



M.A.D.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Let's Talk!



Children in Care and Care Leaver Awards 2018

Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for this year's Dudley Children in Care & Care Leavers Awards. We had some fantastic nominations and it showed that being looked after doesn't mean you can't do some amazing things!!!

This year we had a flag and our own superhero mascot for our Awards – congratulations to Tom for designing Captain M.A.D. and our flag that was flown on Dudley Council house and Town Hall in the week leading up to the Awards evening!

We put a lot of time into planning this year's Awards evening, and hope that those of you who came to it enjoyed it. Most of the people we asked really liked it and described it as exciting, inspiring and brilliant – lots of people really appreciated the magician and the photographer!!



Options⁺
leisure discount scheme

Did you know that you and your foster family can get an Options+ discount scheme – giving you 50% off lots of activities at Crystal, Dudley & Halesowen leisure Centres.

Please see the leaflet & letter that we have included with this newsletter for more information.



IMO is a new website just for children in care and care leavers. It is supported by the Children's Commissioner's Office and it has been created with input from children in care. It's got loads of info specially for us – such as 'Life Hacks', blogs, vlogs, podcasts, articles and campaigns. It also features a promotional section called '**free stuff**', where we are giving away fantastic freebies and exclusive offers, we have worked hard to secure from companies including Google and The V&A Museum, among others.

IMO
write, speak, share

Visit the site and find out how to get your hands on the freebies and how to get involved in creating articles or info on the website:

<https://imohub.org.uk/>



Let's

Talk



During August we organised our M.A.D. For it! Summer for children in care in Dudley. We met with social workers to give our views on some new activities that they will be using in the future, followed by an indoor BBQ, including Andy's amazing burgers; we went to Laser Quest; visited Sky Studios and made a news report; spent a day at Ackers Adventure Centre taking part in teambuilding, skiing and kayaking; and washed cars to raise money so that we could all go to Alton Towers!



'It was awesome'



I had loads of fun and met other people in care who I hadn't met before'



'Alton Towers was amazing, especially the Rapids, Wicker Man and Smiler'

'Was so much fun hanging out with everyone' 'I learnt how to wash cars properly'

Karl Pinches from The Children's Society Black Country Advocacy recently came to one of our meetings to tell us what his service does. He explained what an advocate is (basically its someone who doesn't work for the Council who can help you say if you don't like something or if you don't agree with a decision that affects your life, and can support you if you want to make a complaint), how they can help those who are in care and how to get one, if you want one.



If you are interested in finding out more please see the flyer that we have included with this newsletter.

We are pleased to see that the Mind of My Own app has been updated. There is now a 'mood slider' to show how you are feeling; emojis to let others know how you are feeling; an option called 'how did the meeting go?'...and its even easier to sign up now.

Martine McFadden, who is responsible for Mind of My Own in Dudley, said 'The new emojis look great and the young people I have spoken to really like them. I hope that they encourage more people to use the app, and to have their say'. If you aren't registered speak to your social worker or carer, or visit:

<https://mindofmyown.org.uk/>

MOMO
MIND OF MY OWN