for just a bus, that doesn't even cover all of the routes needed, is £25 a week. One care leaver has estimated that being unable to afford the £100 pound monthly ticket as they get paid weekly, means they are forced to spend about £150 a month on transport if they want to hold down a full time job. His job is only in one location; and he tries to see family and friends on the weekend for his wellbeing. Most care leavers who manage to leave care and go straight into work, will often start their careers in minimum wage jobs. For care leavers who rely on benefits, many of whom do, the basic rate of Jobseekers Allowance for 16-24 year olds is £57.90 a week. This means that the monthly £100 bus pass to look for work and travel is not a reality.

Current rates

Wage band	Current rate (from 1 April 2021)
Age 23 and over (National Living Wage)	£8.91
Age 21 to 22	£8.36
Age 18 to 20	£6.56
Under 18	£4.62
Apprentice	£4.30

Challenges for Care Experienced Young People

A lack of access to public transport in rural Cornwall creates a persistent barrier for Cornish Care Experienced Young People in their daily lives. From accessing work, childcare opportunities, medical appointments, seeing family and friends, support networks and more.

A further challenge for care leavers trying to live independently and relying on public transport, is that there is no one bus company that services Cornwall. Transport for Cornwall, and First Kernow have split the routes between them. Both companies offer separate monthly saver tickets, both costing £100 respectively.

Every one of the care experienced young people we worked with through the project told us that the cost of public transport and lack of it, had a negative impact on their mental health and overall wellbeing.

"Most of my money stress is about transport"



First Steps

The Cornwall Triangles mission was to gather evidence showing that providing public transport to care leavers was a practical and multifaceted solution to a number of difficulties that impact on the day to day wellbeing, and quality of life of their young people.

Initially, the Triangle took the sensible steps of highlighting this in a meeting format, to senior leaders at Cornwall Council. However, despite providing a compelling argument, the financial cost was seen as a barrier which could not be overcome. This side of the campaign was originally completed by a Social Worker, Apprentice Youth worker, and a Care Experienced Young Person all of whom are people with care experience (the Cornwall Triangle)

Determined to not give up, Barnardo's then provided funding for a campaign that would also be a Research Project, and a Youth Worker was then funded to work fulltime on the campaign. (The Youth Worker also has care experience.)

She then set up a campaign group of young people to collaborate with and to drive the campaign forwards. In addition, Headstart Cornwall came on board to fund technical support for the filming and completion of a video to amplify the stories and impact of bus passes for Care Experienced Young People. First Bus also donated £1000 worth of free bus passes

THANK
YOU



HEADSTART
KERNOW

3. Methodology

Setting up the campaign

What would be involved?

- Issue free bus passes to a group of care experienced young people who would benefit from free local bus travel
- With consent and care, interview the care experienced young people about their journeys and how/ whether the free bus pass had an impact on their lives
- Recruit a group of care experienced young people to be part of our campaigning group and create a video detailing our journey
- Work closely with the local authority and Leaving Care Teams to be able to share our findings, journey and impact to decision makers
- Use the evidence to put forward the recommendation that free bus travel should be offered to all care experienced young people in Cornwall



Recruiting Care Experienced Young People

Carefree used the funding from Barnardo's to provide bus passes for Care Experienced Young People and then interview them, to find out the impact this had on their quality of life and wellbeing.

Due to Covid- 19 restrictions the interviews were completed on Zoom and also recorded for future analysis and use in the campaign.

The Youth Worker was a former Social Worker for the 16 Plus Team and knew the young people who had the highest need for the bus passes, and could provide powerful lived experiences for the campaign, and benefit greatly from a bus pass were not necessarily involved with Carefree.

The funded bus passes were advertised to the young people, and also workers at the Local Authority and the Carefree Leaving Care Team. This widened the reach and increased the number of applications than Carefree currently had access to. This helped us to have a more varied cross section of young people from which to explore the impact of the bus passes with the workers.



Inclusion and Co-Design

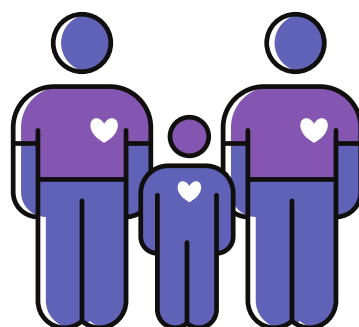
We recruited a group of Care Experienced Young People to be part of our campaigning group and create a video detailing our journey.

The groups were divided into two different participation cohorts, depending on their capacity to commit time and energy to the campaign.

Group 1 were the campaigning group and Group 2 were the bus pass recipients. Some young people were in both groups depending on their preference. Others did not receive a bus pass but wanted to be part of the campaign group.

The reasoning for this was that being able to draw upon the expertise of young people who may not be able, or willing, to participate in campaigning, was considered a priority for the final findings. For example, having access to so many young parents would not have been possible if we had not used this methodology.

The young parents provided some of the most valuable learning for this campaign. In addition this also meant that young people who were creative and wanted to take part in the filming, could support the production of the campaign.



Co-producing a Video

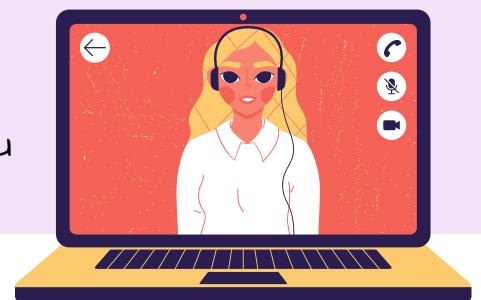
When deciding with the groups how best to amplify their voices and important stories that came from the project- it was decided that a video would be created to be shared with others to show the real life impact free transport had on each young persons life.

The Youth Worker did the legwork in completing the interviews over Zoom to ensure the research and findings were being gathered and collated within the project deadlines.

The videographer filmed and edited the video. The campaign group worked together to provide the creative ideas for the video and produced the final short film. They also helped design the interviews which would contribute to the research and were consulted twice weekly throughout the campaign and provided steering for the campaign.

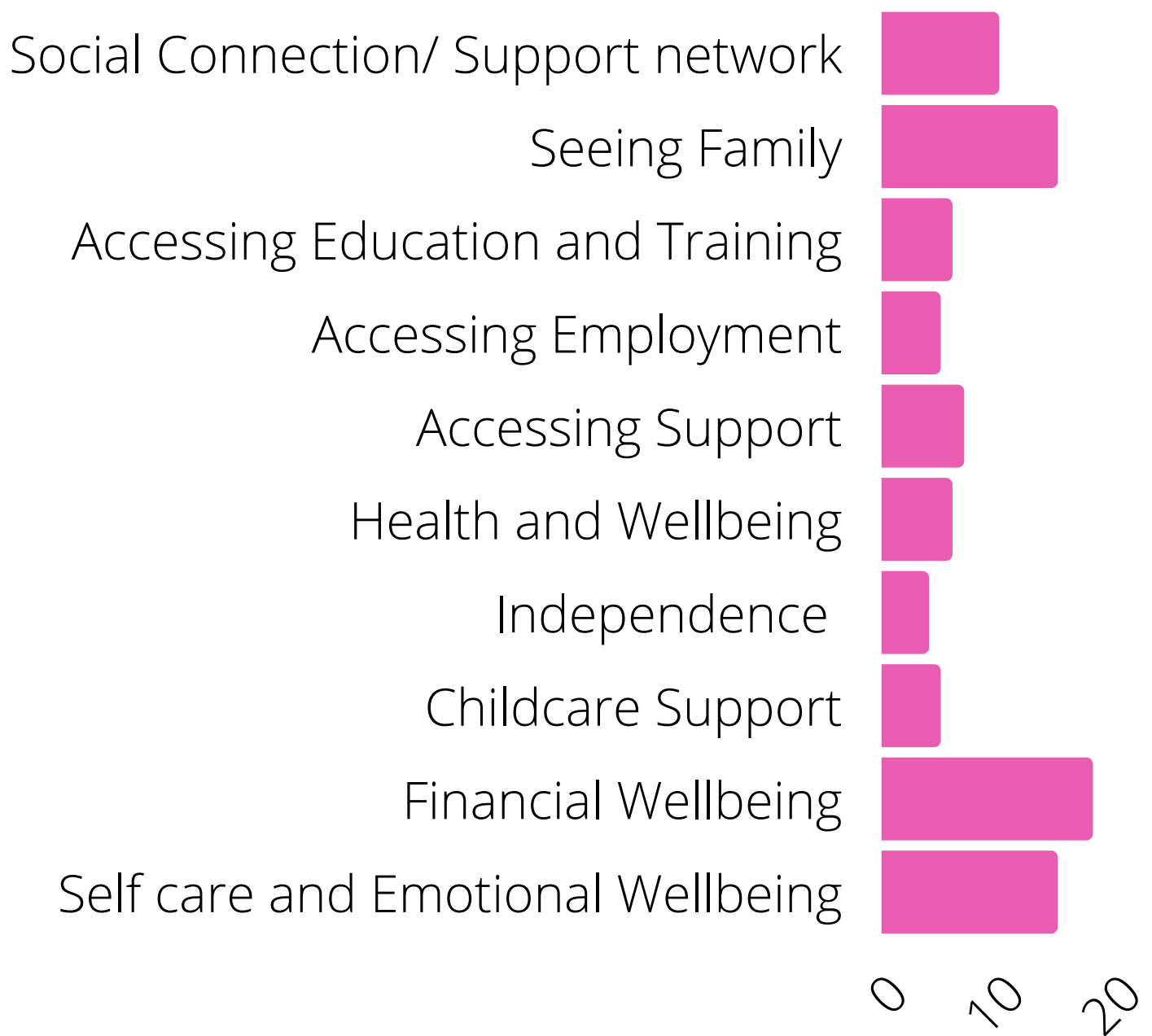
Some of the questions asked in our video

- How often are you using your bus pass?
- How is having a bus pass helping you?
- is there anything you can do now that you couldn't without a bus pass?



4. Findings

How would a buss pass improve your day to day life?



Stories- Care Experienced Young Parents' Wellbeing

We issued bus passes to five young parents, and what became clear is that the bus pass had just a great a positive impact on the child's life as well as their parents.

A, a 19 year old care experienced young person, who is also a single parent shared her experiences with us. A lives in an area of Cornwall that does not have a food shop within walking distance to her. A was also heavily pregnant at the time of the campaign. In addition, she relied on benefits due to the age of her child, and she has said that she can sometimes find herself in a position where she can afford the food, but not with the additional cost of the bus fare, which is £6 fare every trip.

A receives benefits that are around £400 a month, with which she pays for food and bills, her own and her child's needs. This means that she sometimes finds herself in a position where she has to rely on her family to drive to the shops and to bring food to her. This makes parenting harder. As a result of having the bus pass, A has started going out a lot more and visiting her support network. She has started taking her child to visit her grandparents twice a week, and can get some time with just her new-born and her partner.



Stories- Care Experienced Young Parents' Wellbeing

Care Experienced Young People not being able to access health providers because they can't afford the bus is a concern we need to think about as corporate parents. A needed to go to the hospital over concerns about reduced movements in her pregnancy, however there was no available support to help and no money to afford a bus trip and so the appointment had to be delayed by 24 hours despite the hospital insisting that she needed to present to the midwife as soon as possible.

This worrying scenario has been cited by another young people we worked with throughout the project. B, a young woman from Cornwall with care experience also found themselves needing to access a hospital immediately but had to keep delaying appointments because she did not have the money for the bus trip to the hospital. Both A and B found this incredibly stressful.

During the Campaign, B found that her little girl got ill and needed to be taken to hospital two nights in row. She said the bus pass was helpful as she had no other way of getting there and no available support to help.

"the bus pass has made my life so much easier and has taken so much stress away for me. I can get to the shops to buy food, get myself to the hospital if needed, and it means I don't have to use my last ten pounds on food for me and my children, six of which I have to spend on the bus to get the food."



Stories- Care Experienced Young Parents' Wellbeing

C, is a 24 year old care experienced young person living in Penzance. C is also a young father who does not live with his son. C shared with us that with a bus pass meant that getting to see his son will be much easier.

C works hard to make sure that he does not miss visits with his son. He lives in Penzance and sees his son in Bodmin, and he has not always had regular work as he is self-employed. This means that he has had to borrow money sometimes to make sure he can get to visits and this has proven stressful for him. He says that he knows that missing visits would would impact C and his son hugely.

Having access to a bus pass can support with this, as travel on public transport from Penzance to Bodmin can be hard for him to afford. He will put the money that he is going to save on the bus pass into a savings account for his son.

"in care I couldn't have the relationship that I wanted with my Dad, and I want to be that network for my son that I didn't have"



Summary

For young parents with young children, bus passes improve the lives of their children in direct correlation with improving the lives of their parents.



Care Experienced young parents we worked with and issued a bus pass to, told us that these were the most important things about having a bus pass.

Increased access to support networks for the parents, both preventatively and when in crisis. This increases emotional wellbeing, reduces stress of the parent and provides more opportunities for practical assistance.

Increased access to hospitals and medical appointments for pregnant care leavers. Currently pregnant care leavers are sometimes feeling forced to delay urgent medical care when pregnant due to lack of access to public transport and no way to get to the hospital as they have less support.

Increased visitation access to extended family network for both the mother and the child/ren. This is important for the parents and child's sense of belonging and identity.

Increased access to food shops, clothes shops, GP surgeries and days out, for the parents. Meaning the parents are better able to meet the needs of their children.

Reduced financial stress for the parents, meaning they have more money available for their children and practical day to day needs like food.

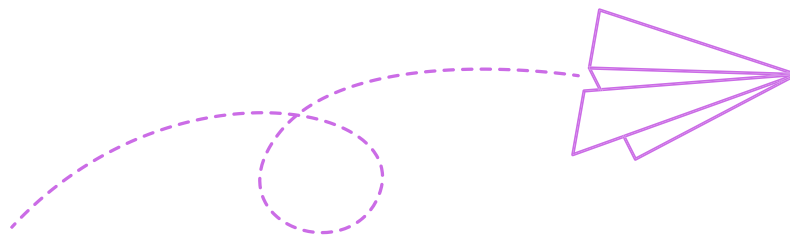
Stories- Impact on Emotional and Physical Wellbeing

D, is a 20 year old care experienced young person from Cornwall who lives with a lifelong health condition. D shared with us how having a free bus pass improved his health and daily life. D's health meant that a bus pass was essential for his daily life.

On occasions he has not been able to get to see a GP in a timely manner due to no transport and hence hasn't received treatment; and then had to be admitted to hospital and even into intensive care to enable him to be treated for a life threatening, long term condition which is very difficult to control.

The impact of the bus pass on D has been life changing and really highlights how giving care leavers the freedom to travel, can so profoundly impact the quality of life of care leavers in Cornwall.

D is often unable to afford public transport and therefore cannot see family and friends easily. D also finds it hard to manage his complex and life-long health condition. D has also suffered extreme childhood trauma, and experiences the complications in personal identity and self-esteem, that can often happen from being in the care system and proceeding events.



Stories- Impact on Emotional and Physical Wellbeing

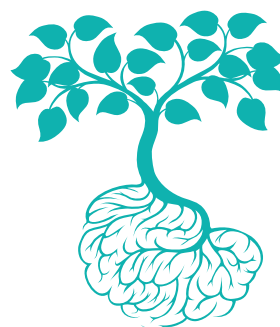
D's mental health issues means he often struggles with self-care and can often find daily activities a challenge. The safeguarding concern around this, which is being managed currently by Adult Social Care, D's Leaving Care Worker and Health Professionals, is that he can be hospitalised very quickly if his mental health challenges mean he is unable to meet his medical needs.

D has been hospitalised several times and has been a risk of organ failure more than once. Unfortunately, his trauma is complex and his journey to overcoming his mental health challenges is not a simple thing.

D's protective factors are, visiting his family and friends, and his ability to get out into nature, access to his community resources, and the ability to "just be free." The impact of doing these things means that his mental health improves. This means that as D's motivation and self-esteem improves, he feels he can better manage his medical condition.

Access to a bus pass also means D can make preventative GP visits and access the hospital without any constraints. However, as D cannot often afford the bus without financial help, this positive cycle is not in place, and worries around D's physical and mental health continue, and will continue after this campaign ends.

"...Freedom- away from the four walls of this flat"



Stories- Independent Living, Employment and Finances

E is a young person with care experience living in Cornwall who works full time at a large local supermarket earning minimum wage. However she does not live in the same town as her job and she estimates that she spends maybe, £100-£150 a month just on travel.

When E has been offered overtime at work she would find that she wasn't in a position to take it as the cost of the bus fare would mean that she would not see very much financial return for the hours that she has put in. What she has found is that with the bus pass being provided she is able to take as much overtime as she is offered which has improved her finances and self-esteem.



(care leavers) "We're independent from a young age and need to be able to get out and about to places"

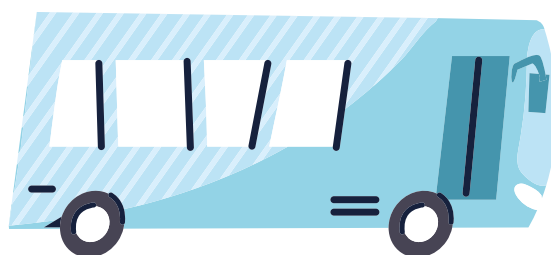
"sometimes I've found myself having to choose between food and travel"

Stories- Independent Living, Employment and Finances

C also works independently, but his work is not located in one place. He is starting up a self-employed business and is working hard to grow it. However, his range of customer base is limited as the cost of the bus fares around Cornwall are very expensive. Having a bus pass provided to him would be an amazing boost to his ability to find clients and grow his business and become more successful.

There are challenges for care leavers in being able to access their job seeker support. As they may be on benefits, several care leavers I have spoken to throughout this campaign have said that they cannot afford the initial ticket price to get to their appointments with the DWP in support of them finding work. The DWP will refund them, but this is not helpful if they can't get to the appointment in the first place and can result in them being sanctioned.

Lack of transport can limit where young people can seek work. Young people cannot always seek work outside of their locality due to affordability



5. Learning

Impact of COVID 19 on the campaign

The pandemic provided a spotlight on the impact of isolation on mental health which was really helpful in reinforcing our message, as the senior managers were experiencing the impact of isolation first hand at the same time as seeing the impact on the young people they work with happening across the board.

In addition the use of remote working and Zoom made the one to one interviewing for the video seemingly faster for the Youth Worker and attendance for the interviews could be highly flexible which suited some young people better.

However, it can be supposed that remote working may have decreased the nuanced responses. The young people who were interviewed also did not get the social rewards from experiencing positive social interactions face to face from the interviews.

In addition, the campaign group did not get the benefit of face to face creative meetings and relationship and esteem building this can bring. This likely meant that young people may not have been feeling as fulfilled and inspired and stimulated throughout the campaign as they could have been. This may have meant that the experience of campaigning was not as rewarding for the young people as it could have been.

We also found that asking the young people to think about the benefits of transport and freedom during periods of lockdown was challenging as the concepts were more abstract than concrete at that point. Young people's motivation for the campaign varied throughout the year, and this is likely to have been a contributing factor.

In addition, as an inevitable consequence of lockdowns, Issuing the bus passes and starting the campaign was delayed and disrupted also uncertainty with the issuing that was created at points.

Our Experience of Campaigning- What Worked?

Working in collaboration- Shared Goals and Values

As Carefree works so closely with the Local Authority's Leaving Care team, we we're already keenly aware of its goals and values in supporting care leavers.

Therefore the campaign, and the discussions were framed completely within those terms. For example, the impact statement provided actually models Cornwall Councils pathway plans how it is sectioned, to make it somewhat familiar reading for the 16 plus team senior managers and to demonstrate our collaboration. (The pathway plans are what the 16 plus team use to evidence their support for care leavers and are a crucial document in its delivery of services.)

Providing Evidence

The campaign worked hard to provide the evidence and the reinforcement that finding a solution to the transport issues for care leavers would be in their short and long term benefit in what they were trying to achieve.



Our experiences of Campaigning

Shared Solution

Senior management in Cornwall council found a solution that meant that if care leavers were seen as children, the 16 plus team would be able to fund bus passes for care leavers up to 21 years old and fund it out of the travel budget and potentially, save money. And by the transport department providing the discount they would be getting money that they otherwise would not have access too. This makes it a win-win solution for everyone. We all then had a joint meeting, us at Carefree, the 16 plus team and the head of transport to discuss steps forwards and the reasoning for the actions.)

The biggest reason this campaign ran smoothly is because in addition to working within the goals of the local authority, Carefree have built a trusting relationship with the local authority over many years as an organisation and help to deliver part of its services.

Carefree staff have good relationships with senior management in the council, and we have regular meetings with the council as part of our co-working strategy. The CEO of carefree also has a good idea of key players and the political side of the council, and gave steering and oversight to campaign workers around this when planning meetings.

This allowed us to advocate robustly for the young people and to get their views and lived experiences heard and understood in the context of a mutually respectful relationship. Carefree has been described by senior management as the local authorities “best critical friend.”



Our experiences of Campaigning

Best Interests

What worked for us, was working in the best interests of both the young people and the people we were campaigning at. As we collaborated and developed our campaign, we presented the campaign as a solution to many issues faced by the young people and by the local authority.

We were also very careful to emphasise the strengths of the local authority throughout. The main message that we sent was that the local authority are already achieving so much for care leavers, however what we were pushing for was next level support. This would not only help with the support of care leavers and potentially reduce isolation and mental health, but would likely contribute to an improved Ofsted rating and review for example. In addition, the bus passes would benefit the frontline workers directly, and support young people to develop their independent living skills, which is the entire aim of the local authority for care leavers

Collaborative Motivation

All of this and more remained the delivery framework of our messaging and it was the most efficient way of creating agreement and movement by avoiding unnecessary conflict and creating change and collaborative motivation.

Challenges along the way

The biggest barrier to overcome was accessing the right collaboration of people to make the practicalities and logistics of what we were asking for happen.

Originally the campaign very sensibly went to a Cornwall councillor who although he agreed in principle with campaign, found the financial barriers made it hard for him to agree to the requests.

However, the 16 plus team in the Local Authority already has a budget in which they fund travel for care leavers to have get togethers' with their families up to six times a year. So we talked with the 16 plus team, and children senior management during this campaign knowing there was already a pool of money related to transport available.

In addition to this, a senior manager for Children's Social Care was already very keenly aware of the impact of isolation in rural living for young people in Cornwall.

"All we were doing was reinforcing and providing evidence for the case for change that they are working on developing, which was to improve the quality of life for care leavers in Cornwall"

6. What's Next?

Our Responsibility as Corporate Parents

The stories you have read in this campaign demonstrates how the impact of the bus passes are multifaceted in improving the quality of life for Care Experienced Young People in Cornwall.

It is important that as Corporate Parents, and those who have signed up to the Care Leavers Charter*, that we are we are actively removing the barriers that are preventing our young people from looking after and sustaining themselves independently.

" We will hold a belief in your potential and a vision for your future even if you have lost sight of these yourself. We will help you push aside limiting barriers and encourage and support you to pursue your goals in whatever ways we can. We will believe in you, celebrate you and affirm you"

It is our shared ambition for Care Experienced Young people to have opportunities and the the accessibility of work, education, training, employment or volunteering, and for us to ensure we are removing any barriers in the way of young people being able to develop themselves to their full potential for the future.

***To respect and honour
your identity
To believe in you
To listen to you
To inform you
To support you
To find you a home
To be a lifelong
Champion***

What's Next?

Senior Management at Cornwall Council are hopeful that inter-departmental problem solving may pave the way for further improvement in Cornwall Council in support for Care Experienced Young People in the future.

We are currently waiting to hear back as to the final outcome of the campaign, but we are strongly hopeful for a positive outcome in regards to transport support for care leavers up to 21.



What's Next?



Use this evidence to push for this support across the UK- especially rural areas.



Gather further evidence of the impact in urban areas- to ensure all Care Experienced young people have access



Look to extend the offer to 21-25 year olds



Asking the Government to amend the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme to make all care leavers between the ages of 18 and 25 eligible for the scheme, as a means of tackling loneliness and help keep young people connected.

Conclusion

In Cornwall we aim to be lifelong champions for Care Experienced Young People and to break down barriers encountered on their journeys to independence. As the Care Leavers Charter states "We will help you to be the driver of your life and not the passenger"

However, not being able to physically access support and employment is a huge barrier for care leavers particularly due to the rural nature of Cornwall. We have evidenced throughout this report the incredible impact a bus pass can have on our young peoples lives, work and wellbeing.

It would be of a huge benefit to the quality of lives of care leavers, to have access to funded bus passes.

The care leavers we work with every day at Carefree show some of the most extraordinary resilience and spirit you will find anywhere in the country. As a general population care leavers prove; and the research proves; that well thought through, timely and targeted support can, and does, change lives.

Funded bus passes for care leavers in Cornwall is exactly that type of effective support that will reliably have long lasting and long term benefits.



Acknowledgements

Special Thanks to

The Cornwall Triangle for never giving up on their idea!

The groups of incredible young people with care experience who formed the campaigning group and bus pass participant group and who shared their stories with us

Carefree for bringing the idea to life, and Elisha for working tirelessly to prove the impact a free bus pass would have to decision makers

Triangles for hearing our ideas

Care Journeys for funding our ideas and allowing them to create real positive change for care experienced people

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step"

Lao Tzu

