**Stigma & disability reflection sheet**



The Bright Spots programme is a partnership between Coram Voice & the University of Oxford. Between 2017 and 2022 we have had over **7,000** responses from care leavers in **47 local authorities** to questions in the *Your Life Beyond Care* survey.

This reflection sheet accompanies the film **‘Stigma & Disability’** (Autumn 2022) - it asks what **you, your team & others** can do in response to how care leavers are feeling – watch the film and write down your reflections & the actions needed.

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| **Key findings**   * Children and care leavers identify stigma and societal prejudice as a significant concern in their lives. * Factors associated with care system include: stigmatising language; lack of respect for young people’s privacy; unfair or different treatment & actions that unnecessarily identify young people as ‘in care’ or ‘care leavers’ * Elsewhere stigma is reported: public attitudes; representations in the media; outcome statistics and stigmatising experiences at school (see Baker, 2019). * About 1 in 8 young people in care (12%) aged 11-18yrs felt adults did things which made them ‘feel embarrassed about being in care’ * We have no national data on ‘disability’ for looked after children / care leavers. * Bright Spots surveys show around a quarter (24%) of care leavers report they have a disability or long term health problem (nearly double the proportion in the general population). |  |  |

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| **Notes from the film – your reflections / actions needed** | | |
|  | **Change / challenge stigmatising practice & policies** | **Identify and support disabled care leavers** |
| **What can I do to …** |  |  |
| **What can I do with others (in my team) to …** |  |  |
| **What must the local authority / partners do to …** |  |  |