

## What We Do

### Virtual School Kent's Participation Team are here to:

- Encourage all Children in Care and Care Leavers to speak up, voice their opinions and to help shape the services that they receive. We ensure your voices are heard.
- Support the Super Council, Our Children and Young People's Council (OCYPC) and the Young Adult Council (YAC).
- Organise lots of activities for you in the holidays and throughout the year so you can try out new hobbies, make friends and have fun. We even support residential trips.
- Celebrate your successes and achievements at events throughout the year, in our newsletters and on our website.
- Give you extra support when you are going through big changes in your life.
- Support the recruitment of Kent County Council staff and foster carers by making sure that young people's opinions are included in the decision making process.



The **Super Council** is a Children in Care Council in Kent for young people aged 7 - 11 years old.

The **Our Children and Young People's Council** (OCYPC) is for all Children in Care in Kent aged 11 - 16 years old.



There is also the **Young Adult Council** (YAC) for Children in Care and Care Leavers in Kent aged 16 – 21 years old.

These council groups and their members strive to represent all Children in Care and Care Leavers across Kent. They meet to discuss things that affect them and others who share similar experiences to them. They also get the chance to meet with senior officers of Kent County Council to discuss their views and opinions about the services they receive.

Alongside the Councils, we also run Focus Groups to discuss issues and changes important to Children in Care and Care Leavers. You can come along to these whether you are a member of one of the Councils or not.

## Newsletter

We publish newsletters for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

There are three versions; one for primary aged children, one for secondary aged young people and one for young people over the age of 16.

They come out 3 times a year and are full of useful information, latest news and success stories.

We send copies to your social worker and foster carers and editions are available on the Kent Cares Town website too.

## Website

Kent Cares Town is a website for you as a Child in Care or Care Leaver. It includes things you need to know about being in care or being independent as well as links to other services and fun bits too! We love to hear from you and see your art, poems, music...or anything you are proud of! If you are happy, we can put it on our website or in our newsletter.

<http://www.kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk/>

## Activity Days

Every school holiday, we run activity days for you to come along to. We run a wide range of activities including cookery, sports, outdoor pursuits as well as sight seeing, music, dance,

arts and crafts. We send the details to your foster carers and social worker, but if you would like to know more, get in touch!



VSK\_Participation@kent.gov.uk

## Recruit Crew

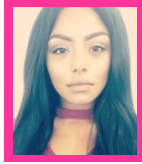
The Participation Team supports the 'Recruit Crew' who are a group of Children in Care and Care Leavers trained to sit on interview panels for Kent County Council staff and foster carers.



There is a one day training course, delivered with Family Group Conferencing, incorporating reading body language, confidentiality, equality and diversity, interviewing and getting the best out of the candidate. The training can also help you prepare for your own interviews in the future.

If you are interested in being part of a panel, please get in touch with us!

## Our VSK Participation Team



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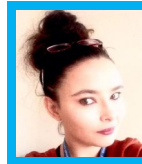
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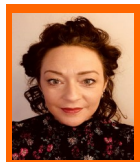
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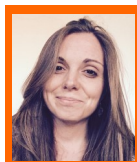
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# Virtual School Kent Participation Team

## 2018

**The Participation Team sits within Virtual School Kent. The team includes Apprentice Participation Workers. All of the apprentices are care leavers so have a good understanding of what it is really like to be in care.**

