

Practice guide

Family Help and Social Care

Care Experienced Young People- Enrichment Fund, Cumberland

Background, purpose and rationale

Cumbria Youth Alliance (CYA) worked alongside Cumberland local authority to raise funds and organise a care experienced ball in September 2024. Businesses paid for tables, along with raffles, and prizes were given out. Cumberland Council worked in collaboration with CYA and it was decided that the money raised would be used as an enrichment fund for care experienced children and young people (CYP). This is a partnership approach with the CYA working alongside the care experienced team.

What we did to improve children's outcomes

The enrichment fund is to be used for anything that enriches the care experienced person's life; this could be a trip abroad to learn more skills; paying for a course; or getting a bike to support with travel and accessibility. The idea behind the enrichment fund is to support care experienced CYP to learn something new, raise their aspirations and support them with their future. CYA supported a group of care experienced young people to become a panel so they could make decisions on how the funds are spent and the criteria. Together they designed an application form, which are all made anonymous when presented to the panel, which supports the decision around if the application meets the requirements. Young people can apply themselves or with support given by their Personal Advisor (PA) to fill in the form. This is supported by the care experienced team on a fortnightly basis. The role of the local authority is to ensure the CYP applying are care-experienced, but also that they are requesting something that is not part of the LA's corporate parenting role already. If this is the case, the care experienced team will reach out and support them with alternative options.

What was the impact?

- Young people involved in the planning of the ball have gained new skills as well as confidence.
- Becoming part of the panel itself is an experience, using their voice.
- At the National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum, young people on the panel presented the enrichment fund at their conference in 2024.
- Care experienced young people across Cumberland have benefited by accessing the enrichment fund.

Resources

Application form, personal information pack, Enrichment Fund Members Policy, Enrichment Fund Terms of Reference can be found here: [Enrichment Fund - Cumbria Youth Alliance](#)

Find out more

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