This poem was written by a care leaver as a competition entry for an initiative in Coventry Children's Services and has been shared by friend of our campaign, Matt Clayton, who is the Operational Leader for children going through and on the edge of care in Coventry City Council.

## Solitary Madness

The chasm of our minds,

In this solitary madness

We look around and see no one,

All we feel is sadness.

The uncertainty of each passing day,

All our anxiety and panic

When we look out to the world,

Everything is manic.

There is light beyond the tunnel

Hope beyond the disaster

Sadly, this confinement

Isn't going any faster.

Routines are destroyed,

Mass disruption to our lives

Carefully select your media

And filter out the lies.

You will feel numb

You may feel empty,

All these feelings are valid

I know I've felt them plenty.

There are strengths in our weaknesses,

Silver linings in our pain

You will rise tomorrow and

Be strong again!

When you rise in the morning,

Think of all you're grateful for,

Hold on to it gracefully

And rejoice forever more!