



Children in
Care Council

What is a Children in Care Council (CiCC)?

The Children in Care Council is a group of children and young people with experience of being in care who meet with important decision makers (corporate parents) to help shape what the services and support for children and young people in care look like. Being part of the Children in Care Council is 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 to help encourage people and organisations to do as much as they can towards improving the lives of children in care.

Representation and voting

We are looking for new members to help make a real difference and joining the Children in Care Council is a great way to do it. Interested? Please complete the 'manifesto template' to explain why you want to join and what skills you could bring to the role.

Your completed manifestos will then be shared with children who are cared for (by Torbay Council), we will ask them to vote on who they would like to best represent them and be their voice for change.

Those with the most votes will join and become members of the Children in Care Council. Ideally, we would like to recruit 12 members of different ages, cultural backgrounds and with different experiences. You will join other members and come together regularly to meet and discuss important topics that matter most. We will hold regular elections, so new members can

join bringing new ideas and experiences as other members choose to move on or be re-elected.

What is a manifesto?

A manifesto is a special letter that you create which has your thoughts and beliefs written in a clear and powerful way. It's a bit like making a promise or a statement about what you think is right or what you want to change. If you're 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 meaningful opportunities for your voices to be heard and acted upon. We want you to be a part of this amazing journey towards creating a better future for all children and young people living in care!

We look forward to receiving your manifesto and hearing about the strengths and skills you can bring to the role. You can complete this online via the link on page 4 or we can post a copy to you, just email our Participation Officer sophie.desousa@torbay.gov.uk. You can also use this email address if you need this form in a different format or have a special education need and / or disability.



Nancy Meehan
Director of Children's Services

**A corporate parent is the name given to an organisation or person who has special responsibilities to cared for and care experienced children and young people.*

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)

Please describe why you want to join the Children in Care Council and what skills you can bring to the role (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!

Identify Your Top 3 priorities you want to work on if you become a council member:

Priority 1: Training for Foster Carers

Reasoning why: I've had 3 foster carer families and I know what makes a good foster carer. I think 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.

Priority 2: Holidays and activities

Reasoning why: As a young person, I want to be able to live my life like everyone else my age does. 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.



Priority 3: Communication and inclusion

Reasoning why: I would like to see communication between social workers and young people improved. This is my life and I should be involved in making decisions that affects me. I want to be listened to and be taken seriously when I share my opinions.

Why should other young people vote for you?

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 understand that my manifesto will be shared with other Torbay children in care so they can vote for me, if you have any concerns about this please contact Sophie.desousa@torbay.gov.uk

Yes, I understand

Say cheese!

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 along with your name to **sophie.desousa@torbay.gov.uk** and this will be included on your manifesto.



Carer consent

You may want to talk to your carer about being involved in the Council so they know that this is something you would like to be involved with.

Have you spoken to them about this?

Yes No I would like to talk to someone else about being involved.

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

