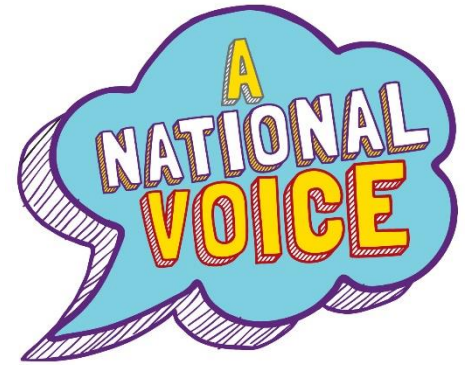


Spotlight
on
practice

Rights & Voice



Hillingdon London
Borough Council - CiCC

Walking in our shoes – training & film

July 2023

London Borough of Hillingdon's children in care council have created an engaging training session & film for staff – 'Walking in Our Shoes' is all about young care experienced individuals teaching professionals to understand what it is like to be a young person in care.

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](#)) – Hillingdon were nominated for the ‘voice award’.

What did they do?

Walking in Our Shoes is a young person-led training session – care experienced individuals described the aim as to *“teach professionals to understand what it's like to be a young person in care. There are a range of activities that means that everyone has to get up, move around and participate”*. Young people have created an animation as part of the training – watch the film here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wUleT-kblo>

The work was highly commended in the ANV awards with young people judges saying *“I like that young people give their perspective in the training. Professionals take this away.”*

What difference is it making?

In the last two years young people have trained 185 multi-agency professionals. Feedback from both professionals & young people has been very positive: *“Very fun and engaging with serious and important insights delivered by wonderful young people.”*



Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership
@Hillingdon_SP

Walking in Our Shoes is back for another extremely informative afternoon with young people from Hillingdon's Children in Care Council. Delivered by the children themselves, this is an opportunity to learn more about how children & young people experience being in care. #Hillingdon

A poster for the 'Walking in our shoes' training session. At the top, there are three book covers: 'STEPPING OUT', 'IN CARE @HILLINGDON? TALKERS!', and 'STEP UP'. The main title 'Walking in our shoes' is in large blue font. Below it, a subtitle reads: 'An interactive young person designed and led training session to develop your insight into the lived experiences of our children and young people as they navigate the care system, and how you can support them through this journey.' The date and time are 'Monday 22nd October 2-4.30 Committee Room 6.' and the booking link is 'Book now on <https://hillingdon.learningpool.com>'. At the bottom, there are four pairs of footprints in black and white.

Walking In Our Shoes

Brought to you by The Children's Rights and Participation Team
London Borough of Hillingdon

Here in Hillingdon, our motto is

"Would this be good enough for my child?"

That's why we believe that there is nobody more experienced to train our professionals other than our care experienced young people.


Walking in Our Shoes is a training session where young care experienced individuals teach professionals to understand what it's like to be a young person in care. There are a range of activities that means that you'll have to get up, move around and participate - whether you like it or not!! It's an opportunity worth taking."

In the last two years our young people have trained **185 multi-agency professionals**: Here's what our participants said:


 "Very fun and engaging with serious and important insights delivered by wonderful young people."

 "One of the most enjoyable trainings I have been on for a while!"

 "Very thought provoking."

 "I enjoyed how interactive it was, and hearing from children who have lived experience was very **helpful**."


 "**Brilliant** and **Very Effective**."


 100% of attendees say that the training gave them better insight into the experiences of looked after children and care leavers.


 100% of attendees say that WIOS is valuable training.


 100% of attendees would recommend the training to their colleagues.

What our young people say about Walking In Our Shoes:

 "I feel like I make a difference first hand and see results of professionals understanding the problems. It makes me feel **I'm being heard**, and that my words do matter."

 "Being part of WIOS is important to me, as I want to change how children are treated."

 "The training allows me to express my feelings, but in a nice way to let all the professionals who are working with young people see how we feel. It is really nice to see how professionals are engaging with us and bringing another side of themselves to the training."

 "I get involved because I believe in change, and I think this would not happen if our voices are not involved. By doing a lot of the activities, I believe we are **making this change**."

Want to know more?
Email childrensrights@hillingdon.gov.uk
and a member of the team will get back to you!

Here is the London Borough of Hillingdon's entry to the ANV awards