

Spotlight  
on practice



## Rights and Voice

Peterborough and  
Cambridgeshire council

# Our 'Ideal foster carer' and our 'Ideal worker' films

July 2023

The Children in Care councils in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire have worked together collecting feedback from lots of children in care about what they thought made the 'ideal' foster carer or 'professional' (social worker, designated teacher or Independent reviewing office). Based on what they heard they created two new films.

## 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](#)) – Peterborough & Cambridgeshire children in care council were nominated for the 'Voice award'.

## What did they do?

Care experienced young people aged 12 up to 21 came together to work on this project.

The first part of the work involved listening to lots of other young people about their views on what qualities they value in the people who support them (foster carers and workers).

After this there was lots of hard work as everyone worked together to develop scripts, choose animation styles and visits to the recording studio to record voices overs. The result is two new animated films:

- [Our Ideal Foster Carers - YouTube](#)
- [Our Ideal Workers - YouTube](#)

## What difference is it making?

The films are now part of recruitment, training and inductions and have been shared with professionals working with children in meetings and at conferences. The work ensures that young people's voice is at the centre of training for carers and professionals. Feedback has been very good: both prospective carers and workers have commented on how powerful the film is and reflected on how they can incorporate messages from the film into their practice.

Young people taking part had a great time, overcoming challenges such as nerves and in the process learnt news skills such as script writing, scene setting and voice over recording.



Here is the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Children in care council entry to the ANV awards



**What they did:** Throughout 2021 the Children in Care Councils of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire (ages 12 to 21 years) collated feedback from children and young people in care on what they thought made the ideal Foster Carer, Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer and Designated Teacher.

The children and young people developed scripts, chose animation styles and went to a recording studio to record the voiceovers for two short animated videos.

**The Children in Care Councils  
Peterborough & Cambridgeshire**  
*Dynamic, reflective, empowered!*



**What difference they made:** Children and young people were able to get together to discuss the qualities they find important in their carers and professionals they work with, and had the opportunity to get their voices heard by a wider audience.

The videos are now part of recruitment, training and inductions and have been shared with professionals working with children in meetings and at conferences.

The videos ensured that the young person's voice is at the centre of training for carers and professionals.

Prospective carers have fed back how powerful they found the videos and have opened their age range to include working with teenagers as a result of the videos. Professionals have commented on how they have used learning from the videos to improve engagement and practice with children and young people in care.

**Why they should win:** The Children in Care Councils took on a major project, working with lots of children and young people to gain views and experiences, and learnt new skills including script writing, scene setting and voiceover recording. The group overcame individual challenges including nerves, anxieties, dyslexia and literacy challenges to create change for all children in care and we're very proud of them!

