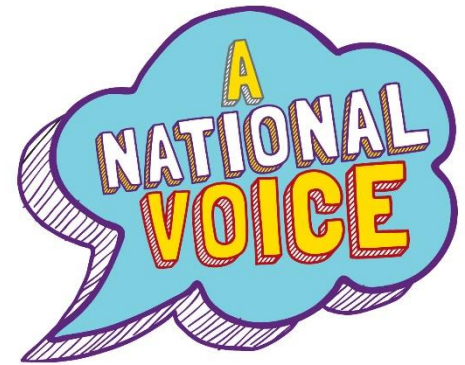


Spotlight
on practice

Rights & Voice



Wigan Council – A Million
Voices CiCC

Joining a national campaign to prevent the use of bin bags locally

July 2023

A Million Voices CiCC took part in a national campaign which aimed to prevent children in care moving their belongings in bin bag. The work is a partnership between NYAS and Madlug. AMV persuaded Wigan council to sign up to the 'My Things Matter' pledge.

This is a practice example from A NATIONAL VOICE

<https://coramvoice.org.uk/for-professionals/co-production-and-participation-with-young-people/>

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](#)) – Wigan children in care council were nominated for the ‘Campaign award’. [ANV Awards Nomination - A Million Voices - YouTube](#)

What did they do?

The national campaign resonated with the experiences of some members of the ‘Million Voices’ group – they wanted to eradicate children moving with bin bags.

They worked with senior leaders in the council and persuaded them to sign up to the ‘My things Matter’ national campaign pledge: <https://www.nyas.net/news-and-campaigns/campaigns/current-campaigns/my-things-matter/> to

1. Keep their most precious belongings safe during their move and promise they will not be moved in bin bags.
2. Provide written guidance for them and anyone helping them to move.
3. Never move or throw away their belongings without their consent and always respect their personal property.
4. Support them to make a complaint if any of their belongings have been lost or damaged during their move. And finally,
5. Communicate with them about their move and ask how the move went.

Young people’s judges said: *“It’s also good that leaders are pledging their support”*.

What difference is it making?

Wigan have received 80 bags from Madlug <https://www.madlug.com/> - the group have personalised these with a small luggage tag carrying an inspiring message. Bags have been placed in easily accessible locations & staff alerted to the location of the bags so they can use them when their young people are moving at short notice.

‘In June, at my foster placement, we had a young girl come to us in an emergency. It was late in the afternoon, on a Saturday, and she arrived at the door with one carrier bag with her school uniform in. She had nothing else with her. Luckily, because I am a part of Voices, I have got her one of our bags for the next time that she moves’.
