



# THE BLACK CARE EXPERIENCE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

## WELCOME TO THE BLACK CARE EXPERIENCE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

If you've received this as part of being a member of our Network, or if you've taken the time to download it, we want to Thank You for being a part of our story and legacy.

As you read we hope that you will be inspired and challenged to help play your part in making sure that Black Children and Young People remain connected to their Culture, Identity and Heritage as they journey through the Care System.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

With our Black Care Experience Conference scheduled to take place on Saturday 11th February 2023, we'd like to share with you a few details of what the Conference will entail.

Spaces are LIMITED, so please get your tickets as soon as you can and we look forward to seeing you there.

Once read, if you have any comments, thoughts or suggestions, please feel free to email us, at [office@thetransformedyou.co.uk](mailto:office@thetransformedyou.co.uk)

Also feel free to let us know what is working well and where you may need some help, as together we join forces to continue to make a tangible and lasting difference in the lives of Black Children and Young People in Care.

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THE CULTURALLY  
COMPETENT  
WORKFORCE

[www.theblackcareexperience.co.uk](http://www.theblackcareexperience.co.uk)

Twitter: [@TheBlackCareExp](https://twitter.com/TheBlackCareExp)

Instagram: [@theblackcareexperience](https://www.instagram.com/theblackcareexperience)

# “ CONFERENCE THEME

## **The Culturally Competent Workforce**

In this Year's Conference we'll explore what it really means to be 'culturally competent' and whether being 'culturally competent' can help to improve the Care, Outcomes and Life Chances of Black Children and Young People in Care.

**The Conference will consist of:  
Children's Social Care Workforce Panel  
Chaired by Emma Fincham**

**Member of The Black Care Experience Network Steering Team**

**Antonia Ogundayisi – Service Manager for Anti Racist Practice for Essex County Council**

Antonia is a Social Work Leader with over 13 years of experience in Social Care. She has a particular specialism in Children and Families, Anti-Racist Practice and Youth Justice services. Antonia has worked in a variety of public and voluntary sectors with diverse teams and one of her core missions is to drive racial equity across multiple safeguarding professions. Antonia is passionate about human rights; advocating for the voices that are subjugated and is committed to persisting for racial equity for Black children. Antonia is currently working as a Service Manager for Anti-Racist Practice and is developing a strategy to drive Organisational Change.



**Jacquie Burke – Group Director Children and Education  
for Hackney**

### **Darryl Pottinger**

Darryl is a foster carer with 15 years' experience predominantly caring for children and young people of Black African and Black Caribbean heritage.

His aims and hopes are to provide children and young people with stability, a secure sense of belonging and identity, and opportunities to build and maintain meaningful relationships throughout childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood.



### **Vivian Okeze-Tirado - Winner of the Social Justice Advocate and overall Social Worker of the Year 2021**



In November 2021, Vivian was named social justice advocate and social worker of the year in England at the Social Worker of the Year Awards for her exemplary as a social worker and for creating cultural competence workshops for foster carers and social work colleagues following the murder of George Floyd.

Vivian is the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead for West Sussex County Council Children Services and a practice educator. Prior to this, she worked as an advanced Social Work Practitioner in the Fostering Team for over seven years. Vivian is the Author of Diversity Acrostic Poem – Working with Diversity & Developing Culturally Sensitive Practice is Social Work and Social Care.



**Black Care Experienced Care Leaver Panel**  
**Chaired by Judith Denton, Founder of The Black Care Experience**  
**&**  
**David Akinsanya, Equity Lead for the Integrated Care System in Essex and Suffolk**

**Matthew Page**

Matthew, 49, is a Business Development Manager for a tech firm based in the City of London, he lived in care for 15 years and is now a Foster Carer himself. Matthew recently appeared on the BBC show DNA: Family Secrets with Stacey Dooley which saw him venture on a journey to trace his black roots and to uncover the truth about his heritage. He is passionate about helping children in care find their voice and has been an avid supporter and driver in community projects.



**Mana Gondora**

Mana is the founder of Who Cares Consultancy and a public speaker who often speaks on her own experiences of being in care and advocating for care leavers. Mana is also a programme manager working in Youth Services and specialising in Youth engagement, participation, safeguarding and project management.

**Rebecca Olayinka**

Rebecca is an experienced Social Worker, BIA & Senior Practitioner with a demonstrated history of working in the local government industry. She is also a 3 x contributing author to the book; "Outlanders- Hidden Narratives of Social Workers of Colour and a freelance writer who has published many articles in The Everyday-online Magazine.

Rebecca is very passionate about improving outcomes for Black foster children in care and is currently writing a book about her own experiences as a way to empower other Care Experienced people.



## Queenie Chizea

Queenie is an Interior and Spatial designer, public speaker and community champion. As a versatile creative, Queenie is a multi-disciplinary designer and former Head of Marketing & Communications for a South London based youth charity. She is also the Co-Chair for Big Local Broad Green, a community interest initiative, a Director/Trustee for Croydon Drop-In, and Legacy Youth Zone. She's experienced the care system, adopted and abandoned, using her life experience and story to make a change for children and young people. She is currently building an interior design business and project designing the first homes of care experienced young people which she is very passionate about.

Outside of her day to day, entrepreneurial activities and social impact, Queenie enjoys serving at her local church, Hillsong, as well leading and coaching young adult christian groups, hiking, travelling and reading. She is personally motivated and interested in community and social development.



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## Black Care Experience Celebratory Performances Hosted by Ric Flo, Care-experienced Rap Artist & Creative Director at Mantra Music



## Keeley Stephenson

Keeley is an Award winning community leader and Author, a Poet, an impactful story sharer and the Founder of Care Leaver Legacy. Keeley tends to use her negative experiences as fuel to shape her purpose and influence the individuals around her. One of her greatest passion's is to inspire and uplift the next generation to leave a legacy behind and achieve their absolute BEST.

## Xoul

King Simpson better known by his stage name 'Xoul' is the young recording artist and writer from South London who brings a new wave of versatility to modern music. Combining his unique tone and intricate lyrics with the essence of RnB, Indie, Soul and Hip-Hop, he produces sentimental and thought provoking material. After long thought and preparation, Xoul has introduced his sound to the world with the intention of spreading a message of healing. He encourages his listeners to recognise their emotions truthfully whilst enjoying the journey of life itself. This auspicious talent is one to watch.



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### Conference Date & Time

Saturday 11th February 2023  
10am – 3:30pm

### Where?

ARC Forest Gate  
66A Sebert Road, London, E7 0NJ

### Who Can Attend?

Black Care Experienced Care Leavers (age 18 and above)

Black Family Members who have had experience of Children's Social Care

Children's Social Care Workforce (Directors, Managers, Social Workers, Foster Carers, Local Authority Virtual School, Independent Reviewing Officers, Residential Children's Home Staff and Providers)

Voluntary Sector Children's Social Care Workforce  
Researchers within the Children's Social Care Sector

### Tickets NOW Available on Eventbrite

Pay What You Can

### Parking & Transportation

Parking restrictions are in force in the local area and so we advise you to travel by Public Transport.

The Elizabeth Line will get you to Forest Gate Station, which is a 4 min walk to the venue.

The Overground will get you to Wanstead Park, which is a 5 min walk to the venue.

**Please Note:** Parking is NOT available at the Venue.



# NOTICE BOARD

## JOIN OUR NETWORK

As part of our [Network](#), you'll be a member of a Diverse Community, willing and ready to learn from the Lived Black Care Experience and share best practice, to improve your systems and practice, to ultimately make a difference in the lives of the current and next Black and in Care Generation.

Check out our [Black Care Directory](#). It's a Consortium of Black Owned Businesses with Products and Services to help us all care for the Black Children or Young People in our Care.

## OUR DIRECTORY

## TRAINING & CONSULTATION

We deliver [Training Courses](#) to Empower you with Knowledge & Insight into The Black Care Experience and provide [Bespoke Consultancy Packages](#) to help help your Service achieve its aims and objectives, of making a difference in the lives of black children and young people in your Care.