

Finn and Iona's story

Every day, Care Experienced people tell us how independent advocacy has made a real difference in their lives. One thing they often tell us is that the experience of care is lifelong. They may leave care, but it never leaves them.

Meet Finn, age 14, and Iona, age 21, who are brother and sister. They have both grown up moving between different foster care placements across Glasgow. Iona has left foster care and is now living independently.

Finn and Iona's story is based on evidence of real-life experiences of Care Experienced people who've benefited from independent, relationships-based lifelong advocacy.





Finn feels lost and overwhelmed at meetings where decisions are made about his life.



Iona is struggling to find her footing. No one taught her the basics of living independently - cooking cleaning and paying bills.



Despite their 7-year age gap, they are both finding it difficult to navigate the impact care can have. Finn feels unheard and Iona lacks a support network to rely on for help or advice.



Meet Tracey, a Who Cares? Scotland independent advocate. She is there to listen, to ask the right questions and to ensure Finn's needs and wishes are expressed.



Through lifelong advocacy, Tracey signposts Iona to the different options available to her as a Care Experienced person.



Iona, with renewed confidence, lands a part-time job. She is beginning to see a future where she can succeed.



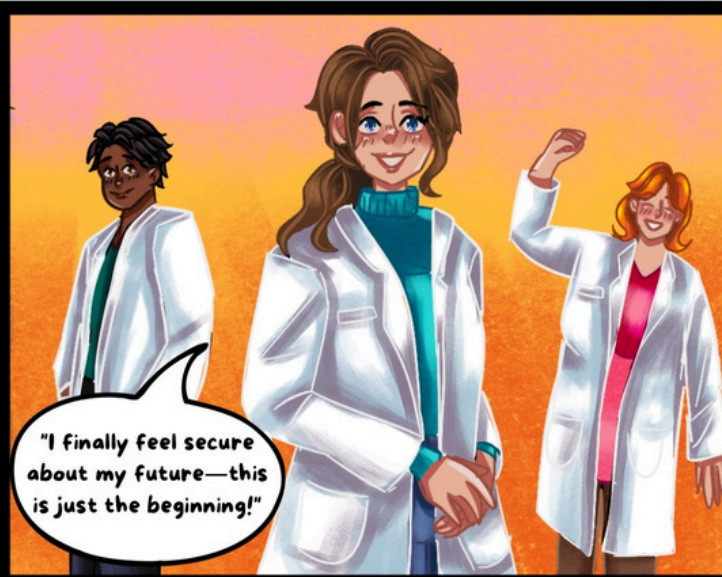
With Tracey by his side, Finn finally feels like he has been heard and had a say...



...and having built a trusting relationship with Tracey, Iona is learning more about her rights and entitlements to help her live independently.



Iona is now planning for her education, taking steps toward a fulfilling career. Tracey's lifelong advocacy has helped her pursue her dreams.



At college, Iona finally feels confident in her ability to succeed. Thanks to Tracey she has accessed the Care Experienced bursary and additional supports, taking away the worries that had once held her back.



With Tracey's advocacy, Iona and Finn are finally able to reconnect with set family time each month.