

# BEAUMANOR HALL.

RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND  
TRANSPIRING OVER OCTOBER  
15<sup>TH</sup> AND 16<sup>TH</sup>





## OVERVIEW

The event was held to collate the views of the young people in the care system that were in attendance, while also providing an environment in which they could thrive in each other's company.

The Beaumanor Hall venue welcomed young people from 7 Local Authorities within the East Midlands – Including Derby City Council!



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While our Young People were welcomed with hospitality and enthusiasm, the primary aim for the weekend was to explore the 'Language used within the care system' and to collect the views expressed towards it.

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These efforts were to present the expressions to leads and directors invited to the venue on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October; the day following arrival.

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This was done in stylish fashion by our Young People, who were able to express themselves freely in a forgiving environment, allowing for growth in both the care system and the Young People.

DAY I  
- SATURDAY  
THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF  
OCTOBER.

SO, HOW  
DID IT  
TURN  
OUT?

- After we stretched our legs from the car journey to Beaumanor Hall and settled our things away, we were able to meet the other young people through an icebreaker session to introduce everyone, followed up by workshops that began to get us thinking – what language don't we like in the care system?
- We had our minds working and soon we were met with adrenaline to work our hearts and bodies in the aerial assault course – consisting of high ropes and zip wire activities...





# THE LUNDY MODEL WORKSHOP

## So, what is it?

- Well, the Lundy model workshop was an opportunity to show the young people they have a voice, and voicing their rights in a workshop tailored to them allowed a multitude of ideas to be shared and expressed – in some instances being related to experiences of the young people.
- This workshop was exceptionally executed, with two young people coproducing and delivering. It was the first time the young people had delivered it to an audience so big... They absolutely smashed it!

# FURTHER WORKSHOPS.

Further workshops included:

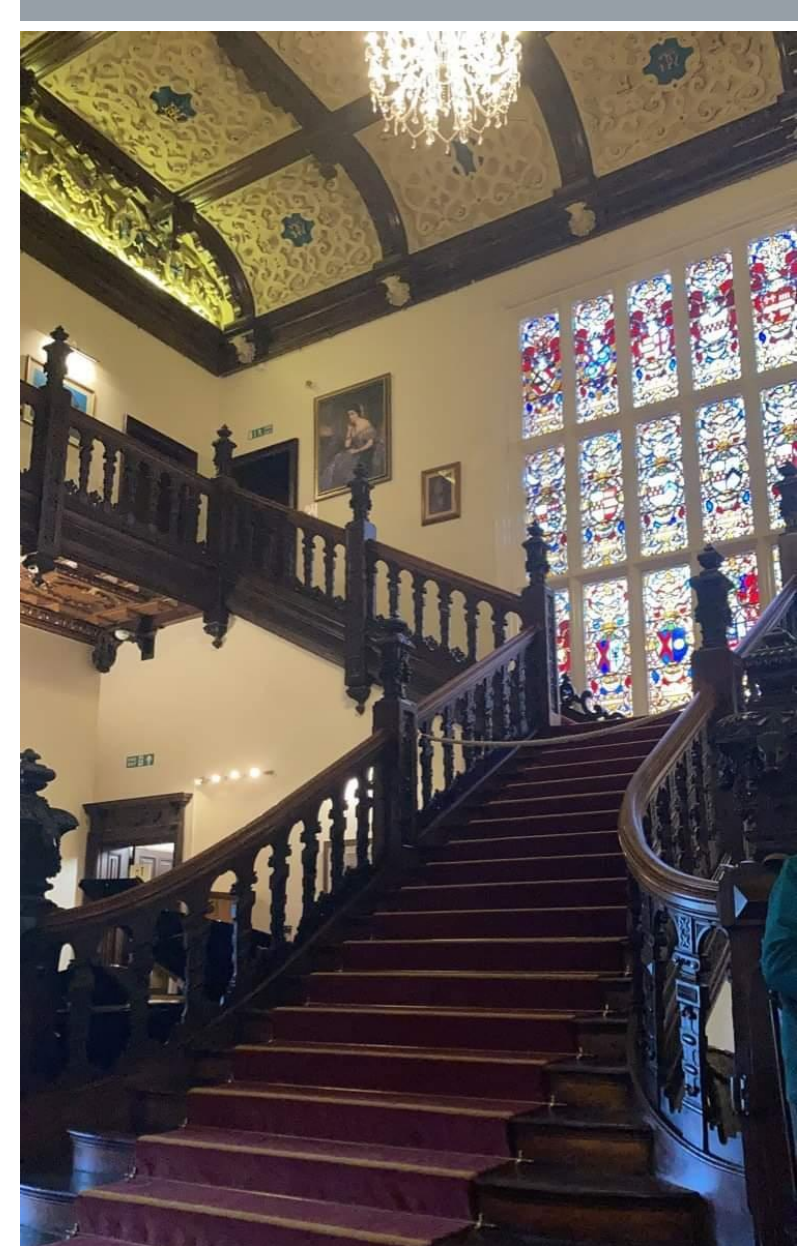
1. The exploration of positive and negative words/phrases/literature used within the care system that young people liked and disliked being used.
2. The depiction of alternative words/phrases/literature to be implemented in their stead.
3. And the young people delved into the prospect of how these words/phrases/literature make them feel – both the positive and negative associations with them.

The consummation of these workshops allowed our young people to venture into the following day to show the leads and directors due to be in attendance, how they feel towards the words currently in use.



# LANGUAGE IDENTIFIED

- Some Young People did not like the term 'contact' and preferred the term 'family time'. However, others, including our Young Person disliked the term family time and preferred supervised contact.
- Some stated they did not like the term/role of Social Worker and feel it does not explain what they do and who they are.
- There was discussions around the term 'looked after child' – many did not like this term and preferred 'child' on its own like any other child.
- There were some Young People that did not like being referred to as children and there was some discussion as to when a 'child' becomes a 'Young Person'.
- Some did not like the term 'Corporate Parent'.
- Young People did like the word 'placement' as it did not feel like a home or a safe place
- Young People shared abbreviations being used in meetings by professionals like CP, CIN and LAC many of these words they do not understand and just sound negative and make them feel bad .
- Young People also expressed the schools having Lists of ' LAC' children where anybody who enters that room both pupils and staff can see
- Young People shared about conversations that staff have in their homes about their 'perfect lives' e.g. what fancy holidays they are going, what great family time they have had with their children and things they have brought them and how this made them feel.





DAY 2  
- SUNDAY THE  
16<sup>TH</sup> OF  
OCTOBER.

THE BIG  
DAY!

# THE LANGUAGE IN CARE PRESENTATIONS

- Sunday provided young people the chance to make a difference. Initially, our young people broke up into three workshop groups for the day, all with varying concepts and unique means of execution.

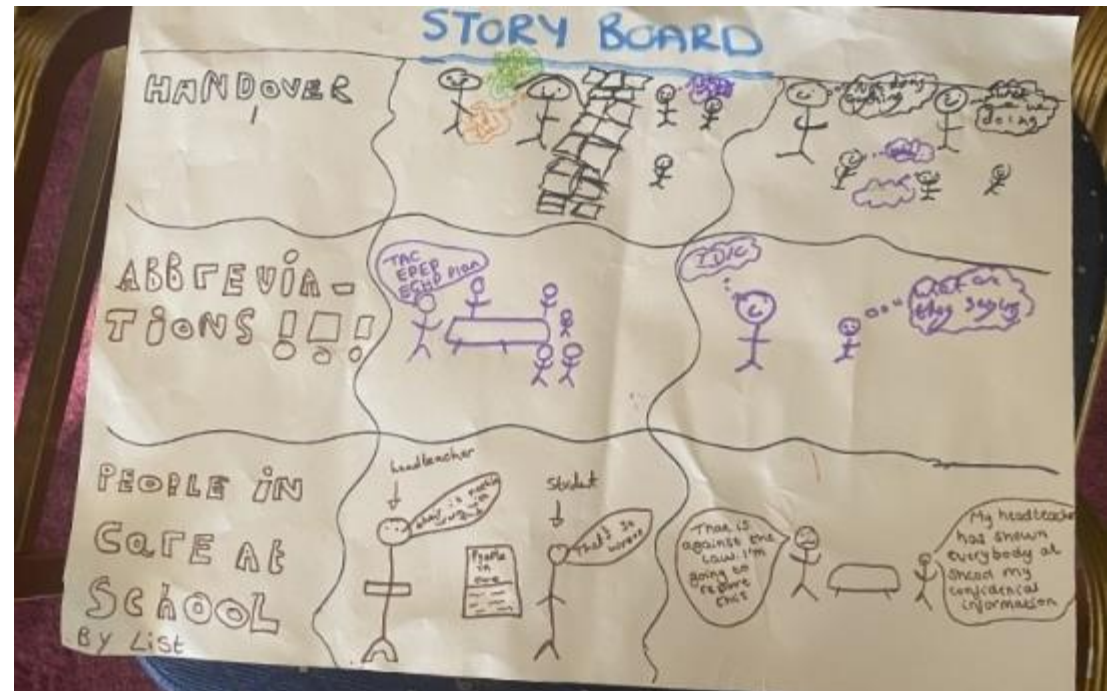
## Workshops included:

1. Sock puppet show – raising issues about language in care through various scenarios.
2. Campaigns/banners/posters with testament – this was opened with derby's own young person raising his opinion and addressing what needed to change, paving the way for the other young people to present their posters and banners and voice their views, then concluded by derby's young person.
3. Campaigns/banners/posters – similarly to its predecessor, this workshop delved further in depth to the posters and offered a more equal distribution of emotions, being conveyed by each person in depth.





# Sock puppet show





## CAMPAIGNS/BANNERS/POSTERS



# CAMPAIGNS/BANNERS/POSTERS WITH TESTAMENT.

## Changing the shape of our voice.

Corporate parents, councilors and senior officers, I stand here before all to seek change. Though my experience is filled with praise for the system, some cracks still remain. We need to educate, to inspire the voices in others, to give a shoulder to stand on, to stand on for the betterment – that is what must change.

This is changing the shape of our voice.

Every one of my peers bares a different set of eyes; an independent view, all shaped by the trials in life and however it may be affected by form of circumstance. Love it or hate it, we are products of trauma. Our stories; our trials, all of it, all of it is tribulation, fought tooth and nail through fire.

And that is how change comes about, but it shouldn't. It shouldn't take a trial through fire to create a voice to listen to. Who can attest with a bitter taste of a flawed system?!

To educate and not tribulate. Inspire to aspire greatness. To provide a shoulder to help young people stand as giants. That is why we must change. In our group, we have been exploring how to get our message across.

Though my experience with social care, at least in recent years, has only been positive, the weight of the other 15 years of my life isn't as fruitful. I'm constantly haunted by the remnants that the shadows of my past bring. The trauma has cut deeper than any other pain has, for a time it left me consumed with rage and blind to reason, but I'm not that person anymore.

As young people the language between terminology and comprehension are completely parallel. This is easier to correct than this counterpart. The stigmatism and language barrier of social care is a complexity: only trained individuals, social workers, and young people know about it, unlike the people

that will inevitably affect the young people.

Whether friends, colleagues, etc. The people around us who have grown unaccustomed to the knowledge that bruises teach you, and subsequently the impact they have on those around them; that is who must be taught, whether through safeguarding workshops at schools or learning modules for coworkers of young people, something must be done.

Inspire the voices of young people to stand out. A shoulder to stand on to empower these young people. This endeavor isn't like the boisterous tasks of Robin Hood, making our young people feel like giants isn't something as ambitious as stealing from the rich. Why is it not being done.

We have given you our voice, and as our audience I would like to thank you for taking the time to listen.

# DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADS AND DIRECTORS.

- Young people were able to have discussions around their views
- This enabled us to have a voice and have that all important 'conversation' with the decision makers within Local Authorities





# Derby's Involvement



The Participation Officer was involved with the planning of this residential weekend with the East Midlands Regional Participation Leads Group and facilitated the involvement of Derby City in this fantastic opportunity.



There were two representatives from Derby City in attendance during the residential weekend, that being a Young Person and Social Worker. The efforts that was put in by both were truly impactful.



The Young Person, Dempsey, gave his opinion through presenting his experience to the leads and directors in attendance – with great passion towards the impact that others have on the young people in the care system. Dempsey was a huge star during the weekend and was heavily involved in all aspects of discussions.



The Social Worker, Nicola Crosbie, helped fuel the fire and energised the young people Included in the sock puppet presentation, even taking part in some of the demonstrations.

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# IMPACT.

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- The residential weekend has allowed Dempsey to grow. Giving him the confidence to help bring change; he does this through the spoken word he presents and in workshops at his college.
  - The time spent at Beau Manor Hall has helped him open up and accept his past, furthering his development into adulthood.
  - Local Authorities within the East Midlands are now pledging to make changes to the use of language used within their services in line with findings from the residential weekend.

## NICKY'S THOUGHTS

I was very honoured to be part of this weekend and to listen to the voices of our young people.

Listening to young people sharing their experiences of being in care and their experiences of Social Workers and other professionals had a huge impact upon me. It made me think deeply about how we, as professionals, so easily slip into working in a way which is not always anti oppressive, inclusive and empowering. We need to be constantly aware of this and reflect on how we talk to, write about, and support our looked after children and young people.

The experiences of these young people reminded me that they are all individuals with a lived experience which we need to consider constantly when thinking about how we best support them and ensure their voices are heard. What was striking however was how they all came together as a group within a matter of hours of arriving at the residential. They have a common experience of being care, which I think did bring them together. They have all faced adversity, yet they all invested in working to improve the experiences of children and young people in care.



# CONCLUSION

- Young People both shared and heard others experiences in care, this was really touching.
- Taking away learning that different Local Authorities have different levels of support and Services around Rights & participation.
- Young People were shocked that many other Young People shared not being happy in current care homes and nothing being done about it .
- There was opportunity overcome fears and build confidence.
- Young People felt proud to be part of presentations where they thought they was heard by important people .





THANK YOU!