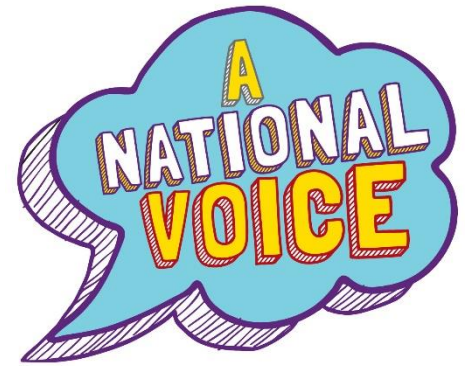


Spotlight
on practice

Rights & Voice



London Borough of Croydon –
Empire CiCC

Creating a family feeling

July 2023

Empire – the children in care council in London borough of Croydon – created a compilation film showcasing what they get up to – the emphasis is on creating a family, having fun together & making memories.

Why?

The ANV AMPLIFY awards aim to champion and recognise the work of children in care councils and care leaver forums. They were held in October 2022 ([Amplify - Coram Voice](#)) – 22 children in care council were nominated for the 'Participation award'. Here is their nomination [ANV Awards Nomination - EMPIRE - YouTube](#)

What did they do?

E.M.P.I.R.E gives young people the chance to identify common issues with the care they receive and make proposals for improvements. It allows them to shape the service and have their voice heard.

E.M.P.I.R.E stands for:

Empowerment, **M**emories, **P**ositivity, Interesting, **R**espect and **E**ducational.

They also get the chance to make new friends and go on fun trips! Beach trips, bowling, sports days, river boat days out, dancing & singing – there are so many things the group do together to make Empire like a family. <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/young-croydon/empire-children-care-council-and-care-leavers-forum>

The work was praised by the young people judges:
"You're doing a fantastic job at creating a safe space for young people to have fun and make friends".

What difference is it making?

The feedback from young people is really positive:

"E.M.P.I.R.E IS A FAMILY"
"THIS IS OUR SAFE SPACE"
"I'VE LEARNT SO MUCH"
"EVERY CHILD IN CARE DESERVES SOMETHING LIKE THIS"
"I UNDERSTAND MY VOICE MATTERS"
"WE'VE HAD THE MOST LIT TRIPS"
"I SIT ON THE INTERVIEW PANEL FOR ALL THE NEW SOCIAL WORKERS"
"THIS IS MY SECOND FAMILY"
"STAFF DONT TURN OFF THEIR PHONES AT 5PM"

E.M.P.I.R.E is Croydon Council's Children in Care Council.

To us E.M.P.I.R.E is more than just a project. It is a family and we ensure this showcased throughout our delivery and engagement with our children and young people.

Our team is packed with enthusiasm, youth work, systemic-practice, care-experience & passion.



"Every child deserves to know they are loved"