

East Midlands Regional Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Conference

I am writing this today as a proud attendee of the first ever East Midlands Regional Children in Care Council and Care leavers Conference held on June 1st 2018 at Myplace in Mansfield: a young people's centre based in Mansfield.

I was very proud to be part of the Nottinghamshire's Children in Care Council planning group as an existing care leaver, to deliver this key piece of work with other young people from across the East Midlands ensuring skills that we develop through our sub groups are used, such as planning and communication.

Everyone had a very important role to play in the conference, but my role specifically was to open the conference with the history of Myplace, followed by delivering the Pledge workshop later on in the day, it was an absolute honour.

The atmosphere in the room was amazing, the young people started to mix and relate to one another and then started discussing and exchanging ideas. I think the day was well thought out and the young people as well as their professionals who supported the young people were accommodated for. I loved the fact at every opportunity given to include the young people and they were able to take that opportunity to express themselves.

Each region gave a presentation and the young people used a variety of methods to deliver their own piece of work/project that they were involved in. The conference was an opportunity to share best practice but more importantly for young people to meet up and share their experiences of being in care.

Nottinghamshire's workshop, was to create a Regional Pledge, ensuring that what young people are saying is firstly, listened to but at the same time ensuring the priorities are met for young people which all regions can share and own and to have something that connects them across the region.

The input and feedback about the pledge was brill! And this is coming from a young person. I was so pleased and so excited to come together to deliver the pledge that we designed with input from other regions so I'm beaming with pride, and as a promise to young people we intend to take back the information to our Children In Care Council groups from across the regions to feedback what they think the priorities should be.

↳ Children's Commissioner for England Retweeted

 **Anne Longfield**  @annelongfield · 1h

And what great questions they were! Thanks for a really positive day.

Colin Pettigrew @yourdcsnotts

@NottsCC Cllr Tracey Taylor & @annelongfield take questions and close East Mids Children in Care & #CareLeavers Conference #SocialWork



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↳ Children's Commissioner for England Retweeted

We intend to travel to London to ensure the Children's Commissioner for England, the lovely Anne Longfield gets to read the East Midlands' Regional Pledge and hopefully she will support it.

I also wanted to say thank you to Nottinghamshire County Council, for all their support for young people. Thank you to each region for taking the time to travel to us and thank you to the young people for making it a day to remember, a day that shows our commitment to each other, and a day we shared our voices.

And thank you to Anne Longfield to for taking time out of her busy schedule to attend the event.

Thank you everyone, from Keeley Terry, an active Nottinghamshire care leaver, I hope to see you all again soon.

Keeley Terry