

Spotlight  
on practice

## Rights & Voice



York City Council - I Still  
Matter CLF

## Influencing local housing policy

July 2023

York's care leaver forum, I Still Matter, are really proud of the housing policy changes they have influenced in their local area – they used their collective voice to challenge senior managers and elected members to work together more effectively & improve housing experiences for care leavers.

**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](#)) – York’s children in care council were nominated for the ‘Voice award’. [ANV Awards Nominations - York's Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum - I Still Matter - YouTube](#)

### What did they do?

York’s care leaver forum have been: *“confident and bold in changing policy and challenging decision-makers in relation to housing.”* Based on listening to the lived experiences of others, they felt the housing service did not fully understand their corporate parenting responsibilities.

The work was praised by the young people judges: *“Young people clearly had a big impact the fact they changed the protocol...an amazing cause and nationally needs to be done and focused on”.*

### What difference is it making?

A new housing protocol, informed by young people, has been introduced - it aims to make the housing experiences of care leavers locally much better.

- It clearly emphasises the corporate parenting duties of housing colleagues
- It explains the roles & responsibilities towards care experienced young people
- It identifies how the needs of young people can be met by the pathway team & housing service working together

To make sure the work is embedded in practice young people have developed training on corporate parenting which they have delivered to housing staff.

