



Children in Wales Plant yng Nghymru

You said, we listened!

Getting More Involved in Social Care project Update August 2019

The Getting More Involved in Social Care project works with care experienced children and young people across Wales, teaching them about their rights, asking them about things that matter and working together to publish new guides for other children and young people who are in care.

We want to say a big thank you to the children and young people across Wales who have worked with us, particularly from the RCT Forum, the ECHO group, the Merthyr forum, Bright Sparks, Fostering Care Associates Youth Forum, Voices from Care Cymru's Advisory Group and any children and young people we have met at different events all across Wales throughout the year.

One of our big priorities is **listening** to children and young people and then taking action to change things for the better in the future. Since our last project update we've done a lot of work and have big plans for the next 6 months.

We've published a new guide, ***having a say in your education***. This guide tells you all about getting ready for any school meetings, what the designated teacher does and how to get an advocate if you need one.

Our ***money and budgeting guide*** gives you all the tools and tips to start thinking about managing your money and how to budget. It's a short practical guide with useful helpline numbers, websites and apps if you're struggling to manage your money.



Attending the review meeting is also a big topic of interest for lots of young people that we spoke to. It's not easy to attend a meeting and say how you feel about things. Another of our guides, **getting your voice heard in your review meeting** can help.

We've shared this guide with the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) across Wales. IROs have a really important role as they chair the review meetings. The review meeting is your meeting, so it's important that you have the chance to say how you feel and what you want to happen when any decisions are being made.

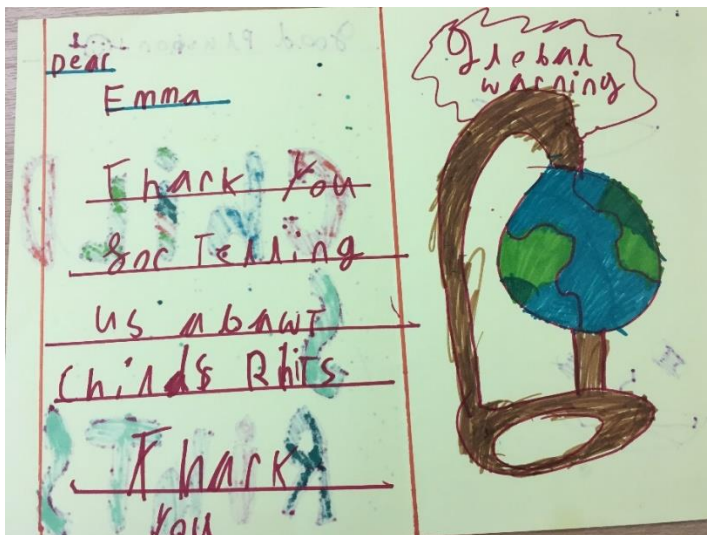
All of our guides can be found at <http://bit.ly/2Pf9omd>.

What next?

We are set to publish a **new booklet for the review meeting**. This will be aimed at young people aged 16 and above. Young people can fill this out before their review so they have a chance to say what they want to happen and how they are. Young people that we are working with will write it, and it will include questions on things like planning to leave care, well-being and happiness, money, cooking, living on your own and healthy relationships. This is due in autumn 2019. Watch this space!

Seeing your brothers and sisters - we know from children and young people that we need to be talking about this a lot more, and also having conversations with social workers, foster carers, IRO's and other key professionals. Young people want better options for seeing their brothers and sisters - especially using Facetime, Skype, instant messaging and social media.

Our work on play - Article 31 of the UNCRC says that all children and young people have the right to play. Over the next few months, we will be delivering play led activities with care experienced children and young people on their rights, health and well-being and having a say in any decisions that are made.



As always, if you want to get involved in our work please do get it touch!

Emma Sullivan - Development Officer

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