



The VSK Participation Team

The Participation Team are here to enable young people to shape the services that they receive. We want you to have your voice heard and share your views and experiences to make things better for children and young people in the future.

As a team, we organise loads of fun events and arrange exciting opportunities for you. All of us are passionate about helping you to make a difference and many members of the team have experience of being in care, fostering or adoption too.



Virtual School Kent's Participation Team are here to:

- Encourage all Children in Care, Care Leavers, Adopted Young People and the Sons and Daughters of Foster Carers to speak up, voice their opinions and to help shape Services for Young People. We ensure your voices are heard by the important people who make decisions about you.
- Work to ensure that young people are represented, and their views are front and centre when Services are being designed and staff are being trained. We do this by working with and alongside many other Children and Young People's Services.
- 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 in person & virtually!
- 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.

Have your say:

Our council groups and their members strive to represent Young People 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.



Super Council is for Kent Children in Care aged 7-11

Our Children and Young People's Council (OCYPC)



is for Kent Children in Care aged 11 - 16 years old.



OCYPC Extra is our mobile Children in Care Council for Kent young people aged 7-16 years old. If you can't make our main meetings we can come to your area.



The **Adoptables** is a forum for Adopted young people aged 12-18



The **Young Adult Council (YAC)** is for Children in Care and Care Leavers in Kent aged 16-21 years old.

The **Children WHO Care** for the sons and daughters of Foster Carers aged 7-16 years old.



Mind of My Own

Mind of My Own (www.mindofmyown.org.uk) is an app that makes it easier for children and young people over the age of 8 to structure their thoughts and say what they want to say. It also helps young people talk to their workers by allowing them to send their views on to them any time they want, 24/7.

The Mind of My Own app can be downloaded onto an Android or Apple device, or you can access it online through any web browser at: app.mindofmyown.org.uk



Staying Connected

Kent Cares Town is a website for you as a Child in Care or Care Experienced Young Person. 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

www.kentcares town.lea.kent.sch.uk

You can follow us on Twitter: [@VirtSchl_Kent](https://twitter.com/VirtSchl_Kent) or Instagram: [@participation_team](https://www.instagram.com/participation_team) or like our Facebook page: [Kent Participation - Post 16](#)

Activities

We run a wide range of activity sessions for you to come along to or take part in virtually, whatever suits you.

Some of the activities we do include cooking, dance, science, arts and crafts, performing arts, outdoor pursuits, water sports and fun days out.

We send the details to your foster carers, social workers and PAs, but if you would like to know more, get in touch through social media or with our details on the next page!

Recruit Crew

The Participation Team supports the 'Recruit Crew' who are a group of Care Experienced Young People trained to sit on interview panels for Kent County Council staff and Foster Carers.

There is a one-day training course, delivered for you to take part in involving reading body language, confidentiality, equality and diversity, interviewing and getting the best out of the candidate.

The training can also help you prepare for interviews in your own career in the future.

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



Our Participation Team Apprentices



Nathan Moody



Karly Muchmore



Victoria Biggs



Kayleigh Leonard



Shyanne Ali



Alisha Church



Charmaine Chapman

Our Participation Assistants



Robert Barton



Amy Barden



Thomas Byrne



Alexandra Gordon

Our Participation Officers



Joanne Carpenter



Andrea Wood



Sarah Newman



Louise Codman



Sophia Dunstan



Amelia Kury

Get in Contact

Adopted Children: 03000 422558

Children in Care: 03000 411266

Sons and Daughters of Foster Carers: 03000 422544

16+ Care Experienced Young People: 03000 418553

Or email: VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk

