

EVERY CHILD LEAVING CARE MATTERS

Campaign Newsletter - A letter from the Chair

December 2015

EVERY CHILD LEAVING
CARE MATTERS

PLEASE SIGN
THE PETITION

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Christmas Message from ECLCM

I appreciate that those of you who receive this are likely to be, in the main, rushing around making final arrangements for Christmas and the New Year so I will try to keep it relatively brief.

I guess the first thing that I am obliged to say is that whilst most of us look forward to this time of year as one for getting together with family and friends and probably overindulging a little our campaign is focused on children and young people who will not be so fortunate. Before I move on, therefore, just spare a thought for care leavers everywhere no matter how old they may be, who perhaps don't look forward to Christmas as so many others do.

I have been immensely impressed at the efforts of many folk in organising Christmas events for Care Leavers, none more so that those under Lemn Sissay's guidance and (I am sure though, I've never met the man) inspiration. There are groups like these all over the country who are helping and 'hats off to them.'

I would like to take this chance to say a huge thank you to all of those of you who have supported us through this year to help keep us going when we were in danger of wilting. It almost sounds like a cliché but we really are nothing without your support. We have achieved a great deal this year.....and nothing at all because we still haven't changed the government's mind about the discriminatory legislation that is denying residential care leavers the option to stay put. We have though progressed a little, I hope we are a somewhat smarter and certainly we are no less determined to change things than we have been before. We believe that we have structured our modest organisation better and become a little more professional in what we do and how we go about doing it. We actually have several new ideas for 2016 which we think and believe will keep ramping up the pressure on Government.

I will if I may just offer you a small 'roll of honour' for 2015 in terms of our campaign of people who have gone out of their way to help us in one way or another and who we believe deserve our most profound thanks:

- **Jean Carter** - Councillor in Warrington MBC who guided that council to becoming the first to 'pass a motion' calling on the government to extend the option to stay put to all children leaving care and to provide funding to do so
- **Nina Killen** - Councillor in Sefton MBC who did the same in Sefton
- **Ralph Berry** - Councillor in Bradford who took that city along with Warrington and Sefton
- **Chris Doyle** - IT supremo who freely gave of his time and expertise (and patience!) to design our campaign's new website
- **Jude Habib** - Facilitator extraordinaire who travelled from London to 'up North' and gave us a day of free and enlivening consultation
- **Every single signatory and supporter of our petition** - who may yet get us to 10000 before midnight on New Year's Eve

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the Board of ECLCM

As always if you have any questions or observations, please feel free to contact any of us to share your view.

Ed Nixon
ECLCM Chairman



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