

Easy Read Version

Children in **Care Council**

TORBAY COUNCIL



What is the Children in Care Council



- A group of children and young people that are, or have been, in care.
- They help to improve the services for children and young people in care.
- It's a chance for you to learn new things, like how to speak up for yourself and others, gain life skills and how to work as a team.
- You can also make new friends who have similar experiences.



Representation and voting

- To join, complete a manifesto template linked below.
- Explain why you want to join and what skills you have.
- Your manifestos will be shared with children who are cared for (by Torbay Council), who will vote on who they would like to be on the Children in Care Council.
- Those with the most votes will join and become members.
- We will hold regular elections.



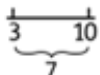
What is a manifesto



- A manifesto is a special letter that you create which has your thoughts and beliefs written in a clear way.
- It's a bit like making a promise about what you want to change.
- If your unsure where to start or need help and support get in touch with our Participation Officer Sophie de Sousa on **sophie.desousa@torbay.gov.uk** or call **07500 608141**



Making a difference



- Together, we can make positive changes and provide opportunities for your voices to be heard.
- You can complete the manifesto online via the link on the back page or we can post a copy to you, just email our Participation Officer **sophie.desousa@torbay.gov.uk**.



Nancy Meehan
Director of Children's Services









Example Manifesto

Your full name: Charlotte Smith (we will only share your first name)
Your date of birth: 06/05/2009 (we won't share this information)
Age: 14 (we will share your age)

Your Contact Details:

Mobile Number: 07744 444444 Email Address: Charlotte_Smith8@yahoo.co.uk
(So, we can contact you, we won't share this with anyone else)

My preferred method of contact is: Mobile Email WhatsApp
(So, we can contact you, we won't share this with anyone else)

       
Why do you want to join the children in care council and what

     
skills do you have (no more than 200 words)


As a young person who has experience of being in care, joining the Children in Care Council means a lot to me because it's an opportunity to share my own story and make a positive impact on the lives of other kids like me.

When I first entered the care system, I felt scared about what was going to happen next. Sometimes decisions were made about my life without asking for my opinion, and it made me feel like my voice didn't matter. I feel that being part of the council could change that. It gives me a chance to speak up and be heard, so that other kids won't feel as powerless as I did. I'm a very good public speaker and I'd like to have the opportunity to represent children in care. I also really enjoy designing things, so I'd be great at making posters!

       
What are the top 3 things that you would like to

    
see improved about being in care:

1: Training for Foster Carers

 I've had 3 foster carer families and I know what makes a good foster carer. I think
Why foster carers should hear from young people in care like me, to understand what it's
like for us, how to support us, what to do and what not to do.

2: Holidays and activities

? As a young person, I want to be able to live my life like everyone else my age does.
Why Sometimes, being in care is like a barrier to living a normal life. A lot of kids my age get to go to fun places, like on holidays with friends, but doing that type of stuff can be difficult when you're a kid in care and I'd like to find a way to try and make life a bit more simpler.

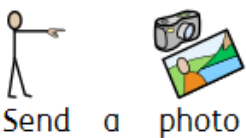
3: Training for Foster Carers

? I've had 3 foster carer families and I know what makes a good foster carer. I think
Why foster carers should hear from young people in care like me, to understand what it's like for us, how to support us, what to do and what not to do.



I feel that I am a confident person, who can speak up to support the lives of other young people in care. I know how it feels to not feel like you have a voice, or that your opinion doesn't count, and I want to be part of the change that empowers young people. By voting for me, you are voting for someone that is passionate about improving your life and wants to hear your voices.

I'm happy for my manifesto to be shared with other Torbay children in care so they can vote for me: Yes No (if you select no, sadly you won't be able to become a member)



Just like a real election, you can include a picture of yourself to be added to your manifesto for other young people to see. Photos are a great way for others to see who you are. If you don't want to include a photo of you, you can choose to add a photo of something you love or feel passionately about, like a pet. You can email your picture to **Sophie.desousa@torbay.gov.uk** remember to include your name so we can add this to your manifesto. Your picture will be deleted after use.



Alternatively you can fill your manifesto in using our online form at tinyurl.com/TorbayCICCeasy or by scanning this QR code.

