

The Mighty Creatives secures funding to support children and young people in care and care leavers

The Mighty Creatives receives support to launch one-to-one Creative Mentoring for children in care, as well as care leavers, across the next eighteen months.

5th November 2020, Leicester, UK – The Mighty Creatives, the leading cultural education charity in the East Midlands, has been announced as one of seven organisations to receive funding from a pot of nearly £2 million.

The funding was announced on the 29th October, during National Care Leavers' Week, by What Works for Children's Social Care (WWCSC). With around 78,150 children in care and 11,000 young people aged 16-18 leaving care every year, according to the latest government figures for England, reaching these young people has never been more critical.

Provided by a team of specialist Creative Mentors, the tried and tested Creative Mentoring model (pioneered by Derbyshire Virtual School) has been developed for children and young people in the care system who are at greatest risk of not being in education, employment or training. Creative Mentoring activity takes place at home, school or social care settings, across 8 Local Authorities in the East Midlands, and is specially designed to develop creativity and confidence, while improving communication and relationship building.

Creative Mentors working as part of this programme hold a wide range of creative and artistic backgrounds. This includes performance artists, musicians, storytellers, poets, rap artists, potters, photographers and film makers, textile artists and theatre practitioners, painters, woodworkers, and metal workers.

Kim Johnson, Arts Education Consultant at Derbyshire Virtual Schools comments:

"This award has come just at the right time, to provide high quality support for children and young people who are already disadvantaged and at greatest risk of missing out on education achievement. Whatever their circumstances, no matter how challenging, Creative Mentors will help children and young people feel more connected to others outside of their immediate care network and help them find and develop their interests and enable positive achievement."

Nick Owen, CEO at The Mighty Creatives, speaks of the funding:

"The challenges currently faced by young people in care are unprecedented. We are hugely grateful to What Works for Children's Social Care for their recognition of the valuable work we are undertaking with Derbyshire Virtual School. We are determined to make a significant positive difference to their lives by equipping them with the resilience to survive and creatively survive in these unprecedented times."

For more information on The Mighty Creatives' Creative Mentoring programme, visit their [website](#).

Hear first-hand from a Creative Mentor [here](#).

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About The Mighty Creatives

Established in 2009, [The Mighty Creatives](#) is a charity which has transformed the lives of children and young people through arts, culture and creativity. Based at the heart of the cultural quarter in Leicester, our beneficiaries are children and young people from birth to 30 years old across the East Midlands.

We work in partnership with children and young people, key funders and sector partners to champion, develop, deliver and grow:

- services that can be scaled up, demonstrate reach and result in significant and measurable cultural and social impacts
- inspiring opportunities for children and young people to engage with arts and culture
- investment in children and young people's own creative skills, knowledge and practice
- capacity in the cultural and education sectors to support the infrastructure of the region
- programmes of cultural and creative education regionally, nationally and internationally
- models of practice which ensure that the creative voices of children and young people are at the heart of all our programmes.

For other press and media enquiries please contact Bethany@themightycreatives.com or call 0116 2616 834