

# SCLU'S LETTER

Sheffield Care Leavers' Union are a group of care leavers from diverse backgrounds with a shared objective...giving care leavers a better future.

EDITION  
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## MEET THE APPRENTICE



Hey! I'm Darrien and I've just got a new job with the council and I'm loving it. With this job, it gives me the opportunity to be

the voice of change for care leavers across Sheffield. I have already been to several meetings with the top dogs, and continue to have many more planned. I am your voice within the council and I am happy for you to contact me to talk about what you think needs to be changed!

My mobile number is 07985652627 I've also been helping out with the Sheffield Care Leavers Union, a group of care leavers who meet to discuss lots of things around leaving care. We are currently working on our second consultation (reaching out to you guys to ask questions) around communication with your workers. It would be a great help to me if you could take part in that.

Thanks for reading, and once again don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

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## YOUR TOP 3 PRIORITIES

We asked you to vote on your most important issues and here are your top 3:

1. Housing
2. Health
3. Communication

We also asked what you thought about care leavers paying council tax...

Most of you said that you didn't think care leavers should pay it, and this is already what happens in lots of other parts of the country.

We have told the decision makers what you thought and we are waiting for them to decide.

## NEXT UP: COMMUNICATION

We decided to start working on Communication first. We have come up with a list of questions for you to answer. We would really like your views and we will be sending it out and also we will be in Star House to ask you - if you answer the questions then you have the chance to win upto **£60** in vouchers!!

## OUR NEW MEMBERS



SCLU welcomes Tom and Corey to the group! You should join SCLU too and help us make a difference for care leavers. Come and meet fun and passionate people, eat, chat and get your voice heard

## YOU'RE A POET... AND YOU KNOW IT

We are proud to say that 3 of our SCLU reps - Taina, Helena and Khalil, were part of the Word Up festival of poetry. Taina performed hers on stage and dazzled the audience. For more info check out: [www.offtheshelf.org.uk](http://www.offtheshelf.org.uk)

## HEALTH CONSULTATION

We met with Dr Loraine Pearson who is making a plan around improving services for care leavers. Here are some of our suggestions but we will be asking you what you think as well:

- Quicker and better access to services
- Better transition to adult services
- Workshops around health and sexuality & relationships
- Education for staff
- Health passports - getting as much info as possible from biological families

## HOUSING FOR CARE LEAVERS

We met with Carly Speechley who is the Director of Children & Families and she was telling us about lots of exciting new ideas for making extra housing available to care leavers, and also projects like Trainer Flats - where you learn how to live independently or improve the skills you've already got. We will let you know more details soon!

**JAYNE'S OPEN DOOR** Jayne Ludlam is available for you to meet her to talk about any issues you've got. She is an Executive Director in the Council. You can see her on the first Thursday of each month but give us a ring if you need help to book a place!

**Did you know?**  
Your rights...

If you're in further education and a care leaver, you can apply for the 16-19 bursary fund and get up to £1200 a year!

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