



We

Do

Care

Buckinghamshire Children in Care Council

Our
Impact
2020

We Do Care gives children and young people a chance to have their say on issues that matter to them, to make sure that they are listened to by decision makers in the council, and to make a difference to the lives of children and young people in care and care leavers

“We want you to use language that cares – save your big words for other professionals”

The Specialist Participation Team worked with young people to identify the words they want to change and produced a video narrated by young people, to communicate this to professionals. This has been used in training sessions and recognised as a powerful message with commitments from across children’s services to change the language used.

“When you assess prospective foster carers, ask them questions that matter to us”

At least one question suggested by young people is now asked of every fostering applicant by the Fostering Panel. This puts the applicant in the young person’s shoes and has been welcomed by Panel members. Example questions include: “How would you find out what I like and don’t like?” and “How would you make sure I am happy?”.

“We think the extra funding for vulnerable families and young people over the winter school holidays should support practically as well as emotionally – it needs to help make people feel happy. We have lots of ideas: practical help can be food, clothing and paying bills. Emotional help could be personal care packages, books, apps, craft activities or online classes.”

The Covid Winter Grant Scheme and other funding streams enabled vouchers to be provided for vulnerable families and care leavers. Vouchers could be used at a range of stores covering household essentials, clothing and self-care. Further funding is expected for the 2021 school holidays and young people’s ideas for activities will form part of the planning.

Coming up in 2021:

- **Young people are working with the Buckinghamshire CAMHS service to design a new website for the CAMHS team who support children and young people in care.**
- **Children will be part of a working group with the Supervised Contact Service to re-brand and develop the service.**

Visit our website:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/we-do-care>

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