

What our staff say

I'm Joan and I've worked with unaccompanied asylum seeking children within the CIC team for 9 years. The diversity of the job where no two days are the same keeps my passion for the young people who I support alive. Seeing young people on the day that they first arrive into our care, it is very overwhelming for the young people, adapting to a new country, cultures and also the language barrier, after travelling long distances and surviving the harsh journey from their home country as children. My role is to support, advocate and help young people to navigate their new life here in the UK, whilst being very aware of the challenges that they have to face to seek asylum in the UK. Seeing the growth and development of the young people is extremely rewarding. Many of the young people go on to be very successful in whatever path they choose. Education is a real focus for them and being supported to reach for the stars!



What keeps me in this role is knowing that the young people have no parents or guardians with them here and my role as social worker to be their corporate parent, being the person who shouts loud for them and is their voice in all arenas. Building relationships is imperative to allowing the young people to start to feel safe and settled in a new country. Learning the ways of how the UK works, even basics such as the money here. The role has highs and lows – seeing the trauma and emotional times for the young people and supporting them through this: to the highs of a young person receiving their refugee status and being able to plan for their future life in the UK.

I would say this role is very unique within social work, you need to be resilient, passionate, go with the flow with young people, empathetic and recognizing that we have not lived the life that they have, so learning from them about their experiences, and most importantly a good sense of humour. There are challenging times, however the rewards from the work with unaccompanied young people is so rewarding because we are the person who brings together a group of people who goes above and beyond for them. It is a privilege to work in this area.