Children and Young People Service

CONNECT NEWSLETTER

Gwasanaeth Plant a Phobl Ifanc

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Issue 1 2021

Hello!

Welcome to CONNECT's first newsletter. CONNECT is the name of the National Service for adopted children and young people in Wales. We want YOU to be involved & help write the next newsletter so if you're adopted, a parent or a professional #Getintouch #LetsConnect

The National Service supports adopted people in 4 ways :

- Connected (monthly activity groups)
- Ambassadors and Voices (helping young people have their voices heard)
- Information and guidance (helpful info for adopted people)
- Awareness and upskilling (telling others about adoption)



Your thoughts?

Have you been involved in what we do?
We would love to know what you think. Let us know by emailing wales@adoptionuk.org.uk



Have your say

What would you like to see in future newsletters?

Send your ideas, articles, pictures, poems etc to wales@adoptionuk.org.uk

growing together
Connected
tyfu gyda'n gilydd

Over the past 12 months, we have met online to do a range of different activities - including circus skills, cooking, arts and crafts, animal encounters (did you meet a meerkat?), manga and graffiti!

See some of our pictures below and on page 1

The Lead Youth Workers have loved seeing your creations and getting to know you and can't wait to meet in person soon.

Did you know?
We are now running groups across Wales and run a national 18-30 group too! There are now over 200 of you involved with Connected



CONNECT Voices & Ambassadors

CONNECT Voices is the name of our Youth Councils for adopted people. There are currently two councils for different age groups 14+ and 18+.

Voices is THE place to be if you want to talk about your adoption, have your voice heard & advise others about adoption. If you are interested please email wales@adoptionuk.org.uk

CONNECT Ambassadors work with Lead Youth Workers & CONNECT Voices to represent the voice of adopted children & young people. They attend & speak at events, talk to people like headteachers, politicians & social workers about adoption issues.

One of our Ambassador's Mimi spoke out on the BBC and ITV about being adopted and how it has effected her



Information and Guidance

CONNECT is working hard to make sure adopted children and young people can find reliable information and resources aimed at them, not their parents.

We are currently looking for any websites, books or organisations that are good for helping or supporting adopted children and/or young people. If you have any suggestions please send to wales@adoptionuk.org.uk

The 18-25 Connected group & 18+ CONNECT Voices have been working together to build a website aimed at adopted children and young people. They are creating content that everyone might find useful. They would like to know what do you want to see on the CONNECT website #Getinvolved #LetsConnect

We are also building a collage of everyone involved with CONNECT so check out the template on the last page.



Awareness and Upskilling

Many people don't always understand adoption, CONNECT feels it is vital to understand the difference adoption can bring, so CONNECT is providing training for everyone who supports adopted children and/or young people so they understand YOU and your needs.

So far CONNECT has been talking to youth workers, social workers & teachers.

Who else do you think needs to understand YOU?

Let us know by emailing wales@adoptionuk.org.uk

We are building a collage of who is involved with CONNECT so if you come to our groups, are part of one of our youth councils, you support adopted young people or are an adoptive parent - send us a self-portrait so we can see everyone who is connected through the service.



To be part of this collage, you can use the template below to create a self portrait. You can use any method you like - digital art, pens/pencils, paper, magazine collage - it's up to you. #Getinvolved #LetsConnect

Send to wales@adoptionuk.org.uk