

SiCC & SLCC news

Somerset In-Care and Leaving Care Councils
<https://www.somersetincarecouncils.org.uk>



Meet Dee who is an Independent Visitor...



Mind Of My

Own is an app that can help you to say how you are feeling... what support you need ...and tell your worker about things that are important to you. Download at the Google Play Store, App Store or go to www.mindofmyown.org.uk

Why did you decide to volunteer?

The idea of an Independent Visitor really appealed to me, especially the long-term commitment. Like many parents whose children have grown up and flown the nest, I missed having young people around. Our house always was full of noise and bustle. So, this looked like a great opportunity to link up with a young person, give support in any way I can and also learn from them. As you get older, your perspective on life changes and it's good to be challenged and to try to see things through a young person's eyes.

What sorts of things do you do with your young person?

Well, it's been an extraordinary year hasn't it! So, I haven't yet met my young person face to face. We zoom each week and because he is newly arrived in this country, we study English. That might sound dull but it really isn't. He is learning the language incredibly quickly.

We plan to meet for the first time this month which will be great.

How does that help the young person?

As English is his second language, he needs to study hard to get his GCSEs and to get the most out of his college experience. Along with his foster carers and college friends, I want to help him adjust to his new life in the UK.

If you would like to know more about independent visitors and how to apply, contact Route 1 on 01749 822801 or email route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk

APR 2021

A young person contacted SiCC & SLCC anonymously to send this message to social workers:

“When you visit children in care or in households you should make it necessary that you chat with the child/teen outside not in the garden but for you to either go out for a walk or talk in your car because most people won’t speak out about what’s happening if their carer is in the house or in the garden with you.”

SiCC & SLCC discussed this and some agreed that it had been an issue for them, e.g.

“When I was in foster care the carers made the decision to sit there... You should ask the child or young person”


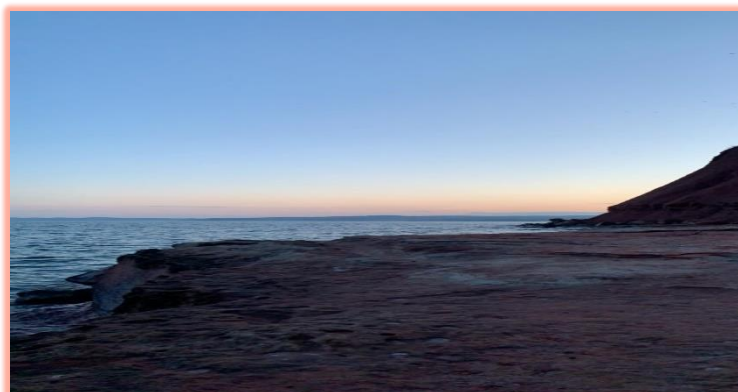
Have **YOU** had a similar experience? You could tell us about it. Or would you like to add to the discussion? Contact details are below 

PHOTO OF THE MONTH TAKEN IN DEVON BY A S&S MEMBER. THEY ENTITLED IT ‘SPACE TO RE-PEACE’



What have S&S been doing recently?

- Attending virtual meetings
- Working on their priorities
- Looking at the revised minimum standards for P2i accommodation and giving feedback to P2i Board
- Talking about the Annual Achievement Awards
- Interviewing for a new Participation Worker
- Thinking about how transitions are managed and what makes a difference

WHO ARE SiCC & SLCC?

If you are a Child Looked After or Care Leaver in Somerset, you are automatically a member of SiCC & SLCC. The group consists of young people aged 10-20 and exists to ensure that care-experienced young people have an outlet for their voice. Whether it’s doing a survey, creating a film, interviewing new staff, attending virtual meetings or being connected through email or social media, you can be involved and help to improve the way services are shaped in the future.

We have a short film

If you would like to find out how you can get involved, text the Participation Officer on 07585 983356 or email fzphur@somerset.gov.uk