



## **4 February 2019**

### **Care Day 2019 highlights need for support for young people in care.**

Every week in Northern Ireland on average 16 young people enter the care system, often due to circumstances beyond their control. The stigma around care and being in care remains a major challenge for local young people's charity VOYPIC who this year want to raise the profile and discussion around 'care to talk' as part of the Care Day 2019. The day will see the world's largest celebration of children and young people with care experience, a joint initiative between five children's rights charities across the U.K. and Ireland.

Events will take place on Care Day, Friday 15 February 2019 with a major celebration show spectacular 'The Greatest Show' involving young people in care being held at the Waterfront Hall. The event will be hosted and presented by young people, with all performances from young people in care – so essentially their own show. It will be attended by families, friends, carers, and supporters involved in care, and is already a sell-out. To support Care Day in Northern Ireland VOYPIC, which has locations across Belfast, Ballymena, Derry/Londonderry and Lurgan, is encouraging groups and businesses to get involved to help celebrate care experienced children and young people and show their support. The charity has contacted all MLA's, political parties, education authorities, health trusts, partner charities and care supporters to encourage them to participate.

Speaking ahead of Care Day 2019, Vivian McConvey, Chief Executive of VOYPIC said,

“Currently across the five nations there are 90,000 young people in care, with on average 16 children entering care here in Northern Ireland every week. Our alliance simply wants a world where these children and all young people can thrive and achieve their dreams so that they have a future that is fulfilled, and of which they are proud.”

Care Day provides a wonderful opportunity to illustrate how care experienced people can feel different to others and why. So, this Care Day, everyone has the chance to get talking, get connected, or get together in celebration of the care experienced community. We are asking the public and our stakeholders to get involved and show their support for Care Day 2019 by doing something, for example, hosting an event of their choosing. It can be as simple as a small coffee gathering in the workplace to raise awareness about care or even talking directly to children and young people to find out how we as a society can better support them, Vivian added.”

To register for Care Day 2019 and receive a promotional pack, contact VOYPIC on 028 9024 4888 . The public can also follow Care Day 2019 online and show support by tweeting @VOYPIC and using #caretotalk, #caretoconnect and #careday19.

## **ENDS**

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