

**VOYPIC**

VOICE OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN CARE



# Annual Report 2020-2021



# Contents



Welcome from our Chair	3
Message from the CEO	4
Supporting Young People	5
Advocacy	7
Our new look	11
Our response in a crisis	13
Engagement and Influence	18
Our membership scheme	26
Care Day	27
Financial Year	34
Funders	36
Staff	37



# Welcome from our Chair

**Welcome, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to this year's Annual Report for the financial year ending April 2021.**

That we have not had a physical meeting as a Board since I was appointed Chairperson at the AGM in November 2020 indicates what an unusual year it has been. As a Board who consistently seek to engender a tight-knit supportive culture within VOYPIC the physical distance has been a challenge, but the COVID-19 pandemic created much greater challenges for the VOYPIC staff team and, most importantly, the young people we support. The pandemic has been an isolating time, particularly for many of the young people VOYPIC exists to serve, making VOYPIC's work even more vital.

The VOYPIC staff team have performed exceptionally in addressing the multitude of challenges that the pandemic has created for children and young people in and leaving care. VOYPIC quickly adapted the support we provide young people to suit the new socially-distanced reality and ensure no reduction in our level of activity and service. In fact, the VOYPIC staff team extended the assistance we provide by ensuring young people could keep connected virtually and keep the lights on, sourcing and delivering care packages to young care leavers living independently and, as the pandemic continued, facilitating exceptionally important research into leaving care during Covid-19.

In some ways COVID-19 enabled VOYPIC to extend our reach. Our virtual Care Day, with events held in partnership with our colleagues across the Five Nations One Voice alliance, was a great success and attracted messages of support from the First and deputy First Ministers and Health Minister.

While the pandemic dominated the year, it has not impacted the organisation's financial sustainability. Nor did the pandemic prevent us from launching a new-look VOYPIC brand, achieving an Investors in People Silver Award, retaining our Investing in Children accreditation, and launching our new membership scheme MYVOYPIC.

Given all the challenges the year threw at us, everyone involved with VOYPIC can be exceptionally proud that we got through it together.

**Peter McClenaghan, VOYPIC Chair**

# Message from the CEO

Welcome to our 2020-21 annual report! A year like no other, as the Coronavirus pandemic reached across the globe. As you will see throughout this report, VOYPIC flexed, adapted, and rose to the challenge to ensure that our support and services to children and young people continued in new and innovative ways.



The entire team certainly demonstrated the VOYPIC values throughout this year. They displayed total commitment - ensuring that our services and support did not stop. Always solution focused they found new ways of working and reaching out virtually, designing new programmes and online content. Championing young people's rights, they supported them to be heard in decision making, and to access information and services. They maintained their relationships with young people through online groups and check-ins, quiz nights and bingo, helping keep young people connected, despite the limitations. For all of this, I have to commend and thank the team.

The global pandemic, restrictions and lockdowns have had a severe impact on the lives of children and young people in and leaving care. Our research in partnership with Queen's University Belfast with young people who had recently left care, and ongoing conversations with children in care, highlighted delays in care and pathway planning, decision making, and getting help as services adapted to coronavirus guidance and regulations. And so it was unsurprising that there was a 20% increase in the number of children and young people seeking individual advocacy support.

This year we worked alongside 673 children and young people to; help them to find their voice, access help and support, find out about their rights, take an active part

in decisions being made about their lives, connect with each other, and share their views and experiences with decision makers to inform and influence change.

Despite the extraordinary circumstances this year children and young people took a lead role in policy advocacy; speaking directly to members of the Health Committee and Department of Health officials, sharing their views and experiences, and the personal impact of the pandemic, lockdowns, and amendments to Children's (Social Care) Regulations on their lives.

As this financial year draws to a close, we are still dealing with the effects of the pandemic. We are acutely aware that we still have much to do to help reduce its impact on children and young people, to support and nurture our team so that they can continue the great work they do, and work with our partners across the statutory and voluntary sectors to ensure children in and leaving care experience positive relationships, safety and stability, and are empowered to transform their lives.

Finally, a huge 'Thank You' to all our funders and donors who have supported VOYPIC throughout the year. Without your support our work would not be possible.

**Alicia Toal, Chief Executive**

# We supported 673 children & young people

Where do  
they live?



**302**  
Children and young people  
lived in foster and kinship  
care.



**97**  
Were living in children's'  
homes.



**44**  
Were living in supported  
accommodation.



**62**  
Were living independently.



**72**  
Were in a hospital setting.



**47**  
Were living at home.



**49**  
Were living in a range of other  
settings.

# How did we support them?

**500**

Children and young people received advocacy support.

**86**

Children and young people received one to one support.

**97**

Children and young people took part in participation forums.

**68**

children and young people accessed our independent advocacy service at Beechcroft.

**141**

Children and young people took part in group work programmes.

**32**

young people took part in our youth leadership programme.

# Advocacy support

**The top three reasons for new requests from young people requiring advocacy support was to be heard in decision making (Voice), where they live (placement), and family time (contact).**

353 children and young people sought support from the advocacy service to have their voice heard in decisions about their care.

- **162 children and young people wanted support to prepare for and actively participate in their review meetings.**
- **131 children and young people wanted support to understand, influence, or challenge aspects of their care or pathway plan** 37 children and young people wanted advocacy support to have their views represented at the Regional Multi Agency Panel for Secure Care.
- **19 young people wanted support for child protection case conferences.**
- **4 children and young people wanted supported in family group conferences.**

117 children and young people sought support from the advocacy service to have their voice heard in decisions about where they live.

- **41 children and young people in care who wanted support were moving home (placement move).**
- **41 children and young people in care who wanted support were at risk of having to move home (placement breakdown).**

- **16 children and young people in care who wanted advocacy support were living somewhere unsuitable.**
- **14 care leavers who wanted support were moving home (placement move).**
- **3 care leavers who wanted support were living somewhere unfit to meet their needs.**

80 children and young people sought support from the advocacy service to have their voice heard in decisions about their contact with their families.

- **29 children and young people wanted advocacy support to see their parents or siblings more.**
- **22 children and young people wanted advocacy support to have arrangements for family time changed.**
- **13 children and young people wanted advocacy support to see their family and friends more.**
- **9 children and young people wanted advocacy support to see their parents and siblings less.**
- **13 children and young people wanted advocacy support to see their family and friends less.**
- **3 children and young people wanted advocacy support after having been adopted.**

Throughout the year, 74 children and young people received advocacy support to represent their views to the Regional Multi Agency Panel for Secure Care.

# What did we do?



**569**  
advocacy sessions in  
children's homes



**18**  
advocacy workshops



**4**  
advocacy activity days



**10**  
responses to policy  
consultations and requests



**128**  
capacity building and  
personal development group  
work sessions



**13**  
groups meetings with  
young people to capture  
their views on policy and  
legislation



**266**  
sessions where young people  
with experience of care came  
together as a group



**60**  
Participation Forum  
meetings



# Did we make a difference?

**99%**

of young people were satisfied with the advocacy service they received

**97%**

feel confident to advocate for themselves in the future

**99%**

of young people feel more confident after taking part in our group work programmes

**99%**

received the help and support they needed from their advocate

**81%**

of children and young people gave their group work programme 10/10

**54%**

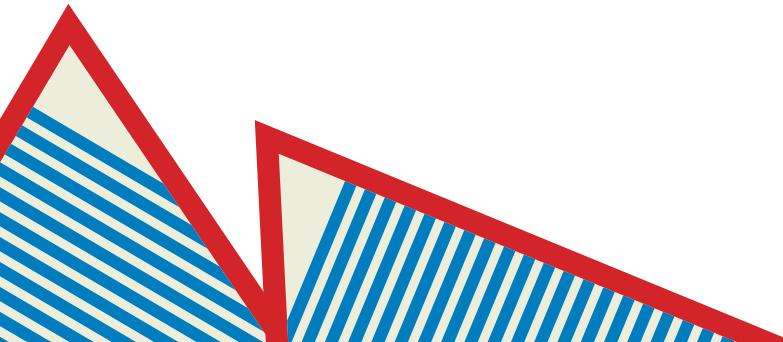
of young people feel they are better at speaking up after taking part in our group work programmes

**97%**

had a better understanding of their rights and entitlements

**99%**

of young people gave their group work leaders 10/10



# What young people told us.

## With help from my advocate...

- Q I have somewhere to live that I am really happy
- Q I am back in education
- Q I have a say in my meetings
- Q I got a new social worker who I can now meet with and ask for things and get help with things
- Q I am getting to see my granny
- Q I am settled in a new family and school
- Q I have the confidence to speak to professionals about what I want
- Q I have a better understanding of why decisions are made
- Q I got a new social worker and a personal advisor
- Q I have the confidence to speak to professionals about what I want
- Q Got support for a pre-birth case conference
- Q I am able to get my point across and speak for myself now
- Q I am better at making decisions
- Q I understand my rights

## Taking part in group activities...

- Q It cheered me up at a difficult time
- Q I feel good about myself for helping the old people
- Q Just more confidence. Feel like a better person.
- Q I have gained more friends
- Q I am more comfortable with others
- Q I'm not shy to speak up
- Q Nice to support the younger children and help them with their work
- Q I got to do something kind for others
- Q This group has made me think of others



# Our new look

**‘We listen. We learn.  
Together we  
create change.’**

What VOYPIC means to you

A new-look VOYPIC brand was launched on Wednesday 21 October, alongside a new website. The bright and colourful new brand places more focus on the young people involved, with illustrations being replaced by a series of photographic elements featuring young people from across our programmes. In preparing the new brand, young people worked alongside the designers to influence the brand elements and general feel, as well as taking part in a vote to select the new logo.



# A great place to work.

In April 2020 VOYPIC achieved the 'We Invest in People Silver Accreditation'. We are extremely proud of VOYPIC's good practice, values and culture that have helped achieve this award. It provides a sound basis to build upon for the future. We have a lot to celebrate. Our people are talented and dedicated. They are welcoming, friendly and passionate about what they do and the services they provide, and intent on improving the lives of children and young people. This year the VOYPIC team proactively demonstrated our values every day as they supported children and young people during the global pandemic. We are proud and appreciative of their relentless commitment and dedication.

## WE'RE SILVER



## Together we Create Change – Investing in Children

In September 2020 we successfully retained our Investing In Children Membership Award. The scheme recognizes and celebrates examples of imaginative and inclusive practice. Membership is awarded to those organisations that can demonstrate ongoing dialogue with children and young people that brings about change in their world. There are over 500 members of the scheme across UK and Ireland.



**Investing in Children**

# Our response in a crisis

## COVID-19 response

Following the introduction of the first lockdown in March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic we moved quickly to reconfigure the support provided to children and young people in care and leaving care within Northern Ireland. This involved remote working for all staff, and moving all group work with young people online. However, we continued to meet face-to-face

with individual children and young people in vulnerable situations.

We abided by all restrictions and adapted accordingly, continuing to work in partnership with both statutory and voluntary sector organisations to offer support and responded to issues emerging for children and young people in care and care experienced.

## Keeping in touch calls

In each area we reached out to all young people who had received support from VOYPIC over the previous year to offer individualised support.

Young people were offered regular telephone contact from a named Youth Rights Worker, as frequently as they preferred. This included daily, weekly and monthly contact depending on the child or young person's wishes.

**We made 4338 phone calls to 353 young people.**



**Remember, VOYPIC is still here for you.**

Maybe you need some help from our Advocacy Service, or want to have a chat with a Youth Rights Worker? Perhaps you want to connect with one of our online Participation Forums, or to join in with an online workshop or event? Maybe you're a young care leaver and you need some practical help getting essential household products and services?



02890244888

[info@voypic.org](mailto:info@voypic.org)



## Group check-ins

The Participation Forums across the region established a weekly Covid impact discussion space, where young people had the opportunity to raise concerns about their experiences of the pandemic and work together to explore responses.

**We delivered 17 online group work activity sessions, specifically focused on issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown measures.**



## Care packages

We successfully collaborated with local supermarkets, including Lidl, M&S and Tesco, to ensure essential items were being delivered to these young people. We were able to respond effectively with the help of funding from other partners, such as the Public Health Agency Elevate programme, in addressing social inequalities for this vulnerable cohort of young people. We maintained regular contact with vulnerable care leavers to listen and respond to their needs and requests.

**We sourced and delivered 51 care packages of household supplies to young care leavers living independently.**



## DfC seasonal fund 2020

This fund was established to mitigate again food poverty, and to assist families over the Christmas period. In partnership with Barnardo's, we were able to distribute £10,000 worth of groceries, electricity, gas, winter clothing, and seasonal gifts, to children, young people and families, throughout December 2020 and January 2021.

## Keeping connected, keeping the lights on

For some young people, poor internet connection, data limits, lack of enabled devices and restrictions on online activity has led to a greater sense of isolation and increased barriers to accessing information at this critical time. Digital exclusion was a significant barrier to work with children and young people. We were able to identify this very early on and provided internet-enabled tablet devices to children's homes and within secure care.

By listening to young care leavers who were living independently, we became aware of concerns relating to supply of other essential utility services, including electricity, gas and home heating oil. This was of particular concern during the early part of the lockdown.

We supported ten young people in crisis to restore essential utilities, including gas, electricity, home heating oil and internet connection.

We supported seven young people to successfully make application for emergency grants to maintain services.

## Covid and living in care

This year we secured funding from the Children in Need 'Next Steps' programme, to work with young people currently living in care to co-design and deliver a survey of their peers. This project seeks to develop a better understanding of the impact of Covid-19 and the lockdown on young people in care. To date, the young people on the co-design group have received bespoke training from a local researcher, who will support them in the design of the survey and analysis of the results. This group will also co-design a series of standards for young people's participation in meetings. They will use the findings of the study to inform their thinking and consult with their peers to create a set of standards to help make sure young people are meaningfully involved in their meetings and decision making.

We sourced and provided 26 tablet devices, allowing young people to connect to the internet.



# ONE DAY...

## Tackling false information

We have been careful to ensure that all public messaging published by the organisation related to the pandemic is accurate, and is sourced from official, trustworthy sources. Therefore, we did not create any materials giving information or advice about the pandemic response, but rather provided links to information, summarised key points and republished materials supplied by government agencies, mostly the Public Health Agency.

We published 198 social media posts providing information and advice on staying safe, active and entertained during the lockdown.

## Leaving care during Covid-19

In partnership with Queen's University (QUB), we undertook research activity to better understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdown restrictions on young care leavers aged 18-25 years old. A virtual roundtable discussion on the report was held as part of the Care Day 21 celebration, bringing together interested parties from across the sectors to share learning from the report and identify key actions to better support care leavers going forward. The research highlighted how care leavers were impacted by the pandemic, and the need to:

- Keep in touch consistently and maintain professional relationships
- Strengthen informal and formal systems of support around the young person
- Address the impact of disruptions to housing, education and transition plans

- Provide socially distant, face-to-face support
- Communicate effectively about changes to services due to restrictions
- Promote the participation of young people in decisions and plans
- Provide additional practical support
- Recognise important milestones and transitions in the young person's life
- Support endings and transitions during the pandemic
- Address the emotional wellbeing and mental health of care leavers

“

Like, I understood. I'm not silly like, I understood, he obviously has his own family and his own problems, and he has a big caseload and, but he, I don't know, I feel like every social worker, no matter how busy they are, they can fit you in once every two or three weeks.

- Leaving Care During Covid -

# Engagement and influence

## Time to Care

- FREE Care Awareness training for the public sector

- Drawing on their own experiences of living in care, join Aoife, Courtney and Gavin to explore the fundamental questions of care.

According to A Life Deserved: A Strategy for Looked After Children (2021) all government departments, agencies and other bodies are members of the Corporate Family, with extended family responsibility for children and young people in and leaving care. The training is suitable for anyone working in the statutory sector, outside of the Health and Social Care system.



Info & Booking:

[voypic.org/timetocare](http://voypic.org/timetocare)

Supported by  
 Esmée Fairbairn FOUNDATION

## Supporting the corporate family: Time to Care

VOYPIC Engagement Ambassadors have developed materials to support the creation and delivery of a programme of awareness raising and support to non HSC professionals to promote understanding of care. The project will also develop an online learning module, to be hosted on the VOYPIC website.

## Covid regulations

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic the government made temporary changes to how children's social care is delivered. Throughout this period, young people from VOYPIC have been actively involved in informing the Department of Health and the NI Assembly Committee for Health on how these changes are impacting on them. This included virtual meetings with members of the Committee, civil servants, and providing input to meetings of the Committee online.



## PANDA project, supported by Erasmus+

Alongside Queen's University, Belfast, we have joined together with colleagues from across Europe to explore how young children can be supported to more actively participate in decisions regarding their care and welfare. The project seeks to promote the participation of young children (aged 12 years and under) in decision making through strengthening professionals collaboration with young children involved in child welfare and child protection services.

## Supporting the development of the NI Youth Assembly

In July, the Speaker of the NI Assembly, Alex Maskey MLA, announced plans to establish a NI Youth Assembly. We met with representatives from the Assembly, encouraging them to ensure the new Youth Assembly would reflect the diversity of experience of young people across Northern Ireland. Naomi , from VOYPIC's Youth Leadership Programme was invited to join the NI Youth Assembly Co-Design Panel, representing young people with experience of care in the development process.



Have  
Your  
Say!

## Care & Justice Campus

Should there be a single Regional Care & Justice Campus, replacing Lakewood Secure Care Centre and Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre? What should it look like? How should it operate? VOYPIC is holding online discussions with young people with experience of care to gather your thoughts and ideas on these important questions.

Join us online to share your views!

Email [info@voypic.org](mailto:info@voypic.org) or talk to your Youth Rights Worker to get the link to join.

## Care and justice campus

In November, the Department of Health and Department of Justice jointly launched a consultation on the development of the Regional Care and Justice Campus. The consultation proposes to merge Woodland Juvenile Justice Centre and Lakewood Secure Care Centre, as part of a wider campus of support for young people across Northern Ireland. We undertook a series of online engagement events for young people, including young people with direct experience of Woodland and/or Lakewood, gathering their views on the proposals and their ideas for future development. We will ensure that young people continue to have a voice and influence the ongoing work.

## Separated and/or unaccompanied asylum seeking young people

VOYPIC was invited by the Department of Health (DoH) and the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) to conduct discussions with separated and/or unaccompanied asylum seeking young people to ascertain their views on a range of key issues related to their care in Northern Ireland. This was part of a wider review and redesign of the model of support for young people who arrive in Northern Ireland separated from families and/or as unaccompanied asylum seeking young people.

We spoke to ten young people about their experiences and ideas for the development of the service. The strongest messages coming from the young people was a plea to respect their independence and individuality, to ensure they have a sense of self-determination and a say in the decisions about their lives.

They displayed a desire to settle into the community, to engage in activities, to continue their education, to build relationships and forge a new life in a new country. But, to do this they need support that is tailored to them and their individual needs.

**Understand us more, understand how we feel, it is all about how we feel. Understand how we are coping, especially when we arrive.”**

Male, 17, Iran



# Young people as positive influencers



## 'LAC' Removed from Education

"I was six when I first heard it, and I was like, 'what am I lacking in?'.

The term I would like to use is 'young person' because that's what I am, a young person."

Martha, Young Leader  
Language of Care

### Language of care

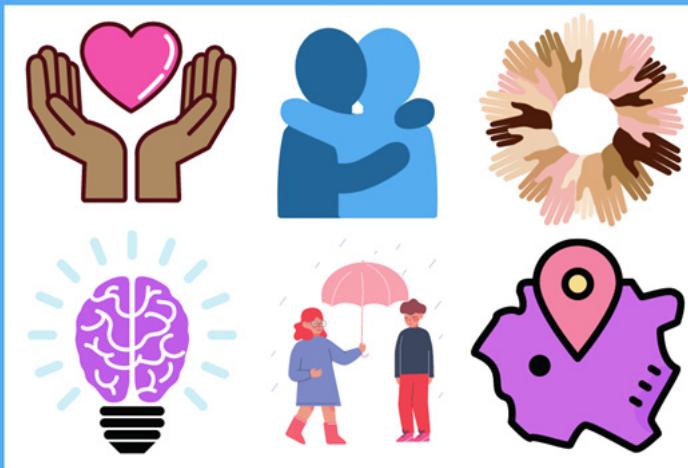
Young people continued working on their campaign to bring about real and lasting change in the language that is used to describe care. A key term that young people seek to erase is 'LAC- Looked After Children'. The group strongly welcomed the sparse use of the term in A Life Deserved- Caring for Young People in Northern Ireland, noting its use only when referring to legislation or statutory policy. They were also pleased with the Education Minister's announcement, alongside publication of the strategy in February 2020, that the term 'LAC' will no longer be used in education settings.

### Young people's urban garden

Young people in the Western area worked together to design and create an outdoor social space next to our office in Queen Street. Supported by an Engagement Ambassador, the group successfully applied for funding from Derry City and Strabane District Council to turn their idea into a reality.

# Diversity Storytelling

Learning and conversations through children's stories!



Free Session!  
Get in touch to register!

**VOYPIC** VOICE OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN CARE

## Diversity storytelling

In partnership with Still I Rise, we hosted an online storytelling group for children in January. Each week the group listened to a different story celebrating diversity in our communities. Inspired by these stories, the group have begun to write their own children's book, featuring children in care.

## Connecting generations in Lurgan

The Southern Participation Forum took part in a 4-week social action project with Lurgan YMCA. They decided to produce small gift bags for the residents of a local care home prior to Christmas. Young People designed the bags, gathered all the items to put in and presented them to a staff member at the care home.

## Mental health charter

In September, seven young people from VOYPIC worked with the National Children's Bureau Youth Access project, informing the development of a Mental Health Charter for young people across the UK. The young people, including young people receiving treatment at Beechcroft, shared their views on CAMHS, access to services and future service development. The Charter was published by NCB in February 2021.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU

COMMUNITY FUND

OUR MINDS  
OUR FUTURE

#OurMindsOurFuture

*"Reducing waiting times, reducing costs, guaranteeing safe, non-judgemental environments, and providing thorough mental health education are what is needed from our mental health services."*

- Zahra - young people's advisory group

## PHA Covid messaging

In October 2020, we were invited to join a working group, established by the Public Health Agency, to inform messaging for young people in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. Through this group, young people were supported to engage in a process to develop key messages for their peers around the pandemic, including information on keeping safe. Young people from VOYPIC put forward a range of ideas for the campaign, including using everyday objects to illustrate the 2m distance required for social distancing. These ideas were adopted by the PHA and used in a range of online messaging campaigns.



### On the radio

Maddison , from VOYPIC's Youth Leadership Programme in the Northern area, took part in a media campaign with U105. The campaign featured young people from all walks of life, exploring how they coped with lockdown and the things that helped them to manage and get through the pandemic.



## 'See Me' – what teachers need to know

School can be tough, for anyone. It can be even tougher if you're a young person in care. Young people from VOYPIC created a series of short films, aimed at raising awareness of issues impacting care experienced young people among those working in education. The young people drafted the scripts for the films, played lead roles in the classroom scenes, and worked with a multi-media company on the final edit. The films were published on our website in September, and provide a great opportunity for teachers to see and hear directly from young people about the challenges and barriers they face every day in the classroom.



## SEE ME, HEAR ME!

We were delighted to be awarded funding from The National Lottery Community Fund in January 2020 for our new participation programme See Me Hear Me! Through this programme we will help children and young people to bring about positive change in their own lives and their local communities through social action projects. We will also increase our support for young people moving on from care through coaching, mentoring, and peer support.

# Our membership scheme



## MYVOYPIC

In February VOYPIC launched our new membership scheme, aimed at uniting the care experienced community in Northern Ireland, and involving them in health and social care issues. Membership of MyVOYPIC is open to any young people in Northern Ireland, up to 25 years old, who has lived experience of care. The scheme provides a safe space for young people to connect and share their experiences, access information,

and hear about opportunities offered by VOYPIC and our partners across the sector. We also engage with members to gather their views and experience of care, to inform policy and decision makers.

The first informal (virtual) get-together for members was held in late March. This meeting gave the first wave of young people to join the scheme an opportunity to learn more about the ambition for MyVOYPIC, and to have their say on how it should be developed next.

# Care Day



## #CareDay

Our sixth annual Care Day celebration took place on Friday 19 February, focused around Uniting the Care Experienced Community.

This theme recognised the challenges of the past year, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people with lived experience of care. On Care Day, and the days around Care Day,

we hosted a series of events as part of our virtual Care Day Festival. These included:

### *The Voices of Young People Leaving Care During Covid-19 in Northern Ireland – Roundtable Discussion*

This event provided space for partners across the children and young people's sector to come together and explore the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people leaving care.

A promotional image for the 'The Voices of Young People Leaving Care During Covid-19' roundtable discussion. It features a young man and woman smiling against a blue background with yellow geometric shapes. To the right is a yellow speech bubble containing the event title and details. The text reads: 'The Voices of Young People Leaving Care During Covid-19', 'Wednesday 17 February', '10.30am - 12.30pm', and 'Online'.



## Care Experienced Q&A with Commissioners

Held in partnership with our colleagues across the Five Nations One Voice alliance, this online event brought together the four Commissioners for Children and Young People from across the UK, and the Ombudsman for Children in Ireland,

to answer questions from a panel of care experienced young people supported by the five organisations. The event was attended by almost 300 audience members. people leaving care.

### VOYPIC Drum Connections

Young people from the Southern area Participation Forum challenged their peers across Northern Ireland and beyond to join them to send a beat around the world. Footage of young people drumming was recorded in iconic locations across Northern Ireland (including the Giant's Causeway, the west Belfast Peace Wall, the RISE sculpture Belfast, Armagh Cathedral, and the Peace Bridge in Derry-Londonderry) as well as in their homes.

### Lunchtime Circus Spectacular

Hosted by the Belfast area, this interactive online performance by Belfast Circus School attracted over 20 children and young people in care across Northern Ireland and beyond.

### 'Put a Little Love in Your Heart' VOYPIC Choir Performance

A special performance by young people from the Western area, recorded remotely during lockdown as well as in their homes.



### 'If' – Switch Group Virtual Poetry Performance

Young people from our Northern area Participation Forum, Switch, produced a short film to reflect their hopes on Care Day 21. Using Rudyard Kipling's classic poem, If, the group filmed and edited their video across the Northern area.



### 'You Are Not Alone' – Care Experienced Poetry Reading

A powerful reading by young care experienced poet, Tami, of her work reflecting on her life growing up in care.

## Care Link-Up

Young people and staff from VOYPIC joined with our 5N1V partners for a special virtual games night exclusively for young people with lived experience of care. This event provided a space for young people to connect with others in care, for an informal celebration of their care identity.

## Bubble Battle

Young people from the South Eastern area Participation Forum, Vibe, organised an online games night, pitting 'bubbles' against each other in a range of challenges.

## Care Day Movie Night

Young people and staff from VOYPIC joined a Netflix Watch Party, hosted by EPIC (Empowering People in Care), Ireland, to watch and discuss the movie 'Instant Family'

## Bundles of fun

Care Day is a celebration, and while we couldn't get together we wanted to share the fun with care experienced young people across Northern Ireland. We produced Care Day Fun Packs, including arts and craft activities, treats and goodies,

decorations and balloons, bringing the party to where young people live. Packs were sent to all children's homes, and available to order for anyone living with a foster family, or in kinship care.

## Hands up for Care Day

We asked local leaders, celebrities and the general public to show their support for Care Day, and young people with experience of care, by putting their 'Hands Up for Care Day'. We received many messages from local leaders and politicians right across the political spectrum, including from the

First and deputy First Ministers, the Justice Minister, the Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for the Economy, and the Ministers of Health and Education. We also received messages of support from a range of organisations and individuals across the community, including other voluntary sector organisations, sports teams and local personalities.



## Social media storm

Care Day 21 got lots of attention across our social media channels, with hundreds of

people liking and sharing our posts, photos and videos. On Twitter, #CareDay21 trended for most of the day, holding the number 4 spot in the UK for more than two hours!



# Care Day 19 February 2021



Department for the  
Economy

# FINANCIAL YEAR

## 2020-2021

We would like to acknowledge and thank all our funders and donors who have supported VOYPIC throughout this last year. Without this support it would not be possible to deliver such a range of services and support to care experienced children and young people.

This financial year had the extra challenge the Covid 19 pandemic, and we are extremely grateful to all our funders for their continued support during this time.



Total Income  
**£1,301,586**

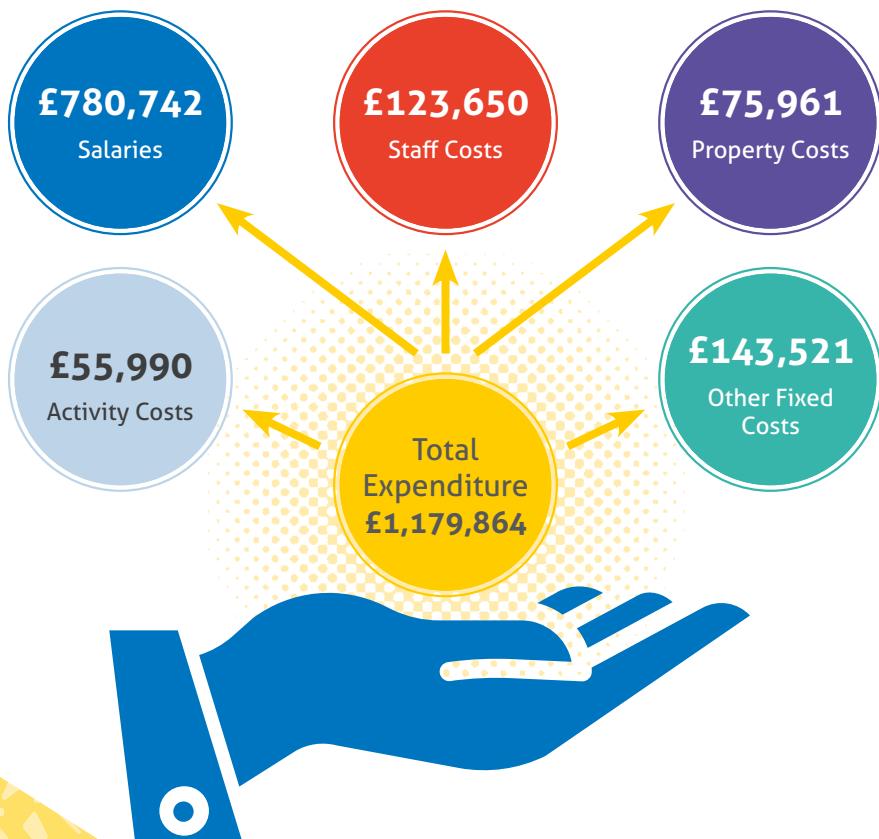
## VOYPIC Breakdown of Income Financial Year 2020-2021



£22,056

Other Income

## VOYPIC Breakdown of Expenditure Financial Year 2020-2021



# Funders

Act for Change\*  
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust  
Big Lottery Fund  
The National Lottery Community Fund  
Children in Need  
Community Foundation  
Department for Communities/Barnardo's Seasonal Fund  
Department of Health  
Derry City & Strabane District Council  
Erasmus +  
Esmee Fairbairn  
Elevate  
Health & Social Care Board  
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation

\* The Act for Change Fund comprises of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, The National Lottery Community Fund, and iWill fund)

## Donations received from:

All State NI  
Ballycraigy Church  
Inner Wheel Ladies Charity  
PCD Contracts  
SJG Fittings  
White Stuff

# Staff List 2020-2021



Aine Mulholland

Aisling Meenan

Alicia Toal

Aoife Clarke

Brenda Kilpatrick

Bridge O'Connor

Caoimhe Coyle

Caroline Hunter

Christina Howarth

Courtney McBride

Deirdre McMahon

Donna O'Kane

Edward Wallace

Fiona Morrison

Gavin Canning

Iain Black

Jennifer Wright

Jo Irvine

Julie Ann Neeson

Karen Stirling

Laura Doyle

Lee Kane

Margaret Guy

Nicola McCreedy

Nyree Mulholland

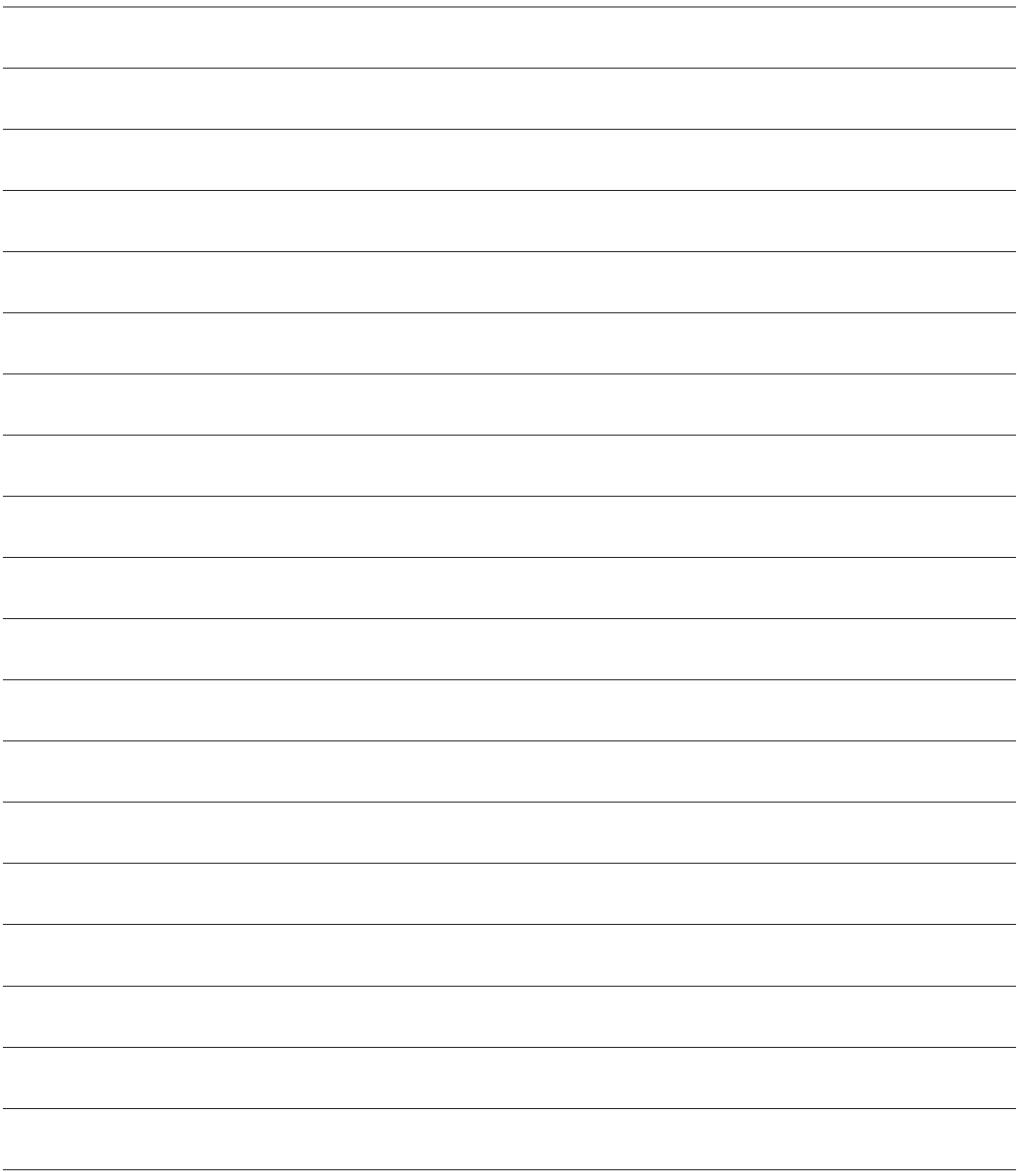
Owen O'Conner

Trevor McDaid

Registered with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland NIC105019.  
Company Limited by Guarantee NI30526.

Registered office: Voice of Young People in Care  
9-11 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, BT7 1JG

## Notes





**MAIN OFFICE:**  
**BELFAST**  
9-11 Botanic Avenue  
Belfast BT7 1JG  
Tel: 028 9024 4888

[info@voypic.org](mailto:info@voypic.org)  
[www.voypic.org](http://www.voypic.org)

