



Somerset
Council



Somerset
Care Councils



Autumn 2024

SiCC & SLCC Newsletter

Somerset in Care Council & Somerset Leaving Care Council



www.somersetincarecouncils.org.uk



Who are SiCC and SLCC?

SiCC & SLCC stands for the Somerset In Care Council and the Somerset Leaving Care Council. We ensure that the voices of children looked after and care leavers are included within the planning and reviewing of services.

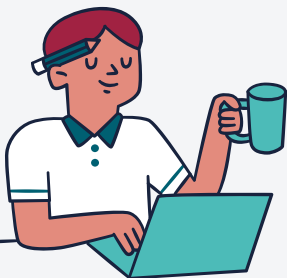
Who are the SiCC and SLCC Creatives?

The SiCC and SLCC Creatives are a group of young people who use art, poetry, and music to have their voice heard. The crew express their lived experiences, their needs and the things that they'd like to change through creative means.



Who are the SiCC and SLCC Films Crew?

The SiCC and SLCC Films crew help to develop films and animations to share their views, help other young people who may be going through - or are about to go through - similar experiences to them and to help shape services for other young people. The crew are directly involved with the creating, designing, writing, voicing and production of every SiCC and SLCC Films animation and film.



If you would like to join SiCC and SLCC, if you have an idea for an article or have some artwork that you'd like to include in the next issue of the newsletter email somersetincarecouncils@somerset.gov.uk or contact Damien via WhatsApp on **07585 983 356**

Dates for the Diary!!

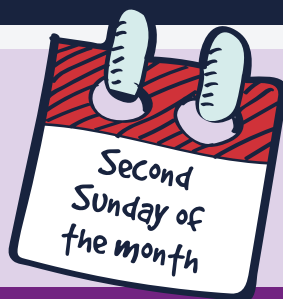
SiCC and SLCC Core Group meetings

We meet the **second Sunday** of each month.

Meetings are from **11am - 3.30pm** and we provide lunch.

The next core group meeting dates are:

- **Sunday 13th October**
- **Sunday 10th November**
- **Sunday 8th December**



"Being a new member has opened me up to new opportunities which I didn't know existed and how welcomed the group made me feel and how supportive they were about my contributions."

South Somerset Getting To Know You Day

10 members of SICC & SLCC attended the day to offer graffiti spray paint sessions to other young people, foster carers and workers.

SiCC and SLCC had the pleasure of creating graffiti style bags and portraits for anyone to get involved with and keep at the South Somerset getting to know you day.

The event took place at the Ark at Egwood on the 29th of May and even had a visit from Spider-Man.

“Personally I love the getting to know you days in general but what I really love about it is that we can all come together as a team and get really stuck in with young people helping them create beautiful pieces of art that they get to keep forever”



Somerset children in care praised for their incredible courage and resilience



The efforts and achievements of more than 370 Somerset children and young people in care have been celebrated at this year's Annual Achievement Awards.

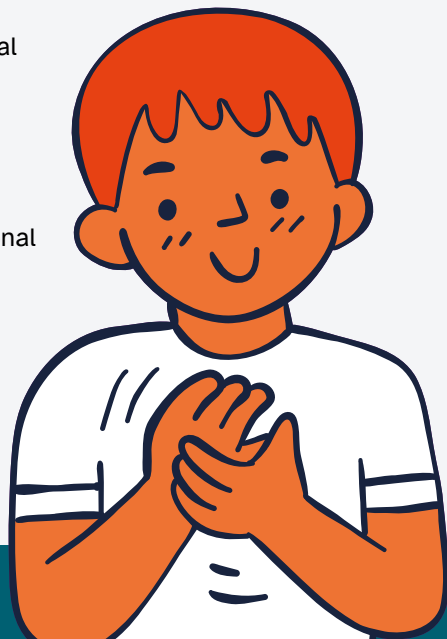
The event was organised by the Somerset Council Engagement and Participation team and hosted by members of the Somerset in Care and Leaving Care Council (SiCC & SLCC) who welcomed guests, made speeches and presented awards.

Children and young people were recognised for their efforts through nominations from social workers, leaving care workers, schools, and other Children's Services professionals.

Children and young people nominated for awards were split across two age groups, juniors aged 0-12 years, and seniors ages 13+, and were commended across five categories:

- Personal Achievement – showing resilience or personal development.
- Positive Pastimes – doing well in sport, music, social, arts or leisure activities.
- Education, Training and Employment – Virtual School Award for achievements at school, college, in training or work.
- Helping Others – helping or making a difference to other people.
- Courage – being brave in dealing with personal illness or tragedy or helping and supporting those around them.

Those attending the event, which took place at Taunton Rugby Club on Thursday 25th July, were treated to lots of fun activities, including magic and balloon animal making, Mocktails (alcohol free cocktails), a photo booth, music from a local young DJ and more.



Louise Allen, author, artist and campaigner for children in the care system, was the inspirational speaker at the senior's event.

Louise said:

“It is a joy to be here tonight, to look around at all you young people. You are me when I was young! You are my people. Always remember that you are more than what happened to you. You are in charge of your futures now.

You can have great careers and great lives. I promise you; you will always be alright. You have skills you don't even know you've got! Try not to compare yourself to anyone else. You are you - how amazing you all are and how amazing you will all be.”



Nominations were anonymised and reviewed by a panel, who selected the top three and overall winner of each category. Winners and runners up, along with their guests, were invited to attend, collect their awards, and have their achievements celebrated.

Workers and teachers were also commended at the event, with young people nominating the adults that work with them, with 70 nominations received across three categories.

Award sponsors were the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory, who have worked closely with SiCC and SLCC this year on national guidelines on the Principles of Care.

Councillor Heather Shearer, Somerset Council Lead Executive Member for Children, Families and Education, said:

“At Somerset Council our aim is to ensure all children and young people in care are supported in their ambitions and are recognised for their achievements. It has been wonderful to celebrate all the talented, courageous and generous young people, teachers, professionals and carers here tonight. I am very proud of every person in this room - it has just been marvellous!”

Share Checklist

Think before you share



What is their goal?

The internet can be a confusing place, Share checklist wishes to educate our youth by teaching how to spot “Fake news” This can be quite difficult with the tools that are available to those who would wish to spread misinformation.

But using their SHARE checklist you can help come to an informed decision of weather the content you are viewing is legitimate or not.

Share: Make sure information comes from a trusted source.

Headline: Always read beyond the headline.

Analyse: Check the facts.

Retouch: Does the image or video look as though it has been edited?

Error: Look out for bad grammar and spelling.



Burtons Orchard film

Workers and former residents have created a short film about burtons

A potential resident and current resident agreed that having some kind of film that shows the building and staff would help potential YP thinking of moving there.

With an ex-resident they wrote, filmed and starred in the film.



Leaving Care houses art project

Residents from two of the houses and members of SICC & SLCC created several pieces of art for the houses

These pieces have been placed around burtons main hub area to create a more welcoming environment



NFJO DoL research project

Young people, including a YP currently sectioned and a YP out of county, supported a research document on DoLs for the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory. Currently this Isn't available to watch as of yet but will be released soon.



Spark Sisterhood filming event

Attended the Spark Sisterhood filming event to share views on being young female care leavers

3 care leavers and 1 CLA attended to support the charity with its film.

We then had the founder of Spark Sisterhood speak at our Achievement awards ceremony.



App for care leavers

An app called GCSW has been developed for Care Leavers. It has been created to have all the information you need all in one place that is easily accessible on your phone. Currently it is available on IOS and Android.

Some features include:

List and individual information of local service providers, events, job opportunities plus discounts and offers

Information pages on a range of different subjects and news

Available in multiple languages

Download IOS: [here](#)

Download Android: [here](#)

Or check out their Website [here](#)





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The Somerset Care Councils **NEED YOU!**

We want to hear your views on things that matter to you, so come and join us!

Who are we?

Any young person in care or leaving care is automatically a member of SiCC and SLCC. We meet in person and online.

What do we do?

We meet monthly to help support the creation, review and updating of the services that we use. This includes creating films and animations, reviewing services, interviewing new staff, mystery shopping and the use of art, music & spoken word to have your voice heard.

Visit the Somerset In Care Councils Website at:

www.somersetincarecouncils.org.uk

To find out more, please email the team
somersetincarecouncils@somerset.gov.uk

Phone **07585 983 356**

Or complete our online form
<https://tinyurl.com/SiCCandSLCC>

