

# 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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## WE'RE ONLINE!



After lots of work we're finally online! Check us out at:

[www.sclu.life](http://www.sclu.life)

for the latest SCLU happenings! The site is also full of information about SCLU and our rights as care leavers!



We're also on Twitter, you can follow us at [@Sheffield\\_SCLU](https://twitter.com/Sheffield_SCLU)

## COMMUNICATION MATTERS

In the summer SCLU completed a consultation with care leavers to understand your experiences of having a PA, particularly in regards to Communication. Following the consultation two members of SCLU, Taina and Khalil gave a presentation to the PA's highlighting the results and offering suggestions about what could make things better for us, like answering calls within 24 hours, and using different methods to communicate such as email and WhatsApp. We asked Dave Cohen, Service Manager for the Leaving Care Service how this presentation has helped and he said,

"All PA's should let their young people know when they are on leave, and young people will be contacted if their PA is off sick and not expected back in over a week. If young people have an issue and they can't contact their PA, then there will always be a duty worker that can help them."

You can contact the Leaving Care Service on 0114 203 9060

## MEET TANYA...



Hi, I'm Tanya Ward and I've recently joined the Children's Involvement Team, as a Children's Involvement Officer. I've got lots of experience working with young people, including youth work and housing support. The main part of my job is to run SCLU and I'm hoping over the next few months we can recruit some new members so that we can make sure that care leaver voices from across the city are heard and can influence change.

Over the last month or so I've been helping the Leaving Care Service with organising Care Leavers Week, and I'm also part of the team arranging the C.L.A.S.S Event for care leavers on 30<sup>th</sup> November. I'm super excited for both of these events!

As well as running SCLU I am also carrying out regular consultation with children and young people to find out their views on the services they are receiving through social care and early help services. You may well hear from me if you are chosen to take part on this work. If you want to contact me to talk about SCLU or are interested in joining my email is [tanya.ward@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:tanya.ward@sheffield.gov.uk) and my telephone number is 07787 273741.

## C.L.A.S.S.

### Care Leavers' Arts Show Sheffield

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, we will be holding an event to showcase and celebrate the artistic talents of our care leavers.

We will be displaying **ART, POETRY, PHOTOGRAPHY** and anything else you want to show off from all of our care leavers, with a side order of live music, food and stalls!

We'll also have plenty of things to give away and there are prizes to be won! We will be advertising this with more info very, very soon!

If you have any **ARTWORK** of any types which you would like to show on the night, please let Tanya, Max or Darrien know on:

**T:** 0114 2288553

**E:** [class@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:class@sheffield.gov.uk)

# bright spots

The Council have partnered with Coram Voice and will be undertaking their Bright Spots Survey, which is a project that asks looked after children and care leavers about their experiences, happiness and wellbeing.

The care leavers part of the survey will be launching at the start of care leavers' week (24<sup>th</sup> October).

Every Sheffield Care leaver will be sent a text message giving the link to the survey website. The survey asks what is going well and what's not, so work can be done to improve things! If you want anymore information, ask you PA or look out for the Bright Spot Ambassadors during Care Leavers Week!

## A NATIONAL VOICE

On 4<sup>th</sup> October we had a visit from Ellie and Ty from Coram Voice who had travelled all the way from London to see us.

They came to tell us about the "A National Voice" Ambassador programme which is a project for care experienced young people aged 16 to 25 years old.

This aim of the project is for care leavers to meet up on a monthly basis in London and to choose an issue which they will campaign within England.

Coram Voice pay for all travel expenses and will give training to develop skills such as public speaking. There may even be an opportunity for some paid work experience. Some members of SCLU signed up to attend an info day on 27<sup>th</sup> October in London.



Following Ellie and Ty's visit they tweeted to say how much fun they had had!

**What's next...**

## **HOUSING**

Our next priority is going to be housing. We'd love to hear from you about what your experiences have been like to do with housing.

There is a short questionnaire on our website... please fill it in if you want to get involved.



### **SPOTLIGHT ON...**

## **TOM ON WORK EXPERIENCE**

Before I started my work experience I wasn't having much luck finding work...I'd been on loads of websites but they hadn't found me anything. I'd been trying to get an apprenticeship but I couldn't get one sorted. I spoke to my PA and he spoke to someone in the council who asked what

qualifications I had and stuff. I was a bit worried that without English and maths GCSEs I wouldn't get anywhere, but it didn't matter. Now I'm doing 4 weeks of work experience in 4 different areas of the council, just to see what I'd like to do for a year apprenticeship. It's been amazing meeting new, friendly people and I've got to join in with meetings and feel part of the team. I feel that already my self-confidence has got better and I can talk to more people. The best bit though has been getting an ID badge that says Sheffield City Council on it because it's really made me feel part of things!! I would say to other people in my position to give it a go and apply...see how you like it and you never know...you could get a job for life!



**SCLU**  
**SHEFFIELD CARE**  
**LEAVERS' UNION**

### **CONTACT US:**

Tanya: 07787273741

Darrien: 07985652627

Max: 07971312457

Email: [sheffieldcareleaversunion@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:sheffieldcareleaversunion@sheffield.gov.uk)