

# Rights Matters

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## YPOC Group's "Don't Judge" DVD praised by First minister

Members of the YPOC group went down a storm on their visit to the Scottish Parliament in February 2017.



Lauren and Nicola Sturgeon



They had been invited by Gillian Martin, a local member of the Scottish Parliament, to give a presentation of their recent campaign 'Don't Judge – we're no different from you' to an invited audience which included MSPs and also First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. 12 young people went down to Edinburgh.

We were shown around the parliament building and we got a chance to go into the debating hall and hear Parliament in session before we did the presentation and showed our DVD about Looked After Children's experience in Education.

It was a fantastic day and all the young people really enjoyed it.

*This is what some of the young people had to say.*

"Our Video was powerful for the people that watched it – it opened people's eyes. You could see the impact it had on folk. Doing the Video brought us all closer together as a group."  
*Jenna*

"Parliament was quite big - like a maze. I liked the guide that showed us around. I liked to see Parliament working and seeing Nicola."  
*Mellisa.*

"The best bit about visiting the Parliament was meeting Nicola Sturgeon and she listened to what we had to say."

"Nicola Sturgeon had revised up on the subject of our DVD before meeting us which was good."  
*Jasmine*

"I enjoyed the pastries."  
*Aurin*

As a result of the YPOC Group's visit, their DVD is going to be used in teacher training across Scotland. It has now been sent out to all the secondary schools in Aberdeenshire where it will be used in in-service training and in PSE.

## Lauren giving a voice to Aberdeenshire's care experienced young people

Lauren Barrie was elected to represent Aberdeenshire care experience children and young people at the Who Cares? Scotland Care Council.

The Who Cares? Scotland Care Council was established in 2016 to give care experienced Young People all over Scotland a voice.

The Care Council meets three times a year and has around 30 Care Counsellors, most of whom are democratically elected by their peers.

In the time that Lauren has been involved with the Care Council, some of the work done there has helped Police Scotland to cut down on the stop and search on young people because Police Scotland listened to what young people on the Care Council told them. The Care Council made a video with the help of Police Scotland to highlight/teach new Police Officers in training about young people.

Lauren, along with the rest of the Care Council has received training on presentation and training skills.

Nicola Sturgeon has pledged to listen to 1000 voices of care experienced young people as part of a root and branch review of care. The Care Council have been involved recently in this consultation.

Lauren feels that being involved in the Care Council as a representative for Aberdeenshire has made her "more confident to speak out and to help other care experienced Young People to speak out".

Through being in the Care Council Lauren has tried things she wouldn't have otherwise like applying for and been successful in getting an Ambassador's post for "The Year of Young 2018" Young Scot."

Well done Lauren and thanks from the YPOC Group for representing the voice of care experienced young people on the Care Council.

### Giving you a voice – please fill in our questionnaire

The YPOC Group are trying to improve things for Young People coming into care and moving placement. This is our latest campaign.

To help us to do this, we want to hear from all young people in care about their experiences of coming into care or moving placement, both good and bad.

We've put a questionnaire in with the Newsletter and it would be great if you can send it back to us in the free post envelope which we've also sent you.

**Kari, 15 said,** "We are trying to make things better for children who come into care in future and anyone who has to move to a new placement for whatever reason.

"We have all put down our own experiences of what helped us and what made things harder. Now we are trying to give other young people a voice."

**Kclee, 13, said,** "We want looked after young people to have more opportunities in life and we would like to see more looked after children going to University or College to help us feel better about ourselves and have more confidence in what we can achieve."

## A letter from Alison, one of the Aberdeenshire's Champions for looked after children

**Hello!** Just this week, I attended a meeting of the Champions' Board for Looked After Children.

The young people there spoke from the heart about the issue of bullying. They suggested that each school needs a place where looked after children can go, just to sit and reflect, and in which they can gather their strength to be able to deal with some challenging times in school.

They also told us how important the Children's Rights officers are, as they give Looked After Children support out of school.

I learned from this meeting just how important it is to listen to the views of looked after children, if we are going to be able to get decisions involving young people right.

I was honoured to be appointed as a Corporate Parenting Champion by young people in Aberdeenshire. I remain very willing to listen to any comments you might have about how the council can support its young people better, both while in care and when they leave care.

You are able to contact me on my council email: [Cllr.a.evison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.a.evison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Best wishes  
Alison Evison

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## The YPOC group's DVD 'Don't Judge - we are no different from you' is coming to a school near you

If you are in Secondary school then look out for the YPOC group's DVD 'Don't Judge-we're no different from you' during your PSE class sometime this year.

The YPOC group produced a DVD and also worked on a lesson plan and evaluation forms too.

We were invited to present the DVD to the Deputy Head teachers meeting at Meldrum Academy. Jasmine from the YPOC group (along with Kate and Laura) helped with presenting the DVD and telling everybody about why the YPOC group produced the DVD and Guide for teachers.

Dawn Lynch, DHT from Inverurie Academy then handed out all the DVD's, lesson plans and evaluation forms to the rest of the Deputy Headteachers so that the DVD's can now be rolled out to all Secondary Schools in Aberdeenshire.

We hope that this will prompt interesting discussions and that people at school will understand a bit more what it's like to be looked after and offer good support.

# YPOC Group's Campaign hits Glasgow

It's been a busy time for members of the YPOC group. Lauren, Shane and Jenna were in Glasgow in June to give a workshop at the CELCIS conference. The conference focusses on Residential care and a lot of residential workers all over Scotland were there.

The workshop the YPOC group gave was all about their recent campaign about Looked After Children's experience in Education. They showed their DVD 'Don't judge-we're no different from you' and also showed and discussed the guide they produced which is for staff at school.

They were brilliant. The workshop was really powerful and thought provoking and all the feedback said it was "excellent."



## SUMMER WORDSEARCH - AFRICAN ANIMALS

- elephant lion cheetah rhinoceros
- warthog zebra gorilla chimpanzee
- giraffe bongo hyena hippopotamus
- baboon gazelle buffalo mongoose
- leopard antelope impala oryx
- jackal wildebeest vulture porcupine
- aardvark

Please return to Anne Whitecross, Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie AB51 0EW by end May 2016. The winner will be the person with the correct entry pulled out of a hat and will win a £15 voucher.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_



## Get in Touch

It's always good to hear your views, if you want to share anything or give your views then please get in touch. Contact: Kate Ramsden, Children's Rights Officer.  
Mail: It's all free, you can send anything to Freepost, RTLJ-SRCE-KXTH, Gordon House, Inverurie AB51 3WA.

Phone: **FREEPHONE 0800 917 8275**  
Email: [kate.ramsden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.ramsden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



Kate Ramsden

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