

Surrey Youth Focus – Unheard Voices

September 2024

Background

In September 2024, Luminus were awarded a grant by Surrey Youth Focus to hold a workshop with young carers. This was part of their wider 'Unheard Voices' project which looked at what young people need to feel valued in their community. The connections Luminus has with young carers, through our Giving Young Carers a Voice contract, meant we were in a strong position to deliver the voice of young carers to this project.

Methodology

Luminus facilitated a workshop for 20 young carers which took place in the evening at MyTime4YoungCarers. We invited Rab Ferguson, author of The Late Crew young carers books, who joined us to help the children express their views through drawing, writing, and discussing what they would like to see in the community to support them in their caring roles. The young carers drew aliens who would help them and wrote about the people they cared for and the types of help they needed.



Output

Using the young carers' imaginations and talents to amplify their voices, they created the story of the 'Tri-Headed Guardian', and an alien named Vortog was produced using the young carers ideas. Each one of the young carers had a talent to use, whether that was drawing, writing, or talking us through their ideas, which contributed to the final story. The themes and quotes that these carers shared with us during the event were collated in to a report and shared with Surrey Youth Focus for inclusion in their Unheard Voices report.

"I thought last night's event went really well, so many of the children seemed really excited to read the story as it was about them, which is really lovely."

- MyTime4YoungCarers