



Every Child Deserves a Chance

# ONE VOICE SUMMIT FEEDBACK BOOKLET

One Voice. One Mission.  
A Better Future for Every Child in Care.

[www.fatimascampaign.com](http://www.fatimascampaign.com)

# Thank you for making this possible.



From the bottom of my heart, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to every single person who took part in the One Voice Summit.

Whether you shared your story, offered your expertise, listened with compassion, or simply showed up with the intention to help — you are part of the change we so desperately need.

This summit was never about just talking. It was about uniting voices from every walk of life to demand a better future for children in care. Your presence, passion, and commitment have laid the foundation for real, lasting reform.

Together, we've shown that when we raise our voices as one — we are impossible to ignore.

*- Fatima Whitbread MBE*

This event has shown us what's possible when we bring together those with lived experience, practitioners, policymakers, and advocates — all united by one mission: to transform the care system into one that truly values and uplifts every child.



Real change doesn't come from institutions alone. It begins with human connection, shared purpose, and the courage to speak out. I am deeply moved by the voices that filled this space — and more determined than ever to keep the momentum alive.

Thank you for being part of this powerful movement. Let's keep raising our voices, together.

*- Gina Gardiner, Vice Chair Fatimas UK Campaign*

Fatima and Gina,

Wow - congratulations. What an incredible event you both pulled off together. We have never been in a room with so many mission-driven action takers before. Truly inspiring and motivating.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it, and for creating a space where so many valuable and impactful conversations and connections could happen.

We are already planning collaborations that will help us to support our tenants more. But as you say, the work is bigger than that, and now it really starts. We will be sharing the petition far and wide and doing what we can in support of your mission.

Look forward to being a part of this going forwards.

**Jessica Leader, Surestay Co-Founder**

Yesterday I had the privilege of being a part of the One Voice Summit at the Guildhall in support of FatimasUKcampaign.

The event was truly inspiring and it was great to meet and hear from so many people throughout the day. A fantastic event to be on the Wilson James stand and grab content for the campaign!





Thank you to Fatima Whitbread and GINA GARDINER RADICAL CHANGE CATALYST AND LEADERSHIP ADVISOR for organising such an impactful event, I absolutely loved being a part of it!

**Maddie Dobson – Wilson James**

What an inspiring 2 days at the One Voice Summit!

Big Thank you to Fatima Whitbread and GINA GARDINER RADICAL CHANGE CATALYST AND LEADERSHIP ADVISOR for a great summit.

It was incredible to be surrounded by so many organisations working to achieve better outcomes and aspirations for children in care and care leavers. Lisa Brown Jean Templeton Katharine Sacks-Jones Anna Butcher While we still have a long way to go in addressing some deeply embedded systemic challenges, there is real hope — hope that grows stronger when we come together, collaborate, and build meaningful partnerships.

One of the most powerful parts of the day was hearing from care-experienced individuals who have turned their pain into purpose, creating lasting impact for future generations. Dougie Stringer, Matthew Page     , Steven Russell and so many more.

A special thank you to the courageous young people from Coram Voice and Hull CICC who shared their experiences and insights into what young people truly need and want.

I was also touched by the positive response to our first resource books, and I'm excited to continue the great conversations sparked during the summit.

Here's to future partnerships, collaboration, and making the social changes we so urgently need.

### **Mana Gondolora – Who Cares Cosultancy**

I wanted to write to say a huge thank you for the opportunity to join the event last week. It was an amazing success, it was brilliant to hear the speakers and network with everyone present – I've come away full of inspiration and hope for the future!

**Becky Reynolds, The For Baby's Sake Trust**

## Alex Orrow - Commercial | Corporate Photographer

I had the privilege of photographing the final day of the FatimasUKcampaign Fatima's UK Campaign – One Voice Summit held at the GUILDHALL LONDON LIMITED GuildhallLondon

The summit was organised by Fatima Whitbread, GINA GARDINER RADICAL CHANGE CATALYST AND LEADERSHIP ADVISOR, and hosted by Gemma Oaten 🌱.

The event aimed to drive significant, lasting, and positive change within the care system by uniting national voices, front line professionals, advocates, policy makers, and individuals with lived experience.

Throughout the day, I had the privilege of capturing moments from an incredible line-up of speakers, including:

- Michael Gove MP, journalist and former Secretary of State for Education
- Helen Hayes MP, Chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee
- Gina Gardiner, Vice Chair of Fatima's Campaign
- Fatima Whitbread MBE
- Frank Cottrell-Boyce, award-winning author and current Waterstones Children's Laureate
- Lord John Bird MBE, founder of The Big Issue
- Ronnie Archer-Morgan, TV presenter, The Antiques Roadshow

Many of the speakers shared powerful, personal stories about their experiences in the care system. I had never heard John Bird speak in person before, but I found myself laughing out loud and completely captivated by his passion and life experience. I was also close to tears listening to Ronnie Archer-Morgan describe how he discovered his love of antiques, and how that journey eventually brought him full circle to be reunited with an antique Dutch child's clog discovered while under the care of his family of first foster carers.

Shout out to Gemma Oaten, for the opportunity.

Thank you to Fatima Whitbread and GINA GARDINER RADICAL CHANGE CATALYST AND LEADERSHIP ADVISOR for inviting me to attend.

## Danielle Keeling – Youth Futures Foundation

Great to have spent the last two days at One Voice Summit discussing and raising awareness about the need to change the narrative with, for and about care-experienced young people, and to celebrate them. We met so many like minded organisations passionate about doing this and finding creative ways to be there for our young people. It also gave some of our young people the opportunity to perform - in such a huge venue it was a real push for them and we are, as always, so proud. Thanks to [Fatima Whitbread](#) [GINA GARDINER RADICAL CHANGE CATALYST AND LEADERSHIP ADVISOR](#) for the opportunity!

### Care to dance

It was an honour to attend and support the [hashtag#OneVoiceSummit](#) at the Guildhall last week in aid of Fatima's UK Campaign to support children and young people in the care system, a subject that we are all very passionate about at [Youth Futures Foundation](#)

The attendees and speakers were incredible and I left feeling very inspired about the difference that one person can make. One brilliant example being [Liana Karim](#) and her speech: The Art of Showing Up

"Every experience is building you,  
Every set back is shaping you,  
You don't need permission to dream big,  
You are not lost, you are becoming...  
You don't need to know exactly where you are going to take your next step,  
You don't need to have all the answers to make a start...  
Start messy, start tired, start scared, start unsure - just start.  
And your story - your voice - matters more than you know"

There were so many incredible people and organisations there such as [Fatima Whitbread](#) [GINA GARDINER RADICAL CHANGE CATALYST AND LEADERSHIP ADVISOR](#) [Gemma Oaten](#) [Terry Galloway](#) [Chris Wild](#) [Dame Kelly Holmes](#) [Coram Voice](#) [Steven Russell](#) [CareToDance Studios](#) and many more - I definitely felt the imposter syndrome kicking in once or twice, but some fantastic connections were made and I can't wait to see all of the amazing work that will come off the back of this magnificent event, including the progress of the draft white paper that was being circulated.

There was a lot of agreement around the challenges being faced by these young people, challenges sadly supported by stark statistics such as the fact that 1 in 3 care-experienced young people become homeless in the first two years after they leave care. Corporate parents need to take their responsibilities seriously and lived experience should be at the heart of solutions. Together we can do better than this.

Well done to all involved in pulling this event together and to those who continue to drive meaningful change for some of the most vulnerable in our society. The work continues 🍷

After a crazy few days of family fun I'm finally getting round to reflecting on the most wonderful, heart warming, passion driven few days last week with Fatima Whitbread GINA GARDINER RADICAL CHANGE CATALYST AND LEADERSHIP ADVISOR Gemma Oaten 🌱 at the hashtag#onevoicesummit. Two days full of rich collaboration, learning and connection with inspiring guest speakers, panels and an audience full of passion to drive forward systemic change for our children and young people. Shout out to my team Care Leaver Covenant and some of our creative signatories Gary Thompson GFireE, Tech IOSH Raphie Auerbach CMgr MCMI Chris Middleton CSyP, Dip ML, MSyl Anna Butcher Sarah Collett West Midlands Police.

One of many takeaways was something Jean Templeton said "its not about competition with each other but collaboration". Feeling incredibly humbled to share such a thought provoking few days with inspirational people, I will continue to shine a light on my incredible care experienced family and advocate for better

**Rosie Blackett - Care Leaders Fellowship**

I just wanted to write to thank and congratulate you and Fatima for such a brilliant couple of days at the UK Campaign Summit this week. What a phenomenal achievement to get all those people together and such an amazing array of speakers, both subject experts and the high-profile politicians/celebrities. Huge congratulations, and thank you for allowing Frontline to be involved – my colleagues who attended and I were so pleased to be there, and to hear so many views and perspectives on how to improve care for children and young people. I hope you are both enjoying that well-earned rest and gin and tonic you mentioned today!

**Jackie Sanders - Frontline**

Good Morning Fatima and Gina,

I wanted to extend my sincerest thanks for giving me the opportunity to attend the summit last week. I learned a HUGE amount and massively enjoyed the two days.

It has only made me more determined to re-enter the social sector and it was so good to see so many professionals aligned with the same mission!

If you ever need any assistance in the future with organising such events, please do reach out, I would be more than happy to help.

All my best wishes,

**Jenny.**

Brilliant event. I'm still processing everything I learnt and will get around to offering some reflexions and will post something on LinkedIn soon.

Really pleased that we have been able to support the event and very proud to be associated with the initiative.

**Gerald Morgan**

Gina, I just wanted to say thank you and a huge congratulations on everything you have done, I'm completely blown away. You must be hugely proud of everything you have achieved. Feel hugely privileged to be a tiny part of the journey. Hope you are having a well earned rest now x

**Kate RH Talent**



Just a short note to say thank you for all your hard work in putting on such a brilliant, thought provoking and inspiring conference. Shaw Trust/H2I were pleased to play a part in the conference. By working together I am sure we can make positive change, by keeping children at the heart of what we do and listening to their voices.

**Paul Cook – Shaw Trust**

Wow, Wow, Wow!!

You two are absolute Sheroes! What an amazing event over the last 2 days. I don't think I've ever been to a conference, not even some of the large organisational-run ones, with so many opportunities for voices to be heard. I feel so honoured to have been invited to be part of it and learned so much.

Thank you for your courage, compassion, and determination to make change and tackle the systemic issues which underpin the immunity to change. You have ignited a spark which I'm sure will power up the engine for change.

Always happy to support in any way I can.  
Thank you and much love!

**Jean Templeton CEO St Basils**

I'd like to extend my congratulations on what was a truly inspiring two day Summit. The combined wisdom and energy to effect change in the room was palpable and I felt very privileged to be invited to participate.

**Louise Woolsey LSEC**

I just wanted to extend a huge thank you from all of us at Drive Forward for the opportunity to attend the event.

Young people are at the heart of everything we do, and we were thrilled to have ten of them join us over the two days. They left feeling inspired, valued, and truly supported. Those who had the chance to meet you during the roundtable were especially in awe - thank you for giving them such a memorable experience. It really does mean so much.

It was also a pleasure to meet Daniele Lucia in person, who is now one of our fantastic partners. Thanks to your support, three of our young people are now on placement and will soon be cooking for the US Embassy - a brilliant step on their journey from care to career.

**Mija Valdez – Drive Forward**

Just wanted to say thank you for organising, and inviting us to, such a terrific event. It was truly inspiring and we will certainly be thinking about the ways we can further improve our practices to help all disadvantaged young people, especially those who are care experienced. No problem about the final breakout session, we were happy just being part of it, and would be very honoured to support any further events.

I hope after your meeting today, you both have the opportunity to take time to fully recover and reflect on a truly wonderful event, it was fantastic.

**Rob Gaylor – Lambourne End Educational Centre**

It's been absolutely phenomenal! I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for allowing me to be part of it. Massive congratulations to all of you — you are incredible. Gina and Fatima, what you've achieved is truly unreal, and I believe the buzz will carry on for a long, long time and will create real change. I know it's been life changing for me

**Gemma Oaten**

Massive congratulations to you and Fatima for a phenomenal event and thank you so much for inviting me to be part of the journey. It's been such an amazing one, far bigger and more impactful than I could ever have imagined. I've never been pushed so far outside of my comfort zone, thank you for giving me the opportunity.

**Nicola Eschbaecher**

Congratulations on a most successful Summit. From the perspective of a delegate, the arrangements were excellent and all the presentations were really engaging. But what impressed me most was the culture of "Can do; will do" which the conference generated and I am sure that is just what you wanted. The challenge for everyone now is to sustain that enthusiasm and determination as we return to our everyday jobs and encounter the traditional obstacles to change.

I look forward to hearing what the next stage of the campaign will be and supporting it in any way that is helpful.

**Sir Roger Singleton**

Thank you so much for allowing us the privilege of being at the summit. It was truly an amazing two days with many connections made which will galvanise opportunities for young people. You are both such strong role models to encourage people to get things done and hopefully this will be the catalyst of something quite remarkable for children in the care system.

Hope you both had an excellent G&T last night and look forward to connecting again with you soon.

Best wishes and once again, thank you!

**Rachel Grimwood**

I just wanted to write to thank and congratulate you and Fatima for such a brilliant couple of days at the UK Campaign Summit this week. What a phenomenal achievement to get all those people together and such an amazing array of speakers, both subject experts and the high-profile politicians/celebrities. Huge congratulations, and thank you for allowing Frontline to be involved – my colleagues who attended and I were so pleased to be there, and to hear so many views and perspectives on how to improve care for children and young people. I hope you are both enjoying that well-earned rest and gin and tonic you mentioned today!

**Jackie Sanders – Frontline**

What a triumph the Summit was: a huge accomplishment. I enjoyed both days – it was great to speak with so many friends and collaborators from the sector. I also met some young people who I think Spectra can provide some guidance to on their career journey.

Enjoy the weekend and again, congratulations on a super event.

**Gareth Evans | Director of Operations SPECTRA**

Just a very quick note to congratulate you and thank you for the last two days.

The work put into it has been incredible and that was clear to see. You set out to bring together a community of organisations and people enabling them to connect and build partnerships, and I think you did that in spades!

Aware that you'll be itching to start the next task of follow up on commitments made but I hope that you manage to have a bit of a rest tomorrow and make sure you allow yourself the opportunity to reflect on such an enormous achievement and the fruits it will bear.

Thank you for your passionate advocacy of care experienced young people.

I look forward to continuing the journey together.

**Russell Winnard**

What an achievement Gina and Fatima I'm so proud of you!! This is a major kickstart to making a change for good for all those in care and care leavers!

**Chris Horrocks**

What an amazing event Rachel, thank you so much for inviting me to Fatima's summit.

Absolutely everything was inspiring and I can't wait to ensure that at the Elizabeth line, we can actively support young people in care and care leavers with our upcoming collaborations. Thank you again

**Katrina Treacy**

WOW. Just WOW. 🙌

I'm currently on my train home after two incredible days in London at Fatima Whitbread's One Voice Summit, held in the stunning Guildhall.

I've never felt so happy, yet sad at the same time - happy to see over 500 passionate people come together, all wanting to make real, positive change to foster care in the UK... and sad because the need for that change is so great. 😞

Both being a looked after child myself and for the past 10 years as a Foster Parent, I am honestly overwhelmed by the level of commitment from so many individuals and businesses. The energy, the passion, the unity... it was beyond moving.

There are too many amazing, outstanding, and downright lovely people to name, but a few I was honored to meet or hear speak include:

Sarah Thomas, Dr Carol Homden CBE, Lord John Bird, Dame Kelly Holmes, Dame Sharon White, and the incredible young people from Coram Voice ANV 💖

I'm sincerely thankful for the conversations, the connections, and the shared vision for a better future.

Please take a moment to read and sign the white paper, which is now being added to the website:

<https://lnkd.in/ec2KvT8G>

Last, but of course not least. Thank you to Fatima for wanting to make a difference, GINA GARDINER RADICAL CHANGE CATALYST AND LEADERSHIP ADVISOR for creating an awesome couple of days, Gemma Oaten 🌟 for your story, being a ruddy marvellous MC and the wider teams for looking after us all. You have all definitely earned a glass of wine and an early night! 🙌

**Ricci Gretton**

As a kid who grew up in foster care, just surviving felt like the goal. But this past week, I stood in the historic Guildhall in London as the U.S. representative at Fatima's UK Campaign - One Voice Summit, speaking alongside care leavers and organizations from across the UK.

I was there with Foster Greatness, sharing my story as a foster alumni, why I dedicate my life to this work, and how we're empowering foster youth not just in the U.S., but globally with our work at Foster Greatness.

Here's the truth: The challenges faced by foster youth in the U.S. and the UK are heartbreakingly similar.

Higher risks of homelessness 💡

Lower educational attainment 📖

Greater likelihood of entering the (in)justice system ⚖️

Struggles with mental health & systemic barriers 💔

But here's what gives me HOPE—cross-nation collaboration. When we unite across borders, we don't just share problems—we share solutions.

At Foster Greatness, we've built a digital platform designed, developed, and distributed by people with lived care experience. Why does that matter? Because no one understands the needs of foster youth better than those who've lived it. It's proof that when we center the voices of those most impacted, we can transform child welfare on a global scale.

This summit wasn't just about talking—it was about action. It was about recognizing that foster care is a global crisis, but also a global opportunity.

To every social worker, policymaker, advocate, and fellow care leaver: We are stronger together. The systems that failed us can be rebuilt—but only if we lead the change.

This is just the beginning. 🌟

**Isabel Straza**

Hi, I attended both days of the One Voice Summit this week and it was fantastic. I was lucky to be there alongside Inspector Jim Heggs from Leicestershire Police and Natasha Dixon from the Home Office as Ingeus provided a lived experience staff member to support their pilot. Around 19% of our staff have lived experience of the criminal justice system and we also have many volunteers (peer mentors) with lived experience that are supporting people in prison and people on probation to help individuals turn their lives around.

I'd love to introduce Fatima to Kirsty one day, she's one of our amazing staff members who's care experienced. Kirsty has overcome so many challenges in her life, she's been in prison and now supporting others to help build their confidence and believe that change is possible.

You can hear her story here..... [Life After Prison](#)  
Thanks again.

**James Foreman**

Huge congratulations on bringing your dream to life over the past couple of days. It was a fantastic event and I was honoured to play a small part in it. You should be really proud of the movement you have begun. I look forward to seeing where the work how we keep moving towards all the goals on the petition.

Shout as soon as you have had a well deserved rest

**Zenna Hopson Dallaglio Rugby Works**



Hi Fatima, Gina,

I can only begin to imagine how nuts your inboxes must be right now, but I wanted to say an enormous thank you for connecting us with such an incredible community.

The Summit was insightful, collaborative, but most importantly action oriented and I look forward to finding ways (both professionally and personally) to continue the momentum you've created.

You mentioned yesterday a well-deserved intravenous G&T drip... by way of supporting this ambition(!) I have spoken with our CEO, Mark and we all would love for you to join us for our Summer Drinks in London on 19th June.

Yesterday in one of the breakout sessions it struck me that the private sector need to be better informed of the challenges faced by care-experienced individuals - to start thinking differently about recruitment, retention, equity of opportunity and much more. By way of taking a small step forward, we'd really like to introduce you to some of our key clients and link you up with some of our other charity relationships.

I hope you can enjoy a few days of peace,

**Amy Dean – Wilson James**

Wow - congratulations. What an incredible event you both pulled off together. We have never been in a room with so many mission-driven action takers before. Truly inspiring and motivating.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it, and for creating a space where so many valuable and impactful conversations and connections could happen.

We are already planning collaborations that will help us to support our tenants more. But as you say, the work is bigger than that, and now it really starts. We will be sharing the petition far and wide and doing what we can in support of your mission.

Look forward to being a part of this going forwards.

**Mark & Jessica**

Dear Gina and Fatima,

What a day my colleagues Jenny, Evy and I had at the Summit yesterday, huge thank you again for all the incredible work that has gone into arranging it all, getting everyone together in one place and providing a platform for the important message to be sent to all the big decision makers. And hearing the stories from the care experienced young people and adults was priceless, such a gift to all of us who are here to support children in care and care leavers.

Gina, you mentioned yesterday something about never giving up, which was beyond inspiring, and this has made me think that I need to tell you again about our service and our Art Exhibition. When we spoke yesterday at the Summit I mentioned that our specialist services here in Surrey are one of the few specialist mental health services within the NHS that is specifically for children in care, adopted/SGO children and care leavers.

We are doing a lot of work internally to highlight the importance of those services for the positive long term outcomes for children in care. The 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' Art Exhibition, due to be opened on 1st July 2025 and created by young people who use our services, is one way of us raising the profile and creating a platform for our young people to have their voices heard. Our local MP in Epsom, Helen Maguire, has offered to sponsor the Exhibition to be hosted at the House of Commons in the Autumn and we are waiting for the outcome of our ballot application to confirm that this will go ahead. In the light of this it would be fantastic to find a way for us to link up with Fatima's Campaign – if we have a confirmation to take the exhibition to the HofC in the Autumn we would love to invite you both to the opening.

In the first instance the Exhibition is being launched at the Horton Art Centre in Epsom, on 1st July, at 3pm. It would be an honour to have you there for the launch, it would be a massive boost for our young people. However if this really isn't possible, I am wondering whether you would be willing Fatima to record a video of support for our young people who have created the art work, that we could play at the opening event?

It would be absolutely amazing if, when you have rested enough from the Summit, we could have a short call to discuss what is possible?

Thank you again, with best wishes,

**Emina Atic Lee – New Leaf CIC Mindworks**

Last week I was fortunate to support @fatima.whitbread and Gina Gardiner in their delivery of Fatima's UK Campaign "One Voice Summit" at the Guildhall. Compered by the vivacious Gemma Oaten, the summit explored all aspects of how we can better support young people in the care system, throughout their lives. By providing better practical and emotional care and support, making sure children are seen, heard and valued, to bring lasting improvements to their lives. I'm genuinely not sure we realise how lucky we are. We all take family, identity, support, community and belonging for granted on a daily basis.

Some stand out points for me were;

- The cards that you are dealt as a kid is not your fault.
- Every child is one caring adult away from success.
- Every single person has the capacity for difference.
- It takes a village of experience and commitment to raise a child.
- Inclusivity is an attitude, a state of mind. Not defined by KPI's - colour shapes or sizes. It's an openness to the wealth of human difference, the lego building blocks of life that make us fit together like a jigsaw.
- Authenticity cannot be faked.
- Turning up is essential.

Some reading this will understand what I mean by truly turning up - I have to say the collaborative passion in the room was quite something. It's rare to get a collection of some 1500 people all working together positively and collaboratively for such a good cause and so much was learned, shared, and doors opened for the future.

I'm really pleased and proud that my Scouting team of Dwayne, Liz, Georgie, Ella, Katie, Molly and Joseph were able to make a difference on the day (thanks team), and help in a small way facilitate the event and support two fantastic human beings, deliver what I hope will become an annual event. Well done Fatima / Gina - what you achieved was truly amazing!

**David Liddle – Scouts**

Fatima, it was amazing to finally meet you in person at the One Voice Summit I just wanted to say what an incredible first Summit you and Gina delivered! I'm still feeling pumped and inspired

I also wanted to thank you for inviting me to Exhibit. It not only gave me an amazing opportunity to connect with so many care experienced people and understand more about their brilliant work but also the chance to talk to young people about how the event inspired them over the two days- I truly believe there will be huge positive long lasting impact.

I'm also looking forward to collaborating with a few of the panel of care experienced people going forward to strengthen our offer even further which is exciting. I really look forward to next year! if there's any ways you think we could work together in the meantime please let me know

Thanks again Fatima

**Dougie**

What an incredible event. I was proud that we would support it. You and Gina are inspiring. I'll keep trying to pull some strings and generate more support.

I spoke to Amy about a WJ event in June that you might be interested in which could introduce you to some huge employers. I'm sure she'll be in touch about this.

**Gerald Wilson – Wilson James Ltd**

"The one thing I would do is get all the people together who are trying to make changes around children in care. What Fatima is trying to do is just that."

**Lord John Bird**

(I'm) here to support Fatima, who is a legend and champion in our sport....It doesn't matter what your experience in care has been, the fact that you were in it is what matters. There will always be trauma and that impacts on your mental health, your self-belief. Stop any shame and let people tell their stories to help other people. We need to be heard and listened to. Success is something that's a personal mission.

My purpose was to show people I was good enough to be a great person and have a name, an identity. I know I can do something good, even if other people write me off. Never giving up on myself or letting my past become a barrier to my success. You're not alone. There are people who want to support you but you can also drive your own destiny, your future. Fatima's event is critical. Collectively we're stronger. If one voice shouts then more voices will be heard."

**Dame Kelly Holmes**

"Once people enter the criminal justice system it can become an anchor for them if their lives are poor on the outside. One thing to focus on - from a prison point of view - we need the information about their care experience. Different needs, support from outside if they don't have visitors, stable accommodation when they come out, jobs.

"The energy in the room is amazing, stories about things that are working well and thinking about solutions for things that aren't."

**Charlie Taylor, HM Inspector of Prisons**

"This conference is shining a spotlight firmly on children in care and in the care system and those in need of support and we need to give a much better deal for those children and those families. I firmly believe that we can prevent many children from coming into care if we give families the support they need and for children in care we should give them the best opportunities possible."

**Baroness Anne Longfield, Centre for Young Lives**

"We need) more to intervene early to support families, strong, focused child protection, make much greater use of family networks and kinship carers to provide that loving support for children who might otherwise go into the care system, and then when care is needed, to build rather than break those lifelong loving relationships. There aren't that many occasions where we get the whole of the care sector, community together at a high-profile event to get on and do it. It's an amazing opportunity to celebrate initiatives and organisations...go further and faster to make changes to the care system."

**Josh McAllister, MP for Whitehaven and Workington and author of the Independent Review of children's Social Care**

"The priority must be that any care setting has to be safe for children and ensure protection of them and that hasn't happened in the past....(the summit) brings together so many different interests, expertise, young people with their own views and experiences, which are central to understanding what needs to improve."

**Professor Alexis Jay, chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse**

"So many people have testified to how their lives can be transformed by the right mix of love, support and care. We need to be relentlessly positive. We're talking about people who, for a small amount of money, can have their lives transformed. There is no-one who has been a better advocate for people in care than Fatima. Through her own personal example and the power of her advocacy she makes change."

**Michael Gove**

"I became a children's writer as a result of an encounter with someone who'd been in care. She'd been in 13 different institutions, had her own child taken into care. She was an advocate for the UN. I asked her, how did you know there was more, that you deserved better? She said, I read Heidi. The power of the right book in the right circumstance. She motivated me to keep going. We're all imprisoned by ideas about class, race, all those things. But knowing there is one book that can blow all those ideas away. Shared reading in early years, for bonding and emotional security.

"Here today, the power of people talking to each other. The synergy that's there between good people and good practice. We can't wait around for governments to push through a piece of legislation, we need to get cracking because children grow up very fast. All these people are in one room and can swap phone numbers."

**Frank Cottrell Boyce, Children's Laureate**

"Some people come out of the care system with positive and life-affirming experiences of the care system. I am living proof that it can work. Fatima has done an exemplary job of getting people here to this summit to talk about this issue. Caring for children has not been prioritised enough. Every child in care should have a counsellor. Without one I would not have made it through my experience of trauma. Every child needs an advocate and access to mental health support. To equip a child to face the world you need to make them feel valued, as they would be within a good family unit. Most children in care do not have a strong sense of self-worth. I was made to feel valued during my life in care and I can't tell you how important that is."

**Ronnie Archer-Morgan**

"Collectively we can ensure that young people who experience the care system get to do the same and achieve just as much as their counterparts who don't. We owe all young people nothing less than that."

**Nicola Sturgeon**

"Being moved far away from their friends and family and frequently having to change placement is a really big problem. The system overall could be reformed to give more stability to the young people involved. The government is showing some real commitment - The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. The system doesn't put the experience of the child at its heart. The room today is full of people with extraordinary expertise and commitment to change."

**Michael Gove**

"I already knew Fatima's back story and realised it was very similar to mine. Being institutionalised and dehumanised...resonates with the broken system at the moment. It stood out for me how hard it is to become a foster carer."

132,000 potential foster carers in the UK but only 1,000 passed through. So people want to give their homes but can't. It's not about fixing things in the end, it's about getting in there from the start....getting the draft paper signed."

**Gemma Oaten**



# Reform the UK Care System, Now! – Every Child Deserves a Chance



## The Issue

**Every Child Deserves a Chance – Reform the UK Care System Now**

🚫 Over 107 children enter the UK care system every single day – and too many are failed by it.

Children in care are frequently moved between placements, lose vital relationships, and suffer disrupted education. These challenges often lead to lower academic achievement, poor mental health, higher rates of criminalisation, and even homelessness. In fact, over one-third of care leavers are homeless within two years of leaving care.

This isn't just a policy issue. This is a national moral crisis.

Children in care did not choose their circumstances. They deserve the same love, safety, and opportunity as every other child.

We demand urgent change.

We are calling on the UK Government to:

- ✓ Appoint a dedicated Minister for Children in Care and Care Leavers
- ✓ Ensure all children are supported in care until age 25
- ✓ Provide early intervention support to keep families safely together
- ✓ Create a National Foster Carer Register to improve safety and oversight
- ✓ Guarantee 30 hours of education and fast-tracked mental health care for all looked-after children
- ✓ Pledge that no care leaver will be homeless before age 25
- ✓ Reform benefits so care leavers can work without losing vital support
- ✓ Incentivise businesses to offer meaningful employment to care leavers
- ✓ Ensure trauma-informed training across the justice system

This petition is part of the Fatima's UK Campaign led by Olympian Fatima Whitbread MBE, herself a care leaver. We know change is possible—but only if enough people demand it.

👉 Sign now.

🗣️ Share widely.

👤👤 Together, let's build a care system that truly cares.

