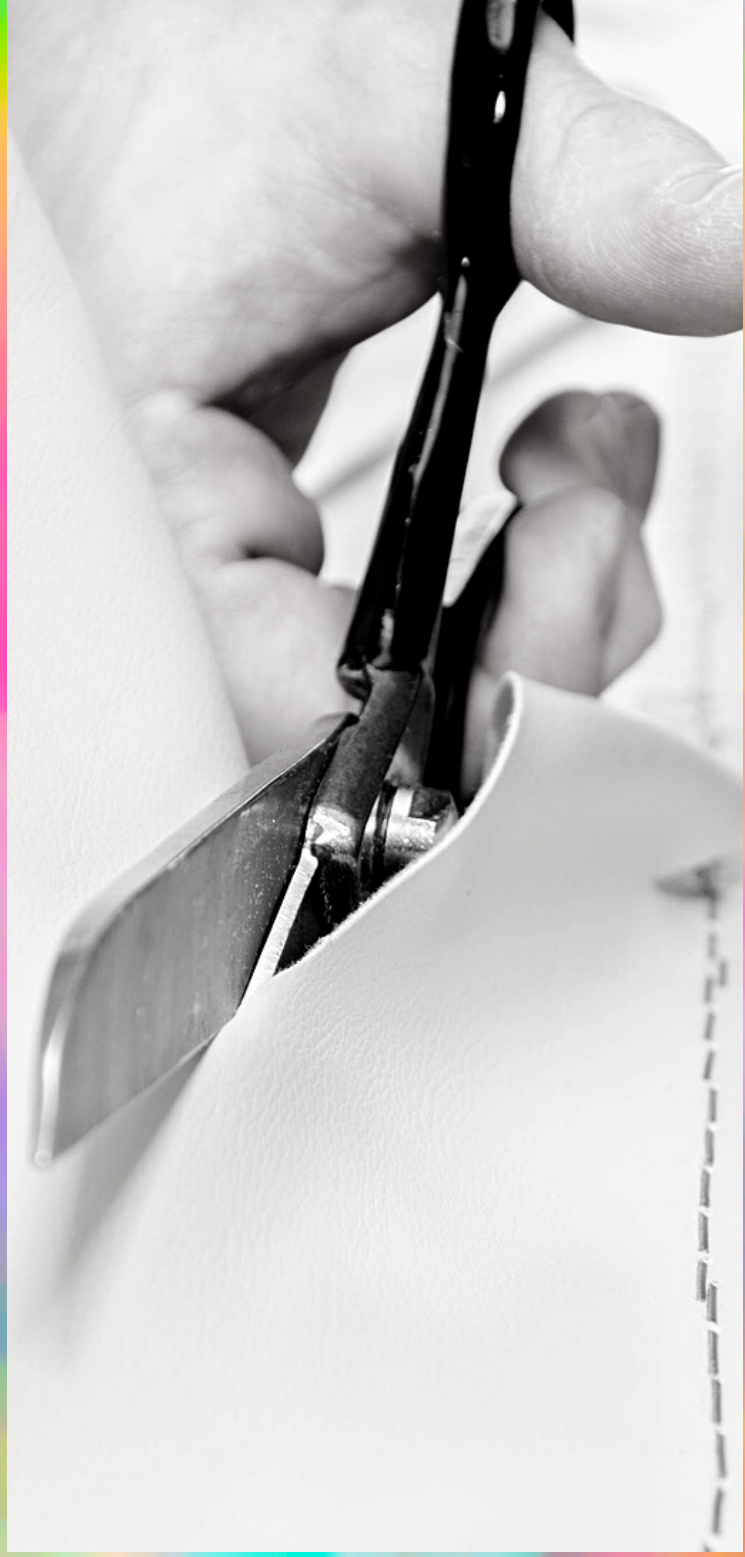
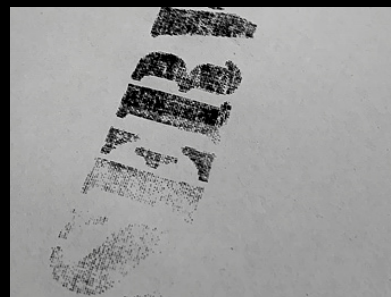


CHANGE THE LANGUAGE

Relaunch



SUNDERLAND
YOUTH
VOICE



CHANGE COUNCIL AND OUR CHANGE THE LANGUAGE CAMPAIGN

Change Council is a Participation and Engagement Group at Together for Children, made up of two groups of young people aged 10 to 15 and 16+ who are cared for or care experienced.

Change Council is a safe, inclusive space that helps promote the voices of cared for and care experienced children and young people in Sunderland.

Together, Change Council help shape our services, drive change and campaign for a better future. They are passionate about making children's social care the best it can be for everyone.

One of the ways that Change Council is striving to make a difference is by changing the language used by professionals in social care, early help, education, health and beyond.

We're standing with all cared for and care experienced young people in Sunderland by changing the language we use, and we hope you'll change yours too.

#CHANGETHELANGUAGE

WHY WE NEED CHANGE

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROFESSIONALS CHANGE THE LANGUAGE THEY USE SO THAT YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T FEEL DISCRIMINATED AGAINST OR TARGETED. LOTS OF WORDS ARE OUTDATED AND MANY YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T LIKE TO BE LABELLED, AS THEY ARE SO MUCH MORE THAN A WORD.

WE NEED TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE BECAUSE IT SHOWS THE NEW AND YOUNGER GENERATION OF PEOPLE THAT COME INTO CARE THAT THEY ARE JUST MOVING FROM ONE FAMILY TO ANOTHER FAMILY WHO WILL CARE FOR THEM.

CHANGE COUNCIL

The current language is outdated, old fashioned and confusing at best. But we know it's more than that. Language can feel like a label and it can be offensive, degrading, stigmatising and harmful to young people when it's used about them.

As part of our commitment to amplifying the voices of children and young people, we have worked together with Change Council to review the language used by staff across Together for Children - and by our partners - to challenge stereotypes, break down barriers and make our language more personal, inclusive and easy to understand for all.

#CHANGETHELANGUAGE

HEAR US OUT

I DON'T WANT TO BE KNOWN AS A LOOKED AFTER CHILD. THIS MAKES ME FEEL LIKE ITS SOMEONE'S JOB, RATHER THAN SOMEONE BEING NICE AND CARING FOR US.

THIS IS IMPORTANT TO ME AS A YOUNG PERSON BECAUSE BEING LABELLED AS THESE THINGS MAKES US FEEL LIKE OBJECTS AND THAT IS NOT RIGHT.

THE AIM OF THE CAMPAIGN IS TO SIMPLY CHANGE THE LANGUAGE FOR EVERYONE TO USE AND TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTABLE AROUND PROFESSIONALS.

I'M FED UP OF HEARING WORDS THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. BY CHANGING THE LANGUAGE, WE CAN HELP OTHER CARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON.

We know that changing the language we use every day isn't easy. Some of the current words or phrases used in children's services have been used for years or even decades. Switching up the language we've been using every day can be hard but the more we all use the new language, the easier it will become.

We know what you're thinking... what if I get it wrong? Well, that's okay. If you use the wrong word, just correct yourself and use the right one! Change doesn't happen overnight and this campaign will evolve over time as we continue to remove old words and change some of the language we use.

#CHANGETHELANGUAGE



OUT WITH THE OLD...

WE HEAR:

Abscond

Admission/Discharge

Advocate

Care leaver

Challenging behaviour

Child looked after (CLA) or
looked after child (LAC)

Contact

Difficult to engage

Emotionally unstable

WE PREFER:

Go missing or went missing

Moving in/moving out

One to one advisor (or explain
what you mean)

Care experienced

Needs support managing
emotions

The child/young person is
cared for

Family time

Needs time

Needs support managing
emotions

...IN WITH THE NEW

#CHANGETHELANGUAGE

OUT WITH THE OLD...

WE HEAR:

LAC review

Moving placements

NEET

PA

Placement

Respite

Restraint

Sanctions

Service user

Unit

WE PREFER:

Cared for review or 'young person's name' review

Moving house or moving home

Don't use the abbreviation, explain what it means

Don't use the abbreviation, explain what it means

House or home

Stay over, having a break or a short break

Physical help to stay safe

Consequences

Child or young person

House or home

...IN WITH THE NEW

OUT WITH THE OLD...

The Change the Language campaign isn't just about swapping one word for another, it's about being more mindful of the language we use and how the words that are used can impact a young person.

Change Council have identified the following words that they have heard or been described as. These aren't words that will be replaced but instead, we ask that you think about the language you use before you use it.

WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR:

- Immature
- Lost cause
- Misunderstood
- Naughty
- Paranoid
- Psychotic
- Special
- Troubled

One of the best ways you can help us change the language is to ask young people what words they do and don't like. We know language isn't always a 'one size fits all' and what works for one person might not be right for someone else.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN?

So, you're ready to change your language! But what else can you do?

SPREAD THE WORD

You can help us by telling your colleagues about the campaign and using the new language in conversations with them, so that they become familiar with it too. You can also remind them when they don't get it right. We know things won't change overnight but we'll get there.

If you use social media, you can help us get the message out far and wide by sharing our campaign online using #changethelanguage. Follow us @tfcyouthvoice on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

GET INVOLVED

We want everyone to get behind the campaign and to take ownership of the language that we all use every day. If you have any suggestions about words that could be changed, or if you're working with a young person who would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

MAKE A DONATION

Change the Language is just one campaign that Change Council is working on but there's so much more we want to do! Getting behind our work financially, either as an individual by making a kind donation or as a company if your workplace can support us, can help us to achieve even more.

GET IN TOUCH

Email Nikki at youthvoice@togetherforchildren.org.uk.

