

**CCIN Innovation Funding 2025 - Policy Lab : Entry
982****Organisation leading the project**

Swindon Borough Council

Lead Councillor or Officer

Cllr Paul Dixon / Martin Bell

Job Title

Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care / Intelligence Lead

Contact Telephone

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Project Title

Treating Care Experience as a protected characteristic and demonstrating social, financial and economic impact in the delivery of council services to achieve positive outcomes for Care Experienced individuals

How much funding are you applying for?

£ 20,000.00

Summary of project idea (150 words max)

Following Terry Galloway's compelling presentation to the AGM, we would like to investigate how we use Co-operative values and Co-operative solutions to improve outcomes for Care-experienced Children.

Which other CCIN members will work on this project?

- Manchester City Council: adrian.slatcher@manchester.gov.uk, Sarah.McEntee@manchester.gov.uk (confirmed)
- Tameside Borough Council: hayley.stead@tameside.gov.uk (expressed interest - meeting scheduled for 18/03/2025)
- Social adVentures: scott@socialadventures.org.uk (expressed interest - meeting scheduled for 18/03/2025)

1. What are the three key outcomes this project will achieve?

For context:

- In 2023, 13,112 young people in England aged out of the care system on their 18th Birthday. This has increased by 4% since 2020
- The number of care leavers aged 18-20 experiencing homelessness has increased by 54% over the past five years.
- Care leavers make up 25% of the adult homeless population.
- Almost 25% of the adult prison population have previously been in care, and nearly 50% of under 21-year-olds in contact with the criminal justice system have spent time in care.

Therefore the outcomes of this policy lab aim to:

1. Developing a framework and toolkit to review the impact and implementation of care experience status as a protected characteristic, in practice and culture for Local Authorities that have adopted it. A greater understanding of how of LA's have adopted care experienced as a protected characteristic to support those that have not adopted. Learning of best practice, and what has made biggest impact. To explore the impact of Equality Impact Assessments as a means of embedding considerations for Care Experienced in decision making.

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2. Developing a framework and toolkit to review the impact and (potential) implementation of corporate parenting responsibilities across Local Authorities in line with the Children, Education and Wellbeing Bill, including potential to lobby the DfE to adopt Care Experienced as a protected characteristic as part of Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

3. Developing a framework and toolkit to review the impact and quality of services for care experienced (21+) in line with Ofsted framework changes.

2. How does your project support the CCIN Statement of Values and Principles?

Social Partnership: To explore how best practice can be developed to ensure that it is strengthened through input and ownership by residents, communities, Local Authorities, partners and young person's services

Democratic engagement: To include the voice of those care experienced and those delivering services for them. To include an engagement exercise across Local Authorities.

Co-production: To ensure the voice of Care Experienced individuals is front and foremost in delivering services for them and developing best practice. To work with young person advocates and services.

Enterprise and social economy: To explore social economy opportunities including co-operative approaches and how Local Authorities can support Care Experienced to support the economy e.g. Supported Internships and Apprenticeships. Working with local businesses to explore options for Care Experienced individuals.

Maximising social value: Best practices to explore the use of Equality Impact Assessments to including Care Experienced as a protected characteristic when designing and delivering services.

Community leadership and a new role for councillors: To explore the role of Councils and Councillors in promoting Care Experienced and supporting communities to embed this.

New models of meeting priority needs: To explore how co-operative models, values and principles can be embedded in designing a toolkit and best practice. To include the role of Affiliate members and the part they play in promoting outcomes for Care Experienced.

Innovation: To explore new ways of thinking and working to promote Care Experienced to deliver better outcomes for individuals.

Learning: To learn from CCIN members, young person advocates and services to share best practice and a toolkit

Walking the talk: Co-operation between CCIN members, to include associates and affiliates. To support the call to action at the CCIN Annual Conference for all member LA's to adopt Care Experienced. To support LA's that have not yet adopted to do so and help those already adopted to achieve best outcomes.

3. What is your idea and how will you allocate the budget?

Host workshops across the UK (according to regions of CCIN Local Authorities) to include renting an appropriate space, refreshments and travel

To scope whether other interested CCIN members can host in their area and split funding

Invite Local Authorities that have not adopted Care Experienced as a protected Characteristic

Project support and backfill capacity in the Local Authority

A Young Persons or Child Advocate to co-host the event

Event support (scribes, analyse outputs)

Invite Terry Galloway as well as other advocates / activists - Terry has confirmed he will support

Design and print a publication and toolkit

4. Provide a detailed budget of how you will spend the funds and whether you are bringing in other funding.

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Fund to be split to other CCIN members hosting events in their area. Once amount of funding is understood, the plan for workshops will be profiled. Potential to run up to 6 events regionally and include travel, or 2 events to include travel and accommodation. If agreed, we would need to scope with other CCIN LA's beyond the 2 already expressing and interest as to whether they would be willing to host an event. Potential for some workshops to be online if funds do not allow, but in person preferred.

Design and print of a publication and toolkit

5. How does your project support the aims and objectives of the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network?

A call to action at the CCIN conference was for all CCIN member LA's to adopt care experienced and the outcomes will support those not yet adopted, as well as helping those already adopted to achieve best outcomes.

Considering Care Experience in Equality Impact Assessments will deliver a whole council approach to creating policy that takes account of how council services can support children in care, not only positively impacting on their lives but also breaking the cycle of stigma, disadvantage & potential cost to society (crime, anti-social behaviour etc) faced by those children.

This is about more than having a Corporate Parenting Strategy. If we can get this right, we'll not only build a better world for those children who grow up in care, but we will also benefit from their experiences to support future generations who grow up in care.

Our ambition for #IYC2025 is that all #coopcouncils commit to making Care Experience a protected characteristic.

Together, we can build a better world & break the cycle of disadvantage for young people in care.

6. Which of the Government's Missions will your project support?

- Raising living standards in every part of the United Kingdom
- Giving children the best start in life
- Something else

7. How will you share the learning from this project across the Cooperative Councils' Innovation Network?

Toolkits for use by other members, to either support them adopting Care Experienced as a protected characteristic, or how having adopted it is having biggest impact to support outcomes for those Care Experienced

I agree that the final report will clearly show the Cooperative Difference that this project will deliver and follow the CCIN Brand Guidelines.



Agree

See guidelines: <https://www.councils.coop/membership/ccin-brand-guidelines/>

Notes



Admin Notification (ID: 637b616e68cf7)

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