



# Impact Report

April 2023 -  
March 2024

**BECOME.**

THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE  
AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS

# 1,134

## young people supported

by our services, both directly and via adults in their lives



Top issues we supported young people with include:

- Understanding rights
- Housing and homelessness
- Mental health
- Finances
- Higher education

# 35,285

times people accessed our

## online support and resources



# 505

## times young people took part in influencing change

with us, by sharing their views, telling their story, or feeding into our policy and campaigning work



# “

I first started working with Become because I wanted to improve the care system. MPs are talking about the issues a lot more now. It's much more on the radar.

Kane, a care-experienced young person and Gone Too Far campaigner

# “

The session has sparked loads of ideas and I'm already looking forward to talking more with colleagues to develop them.

# 833

## professionals trained

by our training team and our 11 care-experienced young trainers



# “

The discussions we had as a group were really rich and there are lots of things that I learned that I'll be implementing.

87%



of young people

**felt more confident in taking their next steps**

after support from us

29<sup>+</sup>

**university places secured**

by young people we supported through Propel

82%

**felt more positive about leaving care**

after our Rights and Entitlements Workshops

9



**young people campaigned with us on #GoneTooFar**

securing 22 pieces of media coverage and 20 meetings with key decision-makers.

75

**opportunities for young people to share their views and experiences**

with professionals and potential supporters

1



**i News Christmas appeal**

spreading awareness and raising over £270,000

92%



**of professionals recommend our training**

and 97% said it had changed the way they would work with young people.

“

I appreciate the consideration given to care-experience people like myself.

2

**young trainers accredited**

as part of their work delivering training to # Personal Advisors alongside our team





# GONETOOFAR  
**CARE**

END the  
**CARE CLIFF**

**GONE**  
TOO  
**FAR**

**GONE**  
TOO  
**FAR** 📍



# Introduction

**The care system has faced some of its biggest challenges this past year as the number of children in care continues to rise whilst local authorities struggle to cope with a lack of foster and residential homes, soaring inflation and budgetary pressures. With the system at crisis point, and children paying the price, the need to deliver meaningful and lasting change is greater than ever and has continued to drive us forward at Become.**

Amplifying the voices of care-experienced children and young people is at the heart of our work and this year we've created even more new opportunities to make sure these voices are heard. A real highlight was our first Voice Day when we spent the day celebrating the contributions young people had made across Become (p10).

In April, we launched our Gone Too Far campaign to keep children in care close to the people and places that matter to them. Our young campaigners have had a busy year on the campaign trail, creating a film which they screened in Parliament, and meeting with politicians, including the Minister for Children and Families, to share the impact of distant moves firsthand.

You can read more about how young people are influencing policy on p8.

In December, we were chosen by i News as its Christmas appeal charity partner, giving young people the opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges facing the care system. Hundreds of thousands of people read what they had to say, more than 3,300 donated to the appeal, and the Prime Minister and main party leaders all praised the campaign, placing the need to make care better firmly on the public agenda.

We know that reform is urgently needed to enable care-experienced children and young people to unleash their potential - a mission which underpins our support services. 1,134 young people have accessed our services this past year with 87% feeling more confident in taking their next steps. And one young person has already taken a major step forward in their career after engaging with our newly launched Propel into Work service. Read more about their journey on p7.

Building the knowledge and skills of professionals working with care-experienced young people is another way we strive to effect change. With the help of our talented Young Trainers (p9), we've trained 58 Personal Advisors, making a tangible difference for those leaving care.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we want to thank all the individuals, Trusts and Foundations, and corporate supporters that have stood shoulder to shoulder with us this year. It's only by working alongside you that our fight for a better care system and better futures for care-experienced young people can be realised. Together, we are making an impact at a time when it's needed more than ever.

Thank you.

**Katharine Sacks-Jones, CEO**

**Leslie Morphy OBE, Chair of Trustees**

## Contents

- Our impact.....02
- Introduction.....05
- What we do.....06
- Spotlight on Services....07
- Spotlight on Influencing ..08
- Spotlight on Training....09
- Spotlight on Participation.10
- Reflections.....11
- Thank you.....12

This report was created in-house at Become.

# What we do

**We support young people to...**



Transition from care

Secure their first job or place in higher education

Know their rights through our Care Advice Line

Building the knowledge of professionals

**We support practice through...**



Gathering evidence on the care system

Researching how to achieve better outcomes

Engaging with key decision-makers

Building a community of young changemakers

**We influence change by...**



Amplifying young people's voices in the media

## Spotlight on Services

# Propel into Work

**50+**  
young people  
supported since the  
service launched

**Following the success of Propel into Education, we launched Propel into Work, a new service that supports care-experienced young people on their path to jobs and apprenticeships.**

We know that university isn't for everyone, and we know that care-experienced young people have huge potential. But navigating your next steps after leaving care can be hard. Care leavers are over 10 times more likely not to be in education, employment or training compared to their peers.

Propel into Work helps care-experienced young people make confident career choices.

In the short time the service has been running, we've already supported dozens of young people.

There's more to come, with workshops co-designed with young people launching soon.

“

I reached out to Propel into Work because I've always wanted to get a job working with animals.

The support I've had from Clancy has been amazing. She helped me to write a CV, to apply for jobs and to prepare for interviews. She took me through everything step by step, at my pace.

We created a CV together and Clancy helped me showcase my experience and skills. She also helped me recognise skills I didn't even know I had, such as resilience.

As time went on, I noticed that the work I was doing with Clancy was strengthening my communication skills, too. I just felt so much more prepared.

It was really helpful when Clancy mentioned the STAR method for interview questions. I'd never heard of it before. We went through it together and I got to try it out with some questions in a practice interview.

I had my first real interview and I'm waiting to hear back. I think it went well and I liked the panel. I hope I get it.

The whole experience has been great. I wouldn't change a thing.

**Young person who received 1:1 support from Propel into Work**

”



## Meet Clancy

**Senior Advice and Support Officer  
(Employment and Vocational Learning)**

My role is to help young people explore the different career opportunities available and support them to overcome any barriers they may be facing.

From training to be a Barrister to working with animals, we help young people with a range of passions and skills to find the right path for them.

# Spotlight on Influencing

# Changing the system

**Political and economic instability hasn't stopped our influencing work, from national media coverage to ministerial meetings and Parliamentary inquiries.**

Our nine young Gone Too Far campaigners have met ministers and senior politicians across the political spectrum, seen the impact of distant moves debated in the House of Lords and covered on Channel 4 News, and told their stories at a Parliamentary screening of our campaign film.

We successfully lobbied the Education Select Committee to hold an inquiry into children's social care, including looking at out-of-area placements, and we shared the findings of a survey for care-experienced young people with them.

We also saw more than 160 care-experienced young people take part in our inquiry about the extension of corporate parenting.

As we look towards a general election, we'll redouble our efforts to put care experience on the public agenda.

## Riley's story

**When I was 17, I was moved into unregulated accommodation. It was hell. When I turned 18, everything changed overnight: the staff just stopped caring. I've been working with Become to change things.**

I went to Parliament with Become and spoke to MPs. I told them about the unregulated placements I'd been in and about what I'd been through.

We don't have unregulated placements any more. The law changed, so places have to be registered now. I remember when I heard the news. I was nearly in tears. I just couldn't believe it.

I've done lots of other stuff with Become since then. I joined Become staff at a meeting with the Cross Ministerial Board. It was intimidating at first but, when I started sharing my experiences, they just abandoned their agenda and talked about the issues I was raising. I was like "Oh my God, these people are actually listening to me. That's not what politicians usually do."

Become have been so supportive. They're just bloody brilliant. In those meetings, I always knew they were right behind me.

I've gained a lot of confidence, too. A lot. I used to be too scared to speak out. Now, I trust my judgement a lot more and I've got the confidence to say when something doesn't feel right.

My message to other care-experienced young people would be: Just do it.

**You really can change things, so don't be scared. Just do it.**





# Spotlight on Training

# Young trainers

To make care better, we also focus on those working in the care system, training professionals and carers to enable them to best support care-experienced young people.

Part of this is our innovative Personal Advisor Learning Programme. Personal Advisors play a crucial role as the main source of advice and support for young people who have left care.

We co-deliver training and workshops with our brilliant Young Trainers. Not only do young people develop skills and self-confidence they also share their views and experiences and help effect real practice change

## Lucinda's story

**I'm a Young Trainer at Become. I've worked with the Training Team to deliver training to Personal Advisors on topics like how to support young care leavers with their relationships and sexual health, and what good communication looks like.**

By actually delivering parts of the course ourselves, we were able to share some of our personal experiences as care-experienced young people.

I could see that the PAs were genuinely open and receptive when we shared our experiences. They weren't afraid to ask questions either, so I know they were taking what we said on board.

I really enjoyed delivering the course. It gave me the chance to interact with PAs in a different context, in ways I never did as a child in care. We had lots of support from Become before we actually got stuck into delivering training. We did practice sessions with each other as Young Trainers, which gave us a chance to get familiar with the content and build our confidence.

I was also the first Young Trainer to gain accredited trainer status from the awarding body. I had to work hard to get that qualification, but I'm so glad I did. There aren't many opportunities where you can get a certificate at the end, and it's great to have it on my CV.

"How can you not learn from somebody who's care experienced and been there? ... I'd probably say that was the biggest learning part of the course that I took from it – just their experiences, what they've been through."

PA Programme  
Participant



# Spotlight on Participation

# Voice Day

Our first Voice Day was a real celebration of all the impactful projects and campaigns that care-experienced young people in Become the Movement were part of in 2023.

We reflected on the change we have affected together and shone a light on all the opportunities care-experienced young people have been part of, from feeding into Ofsted research to co-designing our employability workshops for young people.

We held a craftivism session on Voice Day—here are some of the young people’s spoken word pieces.



Click the play button or scan the QR code to listen

## Care

A journey unknown,  
Life comes at you fast  
Learning to run before I walk  
In the silence of questions we talk  
WHY! WHY! WHY!

Become who you are called to be  
Where? How? WHY!  
Echoes of uncertainty fills the sky  
Yet within a strength to defy  
Up and down, thick and thin  
I’ve got to see it through  
Maybe meet my own crew

## ALAS!

I pursued, discovered Become  
Oh who knew, finally at  
A place I want to be. Becoming  
Who I am, embracing authenticity like  
Natures gentle balm

“

A broken system, desire for change  
I was longing for better and chose to engage  
My experience is valid and should be  
Heard, so one way I do this is  
Through spoken word

My confidence has grown and I feel  
connected,  
Campaigning for change in a system I  
was neglected  
Become are inclusive and value your  
voice,  
But what is conclusive is that you have  
a choice.  
Through media, policy or training,  
It doesn’t matter as we’re all  
campaigning.

We have a voice and we will be heard  
Which Become support us to do  
Through spoken word

”

# Becoming even better

## Updates from last year

We said we'd launch a new campaign to improve stability for children in care.

We launched our [Gone Too Far campaign](#) which has received national media attention and has been raised in debates and inquiries in Parliament.

We said we'd connect with more supporters, including companies looking to support care-experienced children and young people.

We've had a range of corporate sponsors provide support throughout the year offering career advice opportunities, providing feedback on young people's UCAS personal statements, and office space for young people we support to meet in person.

## Looking forward to 2024/25

- We will **reach more care-experienced young people**, including those of a younger age and those facing particular disadvantage. We will deliver even more in-person care advice surgeries in places where young people are to make them more accessible, including in custody and community settings.
- We will **create a Youth Editorial Board of care-experienced young people**, bringing new ideas and insights to our communications work to help us increase our reach and engagement.
- We will **continue to focus on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** across Become, reviewing our policies and practices, supporting our team to grow and learn through training and reflection sessions, and centering the voices of a diverse range of care-experienced young people in all we do.





# Thank you to our kind supporters

**To the individuals, trusts & foundations, and businesses who gave, fundraised or donated your own money to help fund our work – thank you. We are incredibly proud to be supported by such a diverse and committed community. We wish we could name all of you, here are a few:**

AKO Foundation  
 Annie Macmanus  
 Axcis Education  
 Become Players  
 Blagrove Trust  
 Biking for Children in Care  
 Caroline Collinson-Jones, Satellite Works  
 Clothworkers' Foundation  
 Dulverton Trust  
 Fidelity Foundation  
 Jacobs  
 James Laughland  
 Jennifer Cook  
 John Turner  
 Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation  
 Lincoln Private Investment Office Foundation  
 Liz & Richard Houghton  
 National Lottery Community Fund  
 Nationwide Building Society  
 Nick Sunderland, Why Projects  
 Mint Velvet

Oak Foundation  
 Oso Foundation  
 Peel Hunt LLP  
 Raise Your Hands  
 Milton Damerel Trust  
 St James's Place Foundation  
 Swire Charitable Trust  
 The 29th May 1961 Charity  
 The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Settlement  
 The Beatrice Laing Trust  
 The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation  
 The Hedley Foundation  
 The John Coates Charitable Trust  
 The John Lewis Foundation  
 The Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund  
 The Listening Fund  
 The Mark Leonard Trust  
 The Newby Trust  
 The Patricia Routledge Foundation  
 The Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
 The Tolkien Trust  
 The Will Houghton Foundation  
 Thanks to all those who choose to give anonymously.  
 We warmly remember those who left us a gift in their Will.

# 46

## gamers & creators

raised over £9,000, bringing their lifetime total to nearly £50,000, for [Become Players](#)



# 60

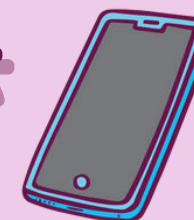
## supporters

walked, jogged, and ran [The Big Half](#) for us, raising over £16,000.

# 284

## people

donated regularly



# 170

## people

fundraised for us



# i News

The i Newspaper chose to fundraise for Become as part of their 'Together We Care' Christmas appeal.

Twenty young people worked with us and the i to share their stories and the changes they want to see in and around the care system. 32 national articles were published throughout the appeal, reaching hundreds of thousands of readers.

We're grateful to writer Helen Black, The Bishop of Blackburn – The Right Reverend Phillip North, and Olympian Fatima Whitbread who each supported this far-reaching fundraising campaign by appealing to i readers to donate.

We also want to thank Annie Mac, DJ, broadcaster and author, who raised an incredible amount towards the i appeal with her own personal matched fundraiser for Become, this meant a wonderful £41,159 towards the i Christmas appeal.

## 'We cried when we had to say goodbye to our mum at school before going into care'

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Duncan Langley had just turned 12 when he and his siblings went into care. He tells i how hard it is for young people in care when they turn 18 and support suddenly ends



Duncan Langley had just turned 12 when he and his siblings went into care. He describes how hard it is for young people in care when they turn 18 and support suddenly ends (Photo: Supplied via Become)



By Aasma Day

December 13, 2023 6:00 am (Updated 11:08 am)



Duncan Langley vividly remembers what it was like as a terrified 12-year-old to be told by social workers that he and his siblings had to say goodbye to their mum at the school gates before going into care.

'I was myself, my brother and my sister and I am the youngest – we were all crying and'

“ I hope the i appeal makes kids in care feel empowered, able to put their foot down and say they won't be treated the way they are any longer... That's the biggest thing that's come out of it. It has helped children to not feel like they're alone.

**Duncan, one of 20 young people who worked with Become and the i and shared his personal story.**

“ In the face of ongoing cost of living pressures, it's inspiring to see i readers raise so much for this important cause.

**Sir Keir Starmer, leader of the Labour Party, alongside other political leaders praised the appeal.**

**£272,686**  
raised by 3000+ people!

# Biking for Children in Care Reaching £1,000,000 milestone

In 2002, social worker and Children's Guardian Gill Timmis brought a group of friends together to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise awareness and funds to support children in care.

Over two decades on, the [Biking for Children in Care](#) community have cycled and fundraised annually. After months of planning every year, over 50 riders come together to cycle over two hundred miles - in every weather, terrain, and elevation. In 2023, these amazing volunteers surpassed £1,000,000 in total donations.

**We cannot thank everyone involved in Biking for Children in Care enough for this achievement and long-term support. To the planning teams, support crews, riders, and the thousands of friends and supporters who have donated: please accept our deepest gratitude from everyone at Become.**

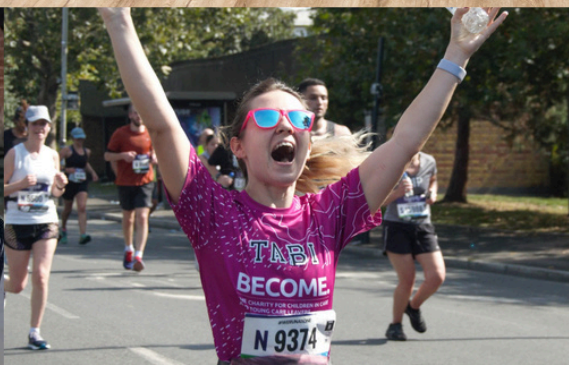


“ Even though it is a small charity, Become punches well above its weight and is making a real difference and giving young people in care and care leavers a voice.

Gill Timmis MBE, leader of Biking for Children in Care

  
**220,000**  
miles cycled









# BECOME.

THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE  
AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS

If you would like to take action to support our work:



scan the QR code with  
your smartphone camera



visit our website  
[www.becomecharity.org.uk](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk)



or send us an email  
[fundraising@becomecharity.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@becomecharity.org.uk)