



Annual Report

2009 – 2010

Will McMahon (Chair)

Unit 27, Express Networks, 1, George Leigh Street, Manchester. M4 5DL

Email: info@careleavers.com

Websites: www.careleavers.org www.careleaversreunited.org

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

Contents

Our aims and values.	Page 2
A message from the Chair	Page 3
Secretary's Report	Page 4
Treasurer's Report	Page 8
About the C.L.A.	Page 9

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 as children 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 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

This year has been yet another one of development and growth for the Care Leavers' Association. For example, I mentioned in last year's annual report that our membership had just reached above the dizzy heights of 100; this year I can report that membership has more than doubled in number to well over 240 – this represents a substantial step forward for the CLA. Much of this growth has been due to the re-design of the CLA websites and to us being able to offer membership, on an 'opt-in opt-out' basis to every care leaver who registers on the 'Careleaversreunited' section of the site. Alongside this growth in membership there has been a growth in donations from members, either as cash or cheques or in the form of a monthly or quarterly standing orders.



Will McMahon
Chair

At the same time as the membership growing, the fund-raising team has been working away behind the scenes to raise grants from charitable trusts to employ additional staff and to carry out new activities. Both the Henry Smith Charity and the Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales have shown great confidence in the CLA by awarding us the funds to employ staff who will aim to develop the reach of the CLA with both the younger and older care leaver communities. By November 2010 we will have a staff team of four – this is a big step forward from the three-day a week post and threat of closure that we faced in the summer of 2006. The team has also submitted a number of bids to funders so that our core staff posts can be funded to the middle of 2013 at least.

Alongside this, the last year has seen the publication of two reports. The first, *Listen Up! Adult Care Leavers Speak Out*, is the first-ever national survey of the experiences of adult care leavers. This major, innovative research report looks at the experiences and views of 310 care leavers aged from 17 to 78. Some of you will no doubt be amongst those who responded to requests for your views. The report looks at both the experiences in care and the subsequent lives after care of those care leavers. The second publication, *The Speaking Out Report*, is based on an event ('Speaking Out') attended by more than 60 black, Asian and minority ethnic young people from the care system – a unique day and a unique report funded by The Tudor Trust, to whom we offer thanks. The CLA also co-hosted, with the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care, a conference that addressed the issue of 'historic abuse' in the care system, with all the presentations made by care leavers.

This year I was also privileged to be invited by the Care Leavers Australia Network (www.clan.org.au/) to speak at their tenth anniversary conference in the Bankstown suburb of Sydney. In attending their two-day event, I saw a vibrant organization with a committed staff, led by Leoni Sheedy, that worked on issues that mirrored many of our own concerns.

In the midst of all of this we have also, once again, moved office (that is three times in three years) because of the expansion that we have experienced, but this time, thank goodness, to a larger room in the same building. These moves, and this expansion, would not have been possible without the long-term support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Lankelly Chase Foundation and the Tudor Trust. These organizations have provided the core funding to allow the CLA to plan for the long term.

Finally, this year the CLA has had to say good-bye to our long-time National Director, Victoria Hull, who has moved to another job at the Who Cares? Trust as their policy and research officer. Victoria had worked for the CLA for over six years and has done an excellent job. If it was not for her determination and commitment then there is no doubt that the CLA would not have grown as quickly as it has. Victoria was never a 9-to-5 worker

and often worked beyond the call of duty to ensure that the job was finished; in particular, working late nights and during weekends to make sure that funding bid deadlines were met. Our loss is The Who Cares? Trust's gain, but she has left a significant legacy that will see the CLA well into the future.

Will McMahon
Chair
August, 2010

Secretary's Report

The role of Secretary continues to evolve as the CLA has grown. This is likely to continue in the year ahead as we adjust to the changes that will come with being an organization with four employees

Executive Committee and Open Meetings

As noted last year, Victoria Halliwell, our Office Manager, now takes the minutes of Executive Committee meetings when we meet in Manchester. I only take them when we meet in London. As before, minutes are typed up, agreed with the Chair, myself and the National Director and then distributed to the rest of the Executive Committee.



Jim Goddard

At one of our early meetings this year we decided to move our meetings from the first Saturday of the month to the middle of the month. Also, we decided to reduce the number of Open Meetings and, instead, have more local meetings around the country. This was for two reasons: 1) it allowed more time for all-day Executive Committee meetings, 2) it gives more members the chance to meet us nearer to where they live. As a result, meetings during the past year have been as follows:

- 5th December 2009: Executive Committee, Manchester
- 23rd/24th January 2009: Executive Committee Development Weekend, Shipley (Residential).
- 13th February 2010: Executive Committee, London.
- 13th March 2010: Executive Committee, Manchester.
- 10th April 2010: Executive Committee, London.
- 15th May 2010: Executive Committee, Manchester.
- 19th/20th June 2010: Two-day Executive Committee, plus an Open Meeting on 19th June, Manchester.
- 17th July 2010: Executive Committee, Manchester.

Remaining meetings before the Annual General Meeting on 13th November, 2010 are:

- 11th September 2010: Executive Committee and Open Meeting, London
- 9th October 2010: Executive Committee, Manchester.

Other Meetings and Public Events.

On behalf of the CLA, I have also been involved in external work several times this year. All of the presentations and research have either been paid for or funded, with all income going to the CLA:

- October to January 2009/10: Along with Will McMahon and Zachari Duncalf, I was involved in a joint research project with the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care, looking at human rights issues in relation to dealing with past abuse cases in the Scottish child care system. The research was funded by the Scottish Human Rights Commission.
- 14th December 2009: Spoke at a conference in Leeds on the needs of looked after children.
- 3rd February 2010: Spoke at a joint SIRCC/CLA conference organized by Zachari Duncalf and chaired by Zachari and Will McMahon. The conference was on access to records and on past abuse in the care system.
- 23rd May: Interviewed on BBC Radio Bristol about the 'Speaking Out' event due in June.
- 2nd June: Helped out at the CLA's 'Speaking Out' event in Manchester.
- 10th June: Did a presentation on access to records to a child care records research conference at the University of Warwick.
- 22nd June: Did a presentation for a 'House' magazine conference on policy for looked after children.

Local 'Keep in Touch' Meetings

We have increased the number of these meetings, building on the success of those held last year (in Glasgow, hosted by Zachari Duncalf, and in London, hosted by Will McMahon). My own involvement in these meetings this year has been as follows:

- 7th December: attended local CLA meeting organized in Glasgow by Zachari Duncalf.
- 17th December: attended local CLA meeting organized in Grantham by Chris Simpson.
- 7th April: ran a local meeting in Bradford (attended by Sue Myhan, in advance of her own local meeting).
- 28th April: attended local CLA meeting in Birkenhead organized by Sue Myhan.
- 22nd May: attended, along with Will McMahon, a local CLA meeting in Portsmouth organized by Simon Roberts and Robert Hewett (CLA members in Portsmouth).
- 27th May: attended a local CLA meeting in Grantham organized by Chris Simpson.

Employees

As Line Manager of the National Director, Victoria Hull (before she left for another post at the end of June) on behalf of the Executive Committee, I have in the past arranged regular support meetings in the office. By mutual agreement we decided that these were no longer necessary. However, I held a couple of meetings with Victoria Halliwell, our Office Manager, to discuss support and related issues during the transition to appointing a new National Director:

- 30th June
- 26th July
-

These also related to the arrangements for employing a temporary member of staff (Daniel Hull) over the summer, to help in the office.

Also, on 24th November 2009 I took part in a 'Process Mapping Day' with Will McMahon, Victoria Hull and Vicky Halliwell in the CLA office. This was to look at ways of reducing the workload and making things work more efficiently and effectively so that pressure on both Victoria and Vicky could be reduced. Finally, on 3rd June

2010 I attended a 'website handover day', in which Victoria trained Zachari, Will, Vicky and me in basic website management procedures in advance of her departure.

It is worth noting that as well as Victoria and Vicky in the office we have also had a number of volunteers who have played an immensely helpful role in CLA activities. Both Victoria and Vicky have provided support for those volunteers and coordinate their activities. Those volunteers are part of an office team that allows the CLA to achieve as much as it does in so many different directions.

Move to New Office.

Another year, another office move! This year, once again, we benefited from the recession. We began to look for larger premises, in lieu of expansion, in January. When they heard about this, our current landlords offered us a much larger room in the same building for a good rate and we accepted it. The new office provides enough comfortable working room for our all our employees and volunteers. On 27th March we moved, with Victoria Hull, Vicky Halliwell, Sue Myhan and myself managing to shift everything between the offices in a relatively short space of time.

Jersey.

We resolved at the end of last year that we would seek to reduce the resources that we devoted to work in Jersey as we could not sustain the extensive involvement that we had previously put in when helping the Jersey Care Leavers' Association to establish itself. However, we also resolved to continue to remain supportive where we could and to respond positively to all requests for help. It was decided that I would be the key link person between the JCLA and the CLA, allowing Will McMahon to devote more energy to the oversight of the CLA.

At the request of the then-existing committee of the JCLA, I went to Jersey to address their AGM on behalf of the CLA on 2nd December 2009. However, I did so on the basis that it would up to the whole of their AGM to decide if they wished to hear me speak at their meeting. The meeting confirmed that relations within the JCLA had broken down and it was not possible to find a way forward. I was not called to the meeting.

Subsequently, the existing committee was not able to operate as it wished to due to the impact of the disagreements that had emerged. Also, the death in January of one of the key members of the JCLA committee, Peter Le Masurier, obviously affected matters very profoundly. However, the then-Chair of the JCLA, Eireann Le Poidevin, did come to speak, at our invitation, at the Glasgow conference on Access to Records and Abuse in the Care System on 3rd February 2010.

A subsequent JCLA EGM, held in line with the JCLA constitution, led to the election of a new committee of the JCLA. We have not heard from this new committee but remain in informal contact with members of the previous committee and with other care leavers on Jersey that we have been in contact with during the past few years.

Legal cases continue on Jersey, with alleged abusers still appearing before the courts or due to appear before the courts later this year. Other issues raised by the abuse investigations (compensation, an apology, an inquiry) remain outstanding. As such, our support may still be requested. However, at present we cannot say what any involvement may look like.

Fundraising Sub-Committee.

Last year, this committee consisted of the Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and National Director. With the departure of the previous National Director, the Office Manager has since joined the Committee to help with the admin side of things. Also, Chris Simpson attended one of the committee meetings. It remains open for other members of the Executive Committee to join in with Fundraising Committee meetings if they wish to. Elsewhere, the Treasurer will report on the success of our fundraising activities. The sub-committee met on the following dates during the past year:

- 12th March 2010
- 13th/14th May
- 16th July

New Website

As mentioned last year, the redevelopment of the 'careleaversreunited' (CLR) site and its merger with the CLA website was ongoing at the time of writing my report. That redevelopment eventually took place. There were a few minor teething troubles but overall it has proved to be a great success. The site now offers more interactivity in various ways. Membership of 'careleaversreunited' has continued to increase at a steady pace, though slightly slower than before. Overall, we now have a single merged website that is easier for us to manage and that offers more facilities to both users of the site and ourselves as an organization.

Finally

Overall, it has been another very busy year as Secretary. Helping to manage such an organization as the CLA in a time of growth is a challenge, but it is a very rewarding one. In particular, it has been good to be part of such a committed and dynamic team of people, both those who work for us and those on the Executive Committee. Although this is an individual report, our work is essentially a team effort. I certainly could not have done all that I have done without the generous support of everyone on the Executive Committee and in the office. This year it has been a pleasure to be a part of a team that, whilst not always agreeing on what we should do – our disagreements and how we resolve them have always been one of the best features of the CLA - has always pulled in one direction in helping the CLA to be the creative and responsive organization that it is.

Jim Goddard
Secretary
August 2010

Treasurer's Report



Zachari Duncalf
Treasurer

As always, we have been working very hard to both maintain the organization, as well as seek to find monies to enable the organization to develop new projects and staff positions. As with other small charities a lot of work goes into finding money and completing the necessary paperwork. Our fundraising committee has worked very, very hard this year. Since our last annual report we have raised a total of £173,115 from the following funding bodies:

- The Henry Smith Foundation for a total of £133,000 a young person's project worker post.
- Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales for a total of £39,865 for a networking project worker post.

In addition to these formal applications for money and the monies from previous years' bids we continue to receive from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Lankelly Chase Foundation, The Tudor Trust and The Yapp Charitable Trust, we have also provided a number of presentations and training sessions amounting into an income of £3,283.27.

We have received a total of £2,433.66 in standing orders and one-off donations. Gift Aid claimed through donations so far amounts to £610.26 and this year the chair, Will, Victoria (our then National Development Worker) and me also set off on our cycles to raise money for the organization. Since last August, 2009 this event has raised an additional £1,216.44 plus £216.72 in Gift Aid. (These amounts represent funds received into our bank during the accounting period from August, 2009 to July, 2010).

Although we no longer charge care leavers for membership it is important to note that since our last annual report our membership of care leavers has more than doubled to 248. In addition we also have one individual supporter and four associate members who continue to be charged for membership.

The last six months have been quite interesting for the organization. Although we sadly lost Victoria who moved onto another organization, we will gain three new members of staff. This, of course, will be at a financial cost to the organization in terms of recruitment advertising fees, interview days and training days.

As always there has been lots to say about the financial position of the organization and the work that has been involved in ensuring a solid infrastructure (without which applying for funds would prove more difficult), but I believe we have arrived at a very secure financial point; a great springboard from which to start the new year, new staff and a new executive.

Zachari Duncalf
Treasurer
August 2010

About the C.L.A.

The Care Leavers' Association is a registered charity and a not-for-profit company registered in England and Wales and limited by guarantee. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Charity Number: 1111988
Company Number: 5204243
Registered Office: Care Leavers' Association,
Unit 27
Express Networks
1 George Leigh Street
Manchester
M4 5DL

The Care Leavers' Association has a board trustees. These trustees form the Executive Committee. Members of the Executive Committee are nominated and elected annually at the AGM 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	(Company Secretary)
Zachari Duncalf	(Treasurer)
Christopher Simpson	
Sue Myhan	

Staff: Vicky Halliwell (Office Manager).

Principal Bankers:	The Cooperative Bank Plc, PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale. WN8 6WT	Accountants:	Community Accountancy Services Ltd., The Grange, Pilgrim Drive Beswick, Manchester. M11 37Q
---------------------------	--	---------------------	---

Current Funders: The Henry Smith Charity,
Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales,
The Tudor Trust,
The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation,
The Lankelly Chase Foundation
Yapp Charitable Trust,
Coop Community Dividend.