



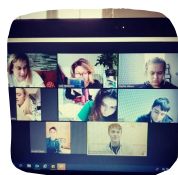
A newsletter for young people in care in Medway brought to you by Medway's Children & Young People Council



**SUMMER 2020**

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hello



Hey everyone!!! Some of you may have seen me on social media already, but let me introduce myself again. My name is Sophie, the new apprentice! My role is getting all your voices and opinions heard, I am here to listen to your ideas and wishes and put them into action. I can't wait to meet everyone! We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and finding out more about what we've been up to!

Sophie | Participation Apprentice



Find us on YouTube!

SEARCH MCYPC CHANNEL



for the latest news, follow us!

@MCYPC1





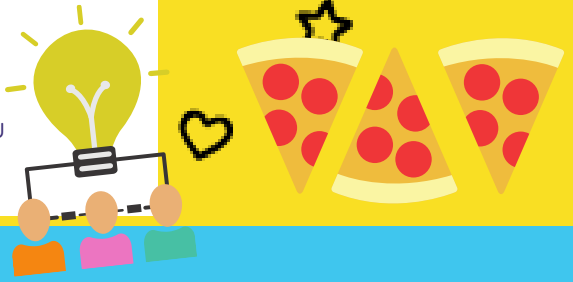
# What We've Been Up To...



## MCYPC MEETING ON THE 11TH MARCH

Our quarterly MCYPC meeting took place on the 11th March 2020 and had a great turnout! We discussed the new chair and vice chair and learnt about corporate parenting. Medway Council also gave us an update that they have received an extra £2 million funding for social workers! Catch up on the minutes from the meeting online here: <https://www.facebook.com/mcypc1/videos/341705963453192/?t=6>

As MCYPC we value everyone's opinion and are so grateful for the feedback you give us. There are so many ways you can still get involved even if you do not want to attend the meetings, you can give your feedback online and also directly message us.



## LEGENDS LEAP OF FAITH!



Pre lock-down, our Senior Legends were out in force in the trees of Bedgebury Forest! They got to have a bunch of fun while hanging out with other care experienced individuals. This was just a little break from our normal sessions on life skills and our experiences in/leaving care.

**You'd better believe we're looking forward to the next residential once it's allowed.**



## ELAINE CENTRE FEEDBACK

At the Elaine Centre we created a feedback box for everyone to use - check it out! This is so we can get feedback on different things, our topic at the moment is: "What do you think about the care system?" If you cannot reach the Elaine centre there is no problem, our feedback is going to go online as well.

**Your feedback is really great as change starts with you! Your voices helps us create new ways to make the system even better.**

If you have any other feedback to give us, or want to see what projects we are working on, do not hesitate to contact us on any of our social media! [@mcypc1](#)



## IRO INTERVIEWS YOUR WAY



**Sophie and Robbie got involved in the process for interviewing IROs. This turned out to be a good way to get to know the professionals at Medway Council and to help select the people who work in the care system. #SUCCESS**

In the future, we are going to get more young people and MCYPC members to interview IROs. MCYPC is hoping to get involved with interviewing social workers so young people have the opportunity to be involved in selecting people who they think will work well with those in care.





# Supporting You...

COVID-19...

**STAY AT HOME** 

**PROTECT THE NHS**

 **save lives**



Due to Covid -19 lockdown, we have introduced our **online Legends groups** where you can join in and have fun online!

We are doing weekly zoom calls with young people with a range of activities like:

- **Finders Keepers**
- **Task Master**
- **Quizzes and loads more!**

If you would like to take part please get in touch with us:

@mycpc  
mcypc@ylf.org.uk  
01622 693459  
Robbie: 07394 561094



**SPORTS & GAMES**

**ARTS & CRAFTS**

**TRIPS**

**COOKING**

**MUSIC & DANCE**

**LEGENDS**  
programme

**BUILDING CONFIDENCE, SKILLS AND RESILIENCE THROUGH AN ACTIVITY PROGRAMME OF EXCITING EXPERIENCES**

## WELCOME TO...

### ROBBIE!



Hey guys, my name is Robbie, I'm the new Engagement and Participation Coordinator at YLF. I work closely with our Participation Apprentice, Sophie, to help keep young people engaged and active as part of the MCYPC and YLF. #STAYAWESOME

### SOPHIE!



Hello my name is Sophie, I am the new Participation Apprentice. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and hearing all of your feed back. You can contact me through any of the MCYPC social media. I want all young peoples voices to be heard and put a spin on the care system! #HURRICANESOPHIE

**CHECK OUT OUR INTRODUCTION VIDEOS ON OUR YOUTUBE:  
SEARCH FOR MCYPC CHANNEL**



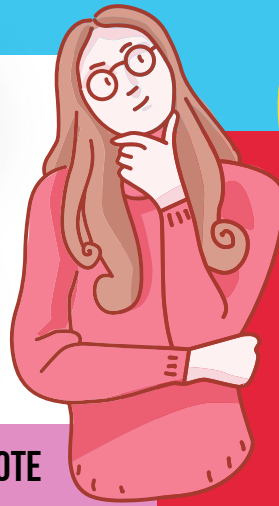


# Need To Know...

## CORPORATE PARENTS & IROS

### THE CORPORATE PARENTING PRINCIPLES:

- TO ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS, AND PROMOTE THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING, OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.
- TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS, WISHES AND FEELINGS.
- TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS, WISHES AND FEELINGS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.
- TO HELP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN ACCESS TO, AND MAKE THE BEST USE OF, SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND ITS RELEVANT PARTNERS.
- TO PROMOTE HIGH ASPIRATIONS, AND SEEK TO SECURE THE BEST OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.
- TO BE SAFE, ENSURE STABILITY IN HOME LIVES, SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS AND EDUCATION/WORK; AND TO PREPARE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FOR ADULTHOOD AND INDEPENDENT LIVING.



## What is a Corporate Parent?

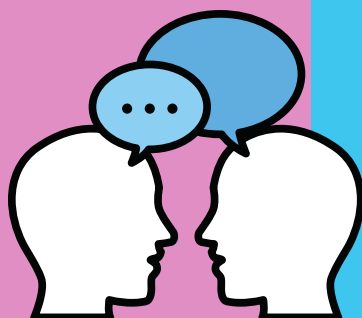
(The business parents)



When someone comes into care, the council will become their "corporate parent". This means that your welfare becomes the responsibility of the Council, it's elected members, employees and partner organisations. These people become corporate parents, they are guided by the corporate parenting principles (listed to the left). Our Medway corporate parents attend our MCYPC Formal Meetings so that they can hear our voice. Our new Medway Head of Corporate Parenting is Paul Startup. (You can catch our interview with him on P6!)

## What is an IRO?

An IRO is your Independent Reviewing Officer. Victor Mangwende is our IRO Operational Manager. your IRO will make sure your professionals are doing their jobs effectively. Your IRO is independent so they can challenge other professionals.





# Did You Know...?

The MCYPC Medway Legends have been running all the way through lock-down

WHEN YOU TURN 18 YOU MAY GET ACCESS TO A GOVERNMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT!

As a care leaver you are entitled to 10 hours free driving lessons!

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A LEISURE PASS WHICH MEANS FREE FOOTBALL, GYM AND SWIMMING!

Mind Of My Own is an app designed to help you feedback about the services you receive from the Council.

AS A PERSON IN CARE YOU ARE ENTITLED TO AN ADVOCATE

You have a right to be involved in all major decisions about your care, including what support you receive. If you are unhappy with decisions made about your care, feel like your voice is not being heard or need to know more about your rights and entitlements, then YLF's Advocacy Service can help you. Get in touch today!

0808 164 0096



ADVOCACY@YLF.ORG.UK

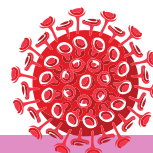
## QUIZ CORNER

### Coronavirus Wordsearch

A	L	P	S	D	U	B	E	T	S	A	T	I	O
E	S	N	A	G	N	I	H	T	A	E	R	B	F
L	D	P	V	N	G	N	I	T	S	E	T	I	U
A	I	I	E	E	D	I	S	E	F	E	V	E	R
G	S	S	N	C	W	E	T	L	A	R	I	V	L
N	T	O	T	O	B	C	M	G	R	L	M	H	O
I	A	L	I	N	A	T	O	I	E	O	A	O	U
T	N	A	L	O	T	G	N	S	C	C	S	S	G
H	C	T	A	M	S	U	I	O	S	K	K	P	H
G	I	I	T	Y	A	C	V	S	T	D	S	I	E
I	N	O	O	T	R	I	A	S	I	O	S	T	D
N	G	N	R	E	D	I	A	K	N	W	I	A	H
O	I	I	X	C	O	U	G	H	C	N	O	L	N
D	N	E	S	A	N	I	T	I	S	E	R	S	C



- LOCKDOWN
- DISTANCING
- COVID
- ECONOMY
- EXERCISE
- VENTILATOR
- PANDEMIC
- FURLOUGHED
- FEVER
- SANITISER
- TASTEBUDS
- COUGH
- ISOLATION
- NIGHTINGALE
- VIRAL
- MASKS
- BREATHING
- HOSPITALS
- BATS
- TESTING





# Interview : Paul Startup

**DURING LOCKDOWN, PARTICIPATION APPRENTICE, SOPHIE INTERVIEWED PAUL STARTUP, HEAD OF CORPORATE PARENTING IN MEDWAY, TO TALK ABOUT HIS ROLE IN THE COUNCIL. HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY:**

**Who are you and what do you do?**



I am the Head of Corporate Parenting. I lead a service expected to deliver excellence in all aspects of the social work, leaving care, fostering, permanency, and partner services that support the children in our care. Put simply, the term 'Corporate Parent' means the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies, for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by Medway.

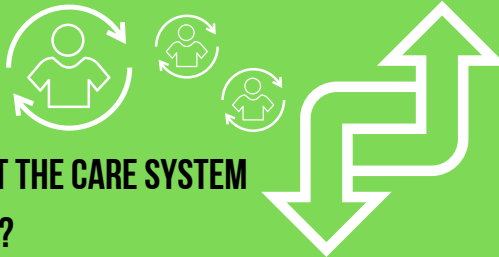


**Why did you want to be head of Corporate Parenting?**

I have worked in Children's Social Work for 30 years in a number of roles. My last job was as Head of Care Leavers in Kent. I really want to do my best for children in care and care leavers. So when this job came up, I was interested! I hope I can help Medway make life better for our children in care and care leavers.

**How are Corporate Parents going to impact and make a change?**

The role that councils play in looking after children is one of the most important things they do. Local authorities have a unique responsibility to the children they look after and their care leavers. In this context we should be adopting an approach that says: 'would this be good enough for my child?'



**"I WOULD SAY TO ANY YOUNG PERSON, ALWAYS BE *true* TO YOURSELF, BE KIND AND THOUGHTFUL TO OTHERS."**

**IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT THE CARE SYSTEM AND CARE LEAVERS WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Too many children and young people describe growing up within a system that they see as inflexible, bureaucratic (this is a long word for being overly official) and lacking in 'care' itself. They can feel as though their own wishes and feelings are not taken into account, and may be moved from placement to placement with little notice. So I would try to make growing up in care as 'normal' as possible. Remove the stigma.

**What do the corporate parents think the most important issues for young people are at the moment and what are they doing to help them?**

Long-term stability as the goal for every child in care, delivered by increased capacity across foster and residential care and better support for kinship carers and birth families. No young person should be separated from their siblings apart from in exceptional circumstances and 'contact' with siblings should be afforded the same importance as with birth parents. Improved support for those leaving care and an end to uncertainty about where young people will live, with no young person forced to move on their 18th birthday and consistency in support until the age of 25. Additional funding for expanded Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to deliver trauma-informed support to all care-experienced young people until the age of 25.

**You're stuck on a desert island what are 3 things you couldn't live without?**

Fresh water, a pair of running trainers and my wife!

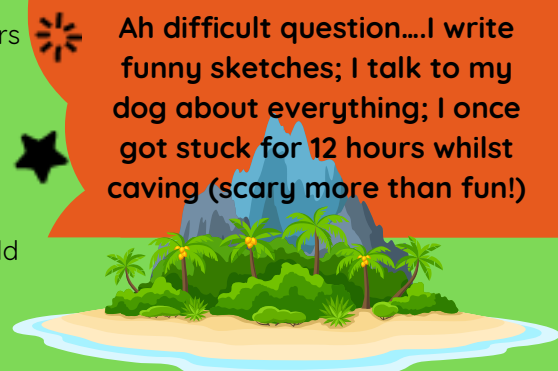


**Do you have any hobbies?**

I like cycling, running and photography

**Can you tell us 3 fun facts about yourself?**

Ah difficult question....I write funny sketches; I talk to my dog about everything; I once got stuck for 12 hours whilst caving (scary more than fun!)





# All About IROs : Victor Mangwende



## WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU DO?

I work as the Manager for the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) in Medway. My job is to ensure that every child/young person in care in Medway has an IRO and that they participate and have a say in all their meetings. I monitor this and ensure that we hear what they say. This is done in a number of ways by children/young people attending their meetings, co-chairing their reviews; if they are too young they need to be seen with their carers, if they have a disability the IRO's need to use different ways of getting their views, if they are from another country they need to use interpreters and the use of advocates and independent visitors.

Besides supporting the IRO team I work with a number of groups such as the Young Lives Foundation and the Youth Service.

## What's your favourite part of your job?

I enjoy my role when there is a positive outcome for a child/young person and we get it right for them. I like celebrating the hard work that children/young people achieve.

The IRO's always try and get the best for children in care and sometimes this takes place outside the meetings, which children and young people may not be able to see, but we celebrate a lot of good work that children do.

## DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN HOW ARE YOUR TEAM SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE?

The IRO's continue to speak to children using different social media platforms, such as face time, Whatsapp video, Zoom video, house party and other forms. We are encouraging children to use their advocates via Young Lives Foundation and using Mind Of My Own again.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT MCYPC?

I like the ability of the young people to express what they feel and what other children are saying. I am impressed about how they push the agenda for change for children in care and when change is made, this is a positive outcome for all the children in care. An example is the Medway Pledge and housing for those turning 18 and the difference this has made to lives of children in care.



## What are your favourite pair of trainers?

This is a hard question as I love my trainers. I love wearing my grey Air Jordan's as they go with any pair of jeans!

## What type of music do you like?

I like listening to soul music or R'n'B but when I need energy I listen to some old garage tracks. (I hope I am not showing my age here!)





# In Other News...

## YOUNG LIVES FOUNDATION CELEBRATE THEIR VOLUNTEERS...

Volunteers' Week at the Young Lives Foundation took place back in June. YLF have over 270 amazing volunteers, many of whom may support you! In true MCYPC style we shared a small message from some of the MCYPC Team, young people and special guests to say a HUGE thank you to our wonderful volunteers for all they do!

You can watch the video here:

[youtube.com/watch?v=P1drfKTJtDA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1drfKTJtDA)



# THANKYOU

You make us feel comfortable and safe and treat us as a parent treats their own children. There are not enough words to show just how much we appreciate all you do.

You are all awesome



## LOOK OUT FOR...

COMING SOON

MCYPC is now launching their own official blog! We will be posting regular updates, news, interviews and know-hows! Look out for it on the YLF website very soon!



# Get Involved!

01622 693459

MCYPC@YLF.ORG.UK

YLF.ORG.UK/MCYPC

Follow us!



Trips & Activities

Surveys

JOIN US TO HELP MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES FOR ALL MEDWAY CHILDREN IN CARE & CARE LEAVERS

Prizes

Arts Awards

ASDAN Awards

Social Media

Formal Council Meetings

Youth Groups



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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

