

NATIONAL CARE LEAVERS MONTH

NOVEMBER 2026

#NCLM





Please can you let us know (in the chat) which region your organisation is from this list

**Northwest, Northeast,
Yorkshire and Humberside,
West Midlands, East Midlands,
East of England,
Southwest, Southeast,
Inner or Outer London
Northern Ireland
National Organisation**

Make a note of people from similar regions – could you collaborate with them in NCLM



WHAT IS NATIONAL CARE LEAVERS MONTH (NCLM)?

Celebrate: *care leavers/care experienced individuals.*

Amplify: *their voices.*

Raise: *awareness of challenges.*

Encourage: *change in policy and practice.*

We chose the hashtag #NCLM



WHEN IS NCLM?

The whole month
of November!

2026		NOVEMBER					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						



WHO PLANS NCLM?

NCLM is developed each year by care experienced individuals and professionals from [the Alliance for Children in Care and Care Leavers.](#)

The NCLM steering group includes Catch 22 NLCBF/YPBMF, Become, Coram Voice, National House Project, Barnardo's, Rees Foundation, The Care Leaver Covenant and Drive Forward



WHY NATIONAL CARE LEAVERS MONTH (NCLM)?

- We spent lots of time talking about language
- Especially whether the month should be National Care Experienced Month or National Care Leavers Month
- In the end over 200 care experienced people chose to go with Care Leaver.
- But if you prefer to use the term National Care Experienced Month that's no problem, but if you can please still tag the hashtag #NCLM so we can still celebrate and promote your voice and work

WHO DECIDED THE THEME?

Each year a consultation takes place to ensure that care experienced individuals have the opportunity to be involved with the planning of NCLM. The theme forms part of this consultation process.

In 2026 over 100 care experienced individuals contributed and shared their views. A group from the overall planning group met to review this and narrowed this down to three options, which then went back out for consultation.

The winning theme was...



WHAT IS THE THEME?

Leading the Way: From Experience to Empowerment

In 2026 the theme highlights Care Experienced individuals as leaders in their own lives and drivers of real change in the sector.

<https://leavingcare.org/nclm-2026-final-theme/>

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

- Plan or attend events and activities
- Promote campaigns and celebrations
- Provide discounts and giveaways
- Offer training or work opportunities
- Other offers for care experienced People
- Shout about it!!



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/fTVLCXhAYV>



NCLM Scrapbook:

A simple idea for groups, events or individuals during National Care Leavers Month is to create a social media post including a reflection around either the theme:

Leading the Way: From Experience to Empowerment

Or using the Call to Action

Celebrate: *care leavers/care experienced individuals.*

Amplify: *their voices.*

Raise: *awareness of challenges.*

Encourage: *change in policy and practice.*



NCLM Scrapbook:

The post could be a picture of some artwork, some words on a post it note or paper, a video – be as creative as you want!

All we ask is that wherever you post it that you use the National Care Leavers Month hashtags and we will try to capture as much as we can in our digital NCLM Scrapbook after November.

For professionals we also ask you to think about the A – Amplify “their voices” no one says it more authentically than a care experienced individual so why not boost that voice in NCLM

#NCLM #LeadingTheWay



Promoting with digital social media assets

- Our Design and Coms group have created some vibrant social media and digital assets for you to use with your events, campaigns and promotion materials for NCLM
- This includes logos, posters, Instagram templates, email signature strips
- If you use Canva you can access here:
 - Socials – <https://canva.link/w88at2mnc4dwxi6>
 - One Pager – <https://canva.link/o6q1vdz8c5g2aze>
 - Save the date Banner – <https://canva.link/pmj1rsnow3w220h>
- Or download assets from here <https://leavingcare.org/share-the-events-and-offers-you-are-planning-for-national-care-leavesr-month/>



MERCHANDISE

This year for the first time we have NCLM merchandise!

In collaboration with Madlug we are developing hoodies, pin badges and some other items which will be available to purchase via Madlugs website in October

All proceeds will go to supporting care-experienced young people through Madlug's programme.

MERCHANDISE – Madlug NCLM Hoodies



NCLM '26 Hoodies

£30 (Inc Vat) + delivery

With every hoodie purchased Madlug will gift a pack-away travel bag to a care experienced individual

MERCHANDISE - Hoodies



Order here:

<https://www.madlug.com/collections/nclm-merch>



MERCHANDISE – 32mm Button Badges



Prices for the button badges:

250 = £193 + VAT (77p each)

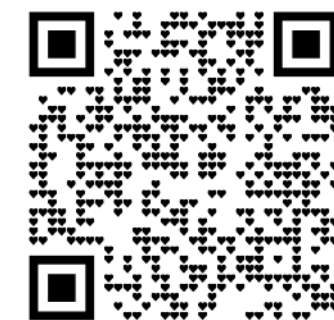
500 = £273 + VAT (55p each)

1000 = £427 + VAT (43p each)

2500 = £805 + VAT (32p each)

Order here:

<https://www.madlug.com/collections/nclm-merch>



MERCHANDISE – In the pipeline



- Laptop stickers (hopefully this year)
- Travel mugs (probably next year)
- Pin badges (enamel – possibly next year)
- Any ideas? Things you would like to help with



WHO CAN PLAN NCLM EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES?

NCLM events can be planned with care-experienced individuals by Local Authorities, charities and other organisations e.g. businesses, universities

Anyone really but wherever possible try to involve care experienced individuals in your planning



EVENT IDEAS

NCLM events are an opportunity to come together celebrate care-experienced individuals and create new opportunities.

Not forgetting the theme:

**Leading the Way: From Experience to
Empowerment**

Hull



Date: Nov/Dec 2025



Newsletter

Newsletter for Young People by Young People

Care Leavers Month



Picture: Kevin Greene Photography

You are invited to The Blue Diamond Awards 2025

Who are we? We are celebrating the achievements of our young people

Thursday 14th November 2025
Hull College (Diamonds Building)
4 - 10.30pm

Most award winning care leavers go on to...

Young people shine at the Annual Blue Diamond Awards 2025






Friday 7th Nov - 12.30 - 3pm

Room 42 Art & Craft

Art & Craft session with Room 42

Friday 14th Nov - 12.30 - 3pm

R42 Drop in - Wellbeing walk

Walk through the city centre onto the River Humber
Coffee at the Deep on the way back

Friday 21st Nov - 12.30 - 3pm

Room 42 - Q4CL

Check out and take home a hand made quilty Hug

Friday 28th Nov - 12.30 - 2.30pm

Room 42 - Positivitree

Planning meeting for the Positivitree project



Charities and Organisations

- Coffee, Cake, Crafts & Companionship - meetup for Care Experienced & Estranged Students – Unite Foundation @Warwick Uni
- Your Rights, Your Voice, Your Future – Become (Online Workshops)
- National Light Up – light your public buildings blue for NCLM (Care Leaver Covenant initiative)
- Positivitree – plant a tree to celebrate your Local Offer improvements or Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic (NLCBF initiative)

Charities and Organisations

- Beyond the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill: improving support for care leavers (Barnardos Parliamentary event last year)
- Series of programmes on National Prison Radio (HMPPS)
- Creative Writing Project – The aftercare project
- Film Launch: Shared Lives for Young People Leaving Care Programme <https://youtu.be/RtmrIBbec>

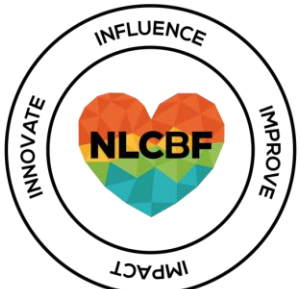
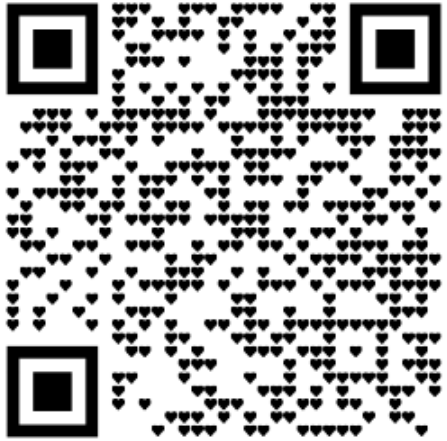
care leavers
app.



UNITED FOR CHANGE

FOR CARE LEAVERS

**17TH NOVEMBER 2026,
THE VOX, BIRMINGHAM**



**catch
22**



NHP
Living connected
and fulfilling lives

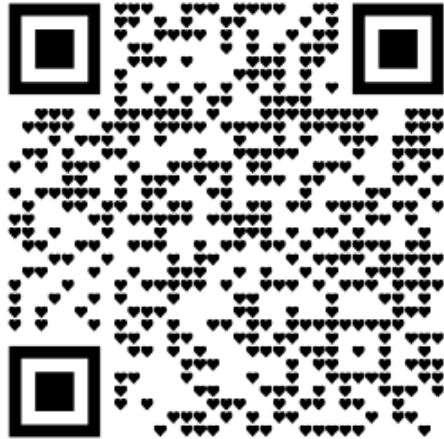


**CARE LEAVERS
NATIONAL MOVEMENT**



UNITED FOR CHANGE
FOR CARE LEAVERS

**17TH NOVEMBER 2026,
THE VOX, BIRMINGHAM**



What's Happening?

Co-designed with care experienced young people

Co-hosted by Ashley John Baptiste, YPBMF & CLNM

Care experienced keynote speakers x 4
(Terry Galloway, Lucy Barnes, Victoria Odude, Kiyia Atkinson)

Show and share – 9 examples of good practice

In Their Own words & CLNM Peer Evaluation - young people's messages

Care experienced performances x 5

Panel conversations – young people + professionals and a corporate parents panel

Over 100 LAs already signed up and over 500 people so far

Aimed at care experienced young people, government, business, LAs and charities

Light Up for NCLM led by the Care Leavers Covenant



Light Up for NCLM



- The **National Light Up** sees buildings, statues, monuments and spaces across England illuminated in blue.
- We call on councils, colleges, universities and other public buildings e.g. faith institutions such as churches, mosques and synagogues - to light up and celebrate the care experienced community.
- We would also like commercial buildings and visitor attractions to demonstrate their allyship and solidarity through this visual symbol of support.
- Buildings can be lit up for an hour, a day, a week or across the entire month.
- The colour code for is Pantone **C38/C52** or **HEX #7ecde8**.
- Please share photos of your building lit up on social media (#NCLM) and send pictures to us at info@mycovenant.org.uk. We will feature some on our channels.

Breakout – your plans

- Introduce yourself – organisation and name
- Have you got any plans for NCLM already?
- What would you like to do for NCLM?
- What are you most excited for in NCLM?
- Are there any opportunities you are aware of?

(15 mins)

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/fTVLCXhAYV>





Feedback & Questions

Tell us about your plans

- We hope you find the theme useful and we can't wait to hear about your plans for NCLM.
- Every year we create a programme of events and opportunities in NCLM and share it with individuals and organisations – we want to celebrate your work
- Please complete this form to feature in the first edition of our National Care Leavers Month programme **by Friday 23rd October at 5pm.**

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/fTVLCXhAYV>





We are looking forward to seeing what will
happen during NCLM 2026!

Don't forget to share what you get up to using
the hashtag:

#NCLM #LeadingTheWay

THANK YOU