

WHAT IS THE PARTNERSHIP?

Barnardo's and the London Borough of Brent are working together in a long term partnership.

We have promised to collaborate together with care-experienced young people to improve and transform the lives of care leavers in the UK.



Barnardo's

Barnardo's is the largest national children's charity in the UK and works to support the most disadvantaged young people in the UK.



Brent

The London Borough of Brent's vision is to create a borough where children are safe and cared for; where they can achieve and receive excellent services when they need them.



Young people

Care-experienced young people are the true experts by experience. They are equal partners in our collaboration and are at the heart of shaping our strategy and the work that we do together.

Together we aim to change the system

The "system" we are talking about is the care system for children in and leaving care in the UK.

Barnardo's, Brent and care-experienced young people are all part of that system. We each experience it differently because we see it from different perspectives. We know that alone we cannot see the whole picture.

Only by working together can we get a deeper understanding of the realities of the system and work to change it for the better. We are united by our vision to improve and transform the lives of care leavers in the UK.

HOW DO WE DO THIS



We spend time building our understanding of the way in which young people experience the care system through research with people who have lived expertise as well as those who have professional experience.

We then develop and test ideas for new services, ways to make existing services better or ways in which each service can work better together through co-design and co-production with care-experienced young people and professionals.

There are two main activities we run as part of this

SERVICE DESIGN

HERE AND NOW

1) Service Design

Service Design is an approach to solving problems by rapidly testing solutions which are focused on the needs of young people and have been co-designed with them.

2) Here and Now

To support care-experienced young people now, we have kick-started a movement of care leavers in Brent who are focused on empowerment, well-being and connections between themselves and others with similar experiences.

HOW DO WE WORK TOGETHER?

Barnardo's, Brent and care-experienced young people have committed to working in the spirit of true collaboration. For us this means:



We are all equal partners



We communicate regularly, openly and with trust



We share values



We learn from each other and adapt as we go



We build good relationships with each other



We are focused on systems change

WHY ARE WE WORKING IN A PARTNERSHIP



Research shows that care-experienced young people are significantly less likely to experience positive outcomes relating to employment, education, training, mental health and wellbeing, housing, and finances than other young people who have not been in care.

Charities like Barnardo's and local authorities like the London Borough of Brent believe that, in fact, young people who have resiliently managed their experiences of being in care should have the same, if not better outcomes than their peers who have not been in care. Achieving this change is, however, slow and challenging for many reasons.

Barnardo's and Brent have decided that there is strength in numbers. By working together, in a collaborative partnership with care-experienced young people, we will have a better chance to achieve transformational change. Ultimately our shared goal is that more care-experienced young people reach 'positive destinations'.

WHAT DOES POSITIVE DESTINATIONS MEAN?

'Positive destinations' means you feel like you are in a good place in your life and that you are using your time to do something you think is going to help you to achieve your goals.

Reaching a positive destination is helped by being able to live in a place that you like and feel safe, feeling empowered to live independently and being given opportunities to learn and develop. A person must be supported to define what this looks and feels like for them.

It can include:



Looking after your family



Training and learning



Being in a job



Studying and achieving



Feeling empowered



Feeling happy



Staying healthy



Managing independence