



THE BLACK CARE EXPERIENCE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Issue 5

WELCOME TO THE BLACK CARE EXPERIENCE 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

In this Month's Newsletter, you'll hear about our 2nd Black Care Experience Conference, The Black Care Experience Charter, our Interview with a Black Care Leaver, and information about our new Handbooks 'Our Hair Care, Our Skin Care' and 'We Are Not The Same, Africa and The Caribbean'.

Once read, if you have any comments or thoughts, please feel free to share them with us, by emailing us at office@thetransformedyou.co.uk

Also feel free to share any best practice with us, 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.

“

THE BLACK CARE EXPERIENCE CHARTER

www.theblackcareexperience.co.uk

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

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



OUR CONFERENCE

The Culturally Competent Workforce

ON SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2023,
WE HOSTED OUR SECOND BLACK CARE EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE.

Attended by 126 delegates from Children's Social Care Workforce, the Voluntary Sector within Children's Social Care sector and the Black Care Experienced from England, Scotland and Wales, we gathered together to 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 and keep them connected to their Culture, Identity and Heritage whilst in the Care System.



From hearing the Children's Social Care Workforce Panel, our delegates were able to gather together in small groups to discuss what they heard in readiness to feedback on the question 'What must Culturally Competency include?'.



From hearing the true voice of our Black Care Experience Care Leaver Panel, our delegates were able to gather together in small groups to discuss what they heard in readiness to feedback on the question *“What do you need to know when raising a black child or young person in Children’s Social Care?”*.



Whilst the footage of our Conference is available to watch [here](#), the small group breakout sessions could not be filmed. With that in mind, the findings from those sessions can be found in our The Black Care Experience Conference Report 2023 [here](#).

Further on in our Conference, to celebrate and affirm our Black Care Experienced Delegates, gifts were given to our Raffle winners, and we were moved and uplifted by the power packed messages from our Care Experienced Artists, expressing their Black Care Experience journey through a Spoken Word and Vocal Performance.



Joining hands with this diverse Network, we continue to see that changing the narrative for our Black Care Experienced is indeed necessary and possible.

Let's hear from some of our Delegates...



OUR CONFERENCE

What People Are Saying

"What a powerful & amazing day. It was a privilege to be a part of it. There are so many lessons I will take away for my students to ensure they are equipt to be the change that is needed in practice"

— LEAH PRICE - COX, UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER

"This Conference does something that no other can do. The power of lived experience cannot be underestimated, the most insightful event I have ever attended. Thank you."

— SARAH THOMAS, DIRECTOR FOR WALES & ENGLAND
AT THE FOSTERING NETWORK

"The Conference gave me the chance to listen to lived experiences and understand the need to push for black care experienced stories/voices."

— JASMIN - KASAYA PILLING, GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL OVERSEAS
ENROLMENT, PROMISE SCOTLAND BOARD MEMBER.
WHO CARES SCOTLAND NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER

"A much needed challenge to all of us with a caring investment in children, but also a powerful celebration of the talents and tenacity of care experienced people. Simply fantastic!"

— KAYLEIGH BROUGHTON, CONSULTANT SOCIAL WORKER

More Testimonials can be found [here](#).



THE BLACK CARE EXPERIENCE CHARTER

WHAT IS IT?

To build on the work we have started, we launched and presented our Black Care Experience Charter, at Conference 2023. Our Charter is a declaration of support and a set of commitments from The Workforces (Children’s Social Care Workforce and the Independent and Voluntary Organisations within this sector) to improve the Care, Outcomes and Life Chances of the Black Child or Young Person and keep them connected to their Culture, Identity and Heritage as they journey through the Care System.

Our Charter brings to life the legal duty of Care stated in The Children Act 1989 *“Local Authorities are to give consideration to the religious persuasion, racial origin, cultural and linguistic background” of the child to be placed”*.

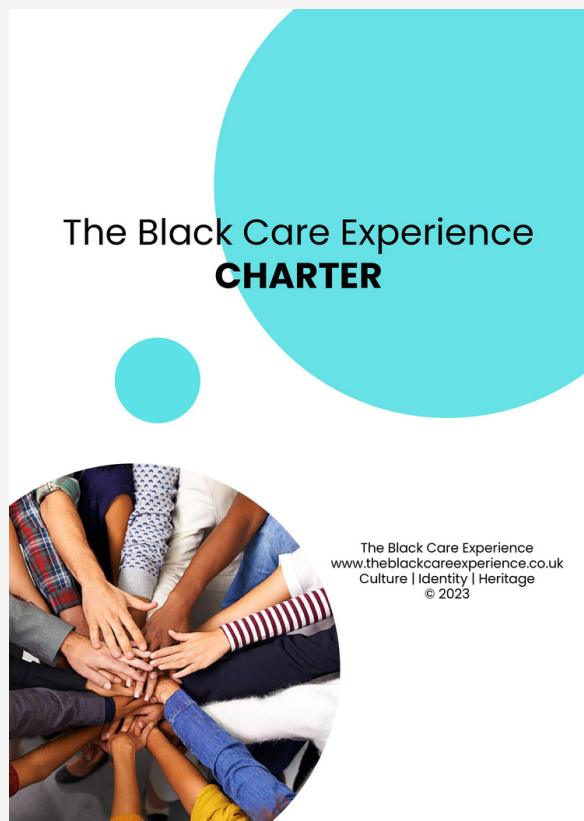
It will also bring to life the legal duty of Care outlined in The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 4: Fostering Services *“Foster Carers should be informed, trained and confident about dealing with issues relating to gender, religion, ethnic origin, cultural background, linguistic background, nationality, disability or sexual orientation, involving external professional advice and support as necessary”*.

Implementing Our Charter into your Service and Practice will help to see Black Children and Young People have a better Care Experience.

THE 8 CHARTER DECLARATIONS/COMMITMENTS

- 1.The Workforces to actively address the systemic racial inequalities and discrimination on every level across the Departments and Services.
- 2.The Workforces to be Culturally Competent, on every level across the Departments and Services.
- 3.Work alongside Services that are culturally specific and competent to work with the Black Community.

4. Proactively seek to know and document the ethnicity of each and every Black Child or Young Person being placed in Care.
5. Create a safe, relatable space for the True Voice of the Black Child or Young Person to be heard about how they are experiencing the System.
6. Create paid opportunities (inline with Industry/Sector standard rates of Pay) for Black Care Experienced Care Leavers to Consult, join Advisory Groups, co-produce and deliver training to the Workforces, from a Black Care Experienced perspective.
7. The Workforces to collate real time data on both, the Care Journey and Outcomes of the Black Child and Young Person.
8. The Workforces, to create their own Bespoke Policy on how to Care for and meet the needs of the Black Child or Young Person in Care.



More details and insight into The Black Care Experience Charter can be found [here](#).

SIGN UP TO THE BLACK CARE EXPERIENCE CHARTER

If you are part of a Team, Service, Department within Children's Social Care, are Independent within the Sector or are part of a Team, Service, Department within the Voluntary Sector of Children's Social Care, signing up to The Black Care Experience Charter would be your commitment to improve the Care, Outcomes and Life Chances of the Black Child or Young Person in your Care, and keep them connected to their Culture, Identity and Heritage as they journey through the Care System.

Details of how to sign up can be found [here](#).



OUR STORIES



What is your name?

My name is Ric Flo Diaghe

What do you do?

A lot! Freelance Motion Graphics, Rapper, I was previously in a signed rap collective called Jungle Brown. I also wrote a solo album about my experience in foster care, this led me to doing songwriting workshops within the care sector which eventually gave me the idea to start Mantra Music CIC – a record label that supports care experienced artists with their music talent.

Tell us about Mantra Music

There is a lack of representation of care experienced artists within the music industry and the Mantra Music initiative is here to have a ripple effect to combat that and give a platform to the next gen of voices.

Mantra Music is here to boost the future aspirations of care-experienced people regardless of past circumstances.

The label which is essentially a pilot project wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the support of Youth Music and Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

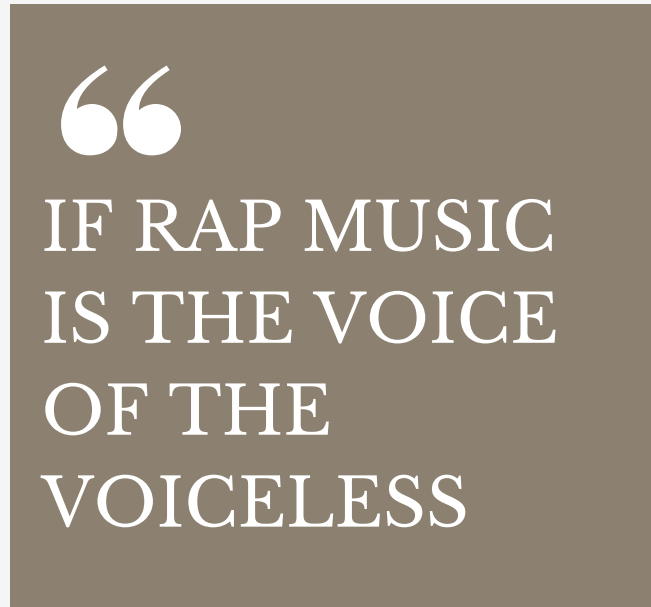
Why did you set up Mantra Music?

I always wondered if rap music is the voice of the voiceless, why have I never heard from the perspective of someone who has been in foster care.

This was the curiosity better yet mantra of my music journey so after meeting care experience young people with talent but not the excess to equipment or people in the industry, it felt important I help with my experience in the music industry.

Who did you work with? (The Care Leavers)

- Dialectic Dee - Spoken word artist and Sickle Cell Advocate
- YD The Lone Wolf - Melodic Trap and Drill Artist
- Utelka – Singer and Topliner
- Xoul - Singer/Rapper
- Guy Freeman - Singer / Storyteller



For more elaborate description and link to their profiles, please visit <https://mantramusic.co.uk/the-artists>

Also the impact and perspective of how these Artists feel about Mantra can be seen in our mini-doc directed by Carlos Torres <https://mantramusic.co.uk/documentary>.

Where can we hear Mantra Music? Does Mantra Music have an EP or album coming out soon?

The plan was originally to do an album yes! But the reality is these artist have different timelines for when they material is ready and I was very ambition for what could be achieved in 9 months.. its best to follow all of them to find out the latest on their solo music.

A couple things I can inform you on though is:

Utelka has a Drum and Bass song produced by lyre coming out on the UKF in the summer – its a banger! Daz the director shot the music video for it last week and looks so good. Its also Utelka's first music video so its a big moment not only for the song being on a renowned label but also for the experience of doing her first music video and the standard has been set high!

Xoul has recently wrapped up his first proper music video which is more like film directed by award winning James Webber and additionally supported by Drive Forward Foundation. It was a very powerful message behind the song and excited to see that out by the summer too.

Tell us about the MPG Inspiration Award

Music Producers Guild recognize and celebrate some of the most remarkable and exciting talent in the history of music recording.

I was awarded the Inspiration in Music Award for my work at Mantra Music.

It was pretty surreal, to feel like an outsider to a big exempt within the music industry yet being recognised by a renowned organisation with producers in the room who have worked with Stormzy, Ed Sheeran, Harry Styles and Adele was wild – the experience is still sinking in.

The grime legend Kano who presented Fraser T Smith with an award even come up to me and said I respect what your doing.

What is next for Mantra Music?

I learnt a lot from the first year pilot, theres a lot I will change if I get the right funding moving forward. But overall the mission of giving a platform to disadvantaged talented that the world should be listening to has been initiated, the success of these artists will be a feedback loop to why Mantra Music is important.



You'll definitely being hearing more music from the 2022 cohort very soon.

The MPG Award has also gave me the opportunity to speak to potential funders and industry folk who want to help in some way so watch this space.

What advice/encouragement would you give to the current and next black and in care generation?

We live in a time where you can put your passion online and if people like it they will clearly tell you. You have the opportunity to speak directly to an audience without gatekeepers. Make the most of this because it wasn't this easy in the past. And your path wont be easy, you already know that but if you follow what moves you and educate yourself to be the best version of you, your potential will literally be limitless.

Be the change and representation you want to see in the world, thats all I did with my art and I never fathomed I would get this far. Imagine what you can do when you put your mind to it.

If there are any Black Care Experienced Care Leavers who would like to have your Story featured in our Newsletter, please contact us at Office@thetransformedyou.co.uk

We understand the sensitivity around sharing your Story and want to let you know that you have the option to share anonymously or with your name.

Thank you in advance for getting in Contact as together we can use our Voices and our Experience to make a difference for the next Black and In Care Generation.



OUR NEW HANDBOOKS

We Are Not The Same - Africa and The Caribbean



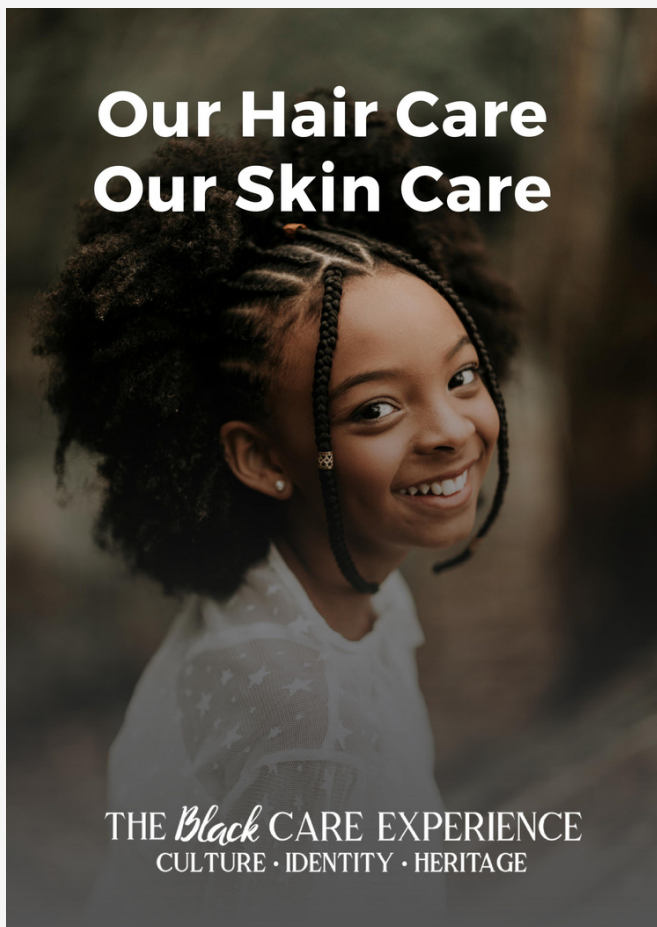
Our Handbook will provide you with the basic understanding of the 54 African Countries and the 34 Caribbean Countries from where the Black Children and Young People in your Care, may originate.

Available to purchase [here](#).



OUR NEW HANDBOOKS

Our Hair Care, Our Skin Care



Our Handbook will provide you with in depth insight from our Experts, on how to care for the Hair and Skin of Black Children and Young People in Children's Social Care.

Available to purchase [here](#).



Donation

DONATE TO THE BLACK CARE EXPERIENCE

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL GO TOWARDS OUR WORK OF:

- Creating our Newsletters and Publications
- Hosting our Conferences and Pop Up Events
- Campaigning to make sure the experiences of those who are Black and In Care, are no longer hidden from History, Legislation and Policy

In essence your donation will help us not have to wait another 40 years to see a change in the Care, Outcomes and Life Chances of the current and next Black and In Care generation.

Thank you for standing with us.
Together we can make a difference.

[DONATE HERE](#)



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 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.

Have you signed up to [The Black Care Experience Charter](#)?

SIGN UP TO OUR CHARTER