

Dear All,

We are writing to you as HMP Risley Care Leavers group. We are a support group which started in the Belief in Change programme based in Risley prison who have all been in the care system whether it be foster care or local authority care.

We discuss issues that may have an impact on one another and as a group we work out ways to deal with the issues in a positive and respectful way rather than a negative and self-destructive way as most of us have always done.

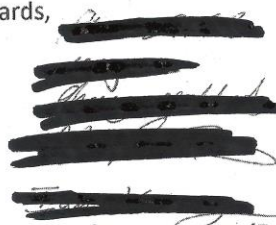

Each week we are growing in confidence and we are all feeling the benefits of the group. There are some men who when we first started the group wouldn't speak now they are comfortable holding a session on their own and giving other men advice. We work with group members on a one to one basis also.

We are currently working closely with Darren Coyne from the Care Leavers Association who has given us all the belief that life after care and prison can be fulfilling. Darren has offered to train some men as qualified mentors which gives us the tools, so to speak, to deal with all kinds of problems and if need be refer the men to other agencies within Risley prison.

The qualification can also be used to great use upon release within the community. We now know as a support group it is so important for men in jail to work through there issues in a safe environment and most of all with people who have been in a similar situation and understand your struggles.

This is an amazing support group by the lads 4 the lads and long may the gratification continue. Many thanks for taking the time to listen we look forward to your support.

Best Regards,

HMP Risley care leavers group (Belief in Change)

CARE LEAVERS GROUP

Who are we:

- We are a group who have all been in the care system.
- We come together every week on E-Wing to discuss any problems that we may be having.
- Were a friendly bunch of lad's who are always here to listen and give support.

We offer:

- Support
- Understanding
- Confidentiality
- Respect

We can also help you with regards, to gaining access to your social care files, mentor training and we also have inspirational speakers who come in to boost morale.

Facts you may not know:

25% of prisoners have been taken into care as a child, almost half of young men (49%) with a care experience have come into contact with the criminal justice system.

For more information put in a general application to Believe in Change / Care Leavers Group.