



EVERY CHILD LEAVING CARE MATTERS



Campaign Newsletter - Update

February 2018

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In This Issue

- Campaign update

Campaign Update

I'm afraid that we need to open this Newsletter with an apology. We have been going through a number of changes in the Board and have not really been able to keep our highly valued and extremely loyal support network up to speed with things for several months. The last Newsletter was devoted almost exclusively to Ben's terrific effort in walking to London and for reasons beyond our control the expected Christmas Newsletter was not produced. However, we're getting back on track, so to speak and hopefully there will not be another such gap in communication in the future.

Sadly, Ian Gould, who had temporarily and magnanimously taken up the role of Chair of the Board after Ed's 'decision to step down, chose to leave the campaign rather suddenly in early December. He has also chosen to opt out of Twitter as you must all have noticed – so prolific had he previously been. He explained to us that his decision was for personal reasons and that he wished his withdrawal to be low key. Out of respect for Ian and all of the very considerable time that he spent as a Board member in the previous two years or so we have allowed him to go as quietly as he appeared to wish but I hope he will now forgive us for devoting a little time to remembering just how great a contribution he has made to our cause and indeed that of Care Leavers and other groups who this society generally tends not to show too much concern for. There may be some MP's who will now relax knowing that they will not be receiving an email or Tweet from Ian imploring them to stand up and be counted as one of those who supports the @ResCareto21 campaign! He was certainly relentless in his efforts to engage with as many as he possibly could in his role as the 'ECLCM Rottweiler'! He is and will continue to be greatly missed by his colleagues on the Board, supporters of the campaign and the aptly names 'Early Risers Club on Twitter. Thank you, Ian.

However, lest those aforementioned MP's choose to relax , we can offer a word of caution. To mix Cinema and TV metaphors "Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water.....We have a cunning plan"

The other major change is a far happier one to share. Delyth and her partner had their first child at Christmas and just for a while that particular child is the one that matters most for them and as such Delyth is having a sabbatical from the campaign.

One of Ian's final acts as Chair was to extend the Board's request to Ed to return to the Board immediately after Ben's arrival in Westminster, actually it was in the pub opposite the Houses of Parliament but not influenced by alcohol consumption, Ed agreed to rejoin the Board.

On another positive note we have very recently appointed two new campaign board members, Anthony and Doug. Further information will be circulated next month regarding the current board membership and structure.

The more astute among you may have noticed that Nikki Leddingham is no longer based in Qatar. She has returned home after long stay in the region and whilst she's probably shivering past herself it's great to have her back with us physically as well as emotionally.

Unfortunately to compound our communication difficulties our planned Board meeting in January did take place but due to poor weather, travelling difficulties, internet connections and work commitments only Rob, Jane and Ed could attend either in person or on Skype and as such whilst a meeting was held it was impossible to make any decisions as we were inquorate.

Overall, we can, must and we will do better! We and those who preceded us as members of this Board gave an undertaking to see it through over four years ago now and whilst there have been other challenging times we are still very much here and determined to progress. The inequality that we publicised then has not gone away and we can have no confidence that our politicians will rectify this without as much pressure as we can possibly generate.

This is not to say nothing has happened. Contact has been made or attempted with all the Innovation Funded Pilots for Staying Close and whilst we have had a slightly mixed reception we are making good progress with some and rather more modest progress with others. We are as you can gather from what's been written already a little thinly spread but we will, as ever, do our best to try to persuade those running the Pilots of the benefits of incorporating the elements of CARINGTEAMS into their pilot.



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