



Annual Report

2007 – 2008

Will McMahon (Chair)

Suite F113, 23, New Mount Street, Manchester, M4 4DE

Telephone: 0161 953 4047 Email: info@careleavers.com

Websites: www.careleavers.com www.careleaversreunited.com

Care Leavers Association is a not-for-profit company, registered in England and Wales
and limited by guarantee: company number 5204243.

Care Leavers Association is a Registered Charity in England and Wales: charity number 1111988

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Our Aims and Values

The Care Leavers' Association is a not-for-profit organization, run by care leavers for care leavers. All individuals over the age of 18 with experience of being in care are entitled to full membership. We work for the benefit of all care leavers, of any age.

Our Purpose:

To end the economic and social disadvantage of those who were in care by achieving significant, positive change.

Our Vision:

Care leavers being fully represented and participating at all levels of economic, social and public life.

Means of Achieving Our Purpose:

- Provision of an arena where care leavers can work together to achieve common goals;
- Supporting care leavers who have suffered neglect or abuse;
- Helping with access to childhood case records, so that care leavers may understand their past;
- Provision of other support and information services to care leavers.
- Advocating for the improvement of leaving-care provision, so that current and future care leavers may enjoy better life outcomes;
- Highlighting discrimination when it occurs, so that care leavers may enjoy the same rights and opportunities as others;
- Challenging negative stereotypes, so that care leavers do not suffer from the ignorance of others;
- Promoting, conducting and publishing research so as to raise public awareness of the needs of care leavers.

The C.L.A. is an independent organization and is not affiliated to any political party.

A message from the Chair

Twelve months ago the CLA had secure funding until the summer of 2008 and, while we had been working hard at fund raising, in the medium term the future of the organisation was still not secure. Since then we have successfully raised three years' core funding of £175,000 in total from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and the Lankelly Chase Foundation, both to which we offer our sincerest thanks for showing confidence in our cause and plans.

Esmee Fairbairn's grant has allowed us to secure the employment of Victoria Hull, our National Development Worker for three years and to develop the membership and services aspect of our work. The Lankelly Chase grant of £50,000 spread over three years has allowed us to appoint a three day a week office administrator, Vicky Halliwell. The C.L.A. came within a month of having to close the national office because of a lack of funds in the summer of 2007 so our success in fund raising is an excellent change in fortune and one that came about because of the hard work of the C.L.A. Executive and in particular that of Victoria Hull who showed real commitment when future funding was not certain.

We have made some headway in our Access to Records Campaign (we hope to have launched a new quality mark for local authorities in October, 2008) and also in our presence in the media and Parliament. However, this has not been as much as we wished because the C.L.A. Executive took the decision to

ensure that we played an effective role in the emerging historic child abuse inquiry in Jersey.



Chris Simpson (C.L.A. Executive member) and Jersey care leavers at the UK Houses of Parliament.

We make no apology for putting other plans on hold nor for being unable to respond to other issues that we might have got involved with in order to support the care leavers in Jersey. These care leavers have formed the Jersey Care Leavers' Association and as a result, rather than simply being presented as victims of the situation, have played a leading role in helping the island come to terms with the abuse scandal and created a space where those affected by these events can come together and support each other.

One plan put on hold was the development of C.L.A. membership. Our first attempt at drawing in new members was based on travelling to cities that we had not previously visited in order to hold meetings. We did hope that a number of new people would come along to these meetings. However, this proved not to be the case and visits to Leeds, Bristol and Glasgow did not draw in as many care leavers as we would have liked relative to our efforts. This said we did get very good media coverage for our Bristol visit thanks to the excellent work carried out by David Wood. We must nevertheless think again about how to generate new members to the C.L.A.

On the other hand, the Careleavers Reunited (C.L.R.) website has continued to grow at a pace. In November 2007, there were 2,472 members and 1,050 homes. At the time of writing (18/10/08), there are 3,620 members and 1,308 homes. We have taken the decision to merge the C.L.R. website with the main Care Leavers' Association website because we want to encourage those who join C.L.R. to be more aware of the organisation that lies behind its success and to join the C.L.A. We are hoping to have the new website up and running by the end of March 2009.



**Will McMahon
Chair**

In the middle of all of this we also managed to fit in an office move in April 2008 which came about because our landlords, G.M.C.V.O. gave us notice to quit their premises due to their building redevelopment plans. We will be looking for permanent accommodation once we have held our 2008 Annual General Meeting.

In the next year we will have the resources to put the C.L.A. on a firmer footing, to write new fundraising bids for projects that we have long wanted to develop, to strengthen the network of care leavers in the UK and, crucially, to develop the organisation's administrative structures. We are also keen to develop an international network of care leavers through exploring possible links in Europe and further afield.

So, there is a lot to do but we are certain that with the support of our members and those on the Careleavers Reunited website we will be able, once again, to make progress.

Will McMahon
Chair, C.L.A.
October, 2008

Secretary's Report

Main activities

Minutes of Meetings.

I continue to take the minutes at all Executive and Open meetings. These are then typed up, agreed with the Chair and the National Development Worker and then distributed to the rest of the Executive Committee. There have been ten Executive meetings in the past year.

Line Management of National Development Worker.

As Line Manager, I usually see Victoria Hull in the office in Manchester at reasonably regular intervals (we also keep in regular touch by telephone and email). We have had fourteen meetings in total in the last year.



Jim Goddard



Victoria Hull

Move to new premises.

Scouting for the new office (conducted by Victoria) followed the news that the G.M.C.V.O. was going to be redeveloped and would therefore no longer be able to house us. We were under pressure to find alternative premises within a limited time frame but were able to find suitable accommodation at 23, New Mount Street in central Manchester. This is considerably more expensive than our old office, but manageable within our budget. Victoria and I viewed it on 21st of January. The Executive subsequently agreed the move and we moved into our new premises during the spring. Honor Donnelly helped me and Victoria with the move.

Jersey.

I have visited the island on five occasions during the year. Jersey has taken up a lot of our time (especially Will's who has been the lead person on Jersey matters) for very good reason this past eight months. We have managed to secure a significant amount of publicity and to help support the development of a Jersey Care Leavers' Association on the island. This association is now playing a significant role in winning support and promoting justice for the care leavers of Jersey who were victims of abuse on the island.

Employment of New Administrative Worker.

Once we had achieved funding for this post, interviews took place on 19th August, 2008 and were conducted by Will, Victoria and myself. We appointed Vicky Halliwell, who started with us a few weeks later and now works in the office for three days a week. Vicky Halliwell will take on many of the administrative tasks formerly performed by Victoria Hull and will allow the C.L.A. to considerably widen its work with members and with outside organizations. In terms of day-to-day line management this is handled by Victoria Hull through agreement and discussion with Vicky. In terms of personnel issues (holidays, contract etc.), these are dealt with by myself.

Attendance at Public Events.

On behalf of the C.L.A., I have given presentations in a number of contexts this year:

- A presentation with Victoria at a Community Care Magazine event on 30th November.
- Training for the Leaving Care Company in Oldham, with Victoria, on 24th January
- A presentation with Victoria at a Social Policy Association conference on User Perspectives in Social Care on 24th June.
- A presentation at the Open Meeting held on Jersey on 26th July.

Also, in the last year, I have taken part in various interviews.

'365' – A Play on Leaving Care.

In the early part of this year, we were contacted by the Scottish National Theatre about a play they were developing on the subject of leaving care. The project sounded good so we agreed to publicize it amongst our members and a number of them provided stories to the playwright. The play subsequently appeared at the Edinburgh Festival and C.L.A. member Zachari Duncalf and I went to see it on 24th August. A number of other members saw it when it came to London and all were impressed by the final result. The play generated considerable publicity and was seen by those C.L.A. members who saw it as a good way of highlighting the issues of young people leaving care.

A rewarding year.

The Secretary's task is wide-ranging but the above summary covers some of the major activities involved. It has been a rewarding year with the C.L.A. growing significantly in terms of its influence and profile.

**Jim Goddard,
Secretary, C.L.A.
October, 2008.**

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the audited accounts are available to members.

This year we have made better progress with donations which amount to £3,066.87. In addition to this the Association will receive an extra £794.26 in unclaimed gift aid.

Membership fees for this year amount to £518. We are slightly down on membership this year with 73 members compared to 76 in 2006/7.

The new office is costing £700 per month in rent compared to the previous costs of £190 per month; members may wish to consider the long-term implications of these costs.

The bike ride brought in £1200; well done to all who helped.

The Jersey fund peaked at £6,310.

You will note from the accounts the huge rise in meeting and travel expenses for the Executive. It may therefore be prudent to rethink the venues/location of meetings.

Given the low turnout for the open meetings it may be worth considering other ways to communicate with the membership.

Vicky Halliwell has had training to use 'Quickbooks' an accounting tool favoured by the voluntary sector. This should result in easy production of financial records and forecasts for each meeting.

The new treasurer may well want to implement a reserve policy to safeguard the organization in these uncertain times.

**Mary Clear,
Treasurer, C.L.A.,
October, 2008.**



Mary Clear

About the C.L.A.

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Charity Number: 1111988

Company Number: 5204243

Registered Office: Care Leavers' Association,
F113, 23 New Mount Street,
Manchester.
M4 4DE

The Care Leavers' Association has a board trustees. These trustees form the Executive Committee. Members of the Executive Committee are nominated and elected annually by members of the Care Leavers' Association in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The trustees are also directors of the company.

Current Executive Committee/Trustees:

Will McMahon	(Chair)
Jim Goddard	(Secretary)
Mary Clear	(Treasurer)
David Wood	
Christopher Simpson	
Stephen Norman	
Honor Donnelly	
Michelle Jobson	
Michael Shelton	

Staff: Victoria Hull (National Development Worker).
Victoria Halliwell (Office Administrator).

Principal Bankers: The Cooperative Bank Plc,
King's Valley,
Yew Street,
Stockport.
SK4 2JU

Accountants: Community Accountancy
Services Ltd.,
The Grange,
Pilgrim Drive
Beswick,
Manchester.
M11 37Q

Current Funders: The Tudor Trust,
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation,
Lankelly Chase.

