



FAQs

Who are Beyond?

The Trust was founded by a number of committed trustees and volunteers in 2018 who had been closely involved with the children and young peoples' committee of Brighton and Hove City Council.

The chair of the committee between 2015-2018 was Councillor **Tom Bewick**, himself a care leaver. Tom left care with hardly any qualifications in the late 1980s. Today, in his professional career, he is CEO of the body that represents the awarding organisations to government, which includes a 30-year track record as a skills policy campaigner.

Although no longer active in politics, Tom continued his passion for supporting care leavers through private philanthropy; as well as setting up Beyond with other committed people who share his values of a more targeted approach to supporting care leavers.

It is an approach, not based on 'victimhood', but turning adversity in advantage. Beyond is therefore aspirational in how it talks about and supports those who have been in the care system.

Beyond is made up of a Board of Directors/ Trustees and a Care-led Volunteer Management Committee. Our governing articles are those of a company limited by guarantee and a charitable organisation set up by Trust Deed.

Further details [here](#). Download a copy of our Trust Deed [here](#).

What are we trying to achieve?

Our vision

To give every care leaver access to the kind of financial support and assistance that the offspring of more affluent families take for granted.

Our mission

To fundraise from a variety of sources to be able to give out one-off grants to care leavers that help them move beyond adversity. Our support will target care leavers, aged 18-30, helping them live more independent lives.

To achieve our aims we will:

— Fundraise from corporates, individuals and members of the public to collectively become the care leavers' 'bank of mum and dad.' (i.e. supplementing the role of the state as corporate parent).

— Set an ambitious goal to have a care experience-led fundraising and grant-giving committee in every local authority area of the United Kingdom.

— Always give grants out to care leavers that is equivalent to at least 90% of what we raise. That means we will only hold onto enough funds to meet the annual statutory obligations of running the Trust and any other liabilities. If we have to employ staff or apprentices, these will always be care experienced.

In short, **Beyond** is a charitable trust set up for care leavers by care leavers.

You are a non-profit, why not a registered charity?

By being a company limited by guarantee, our surpluses are required by law to be invested in the objects of the organisation. There are no shareholders to distribute profits between. These 'objects' are clearly defined in the charitable Trust Deed that established Beyond in 2016, prior to incorporation in 2018.

Charity Commission registration is an unnecessary layer of regulation for the delivery of our tightly-defined objects. For example, our 'beneficiaries', are legally defined by law. That is not the case for many registered charities that often, in any case, use formal charitable status to operate as businesses while claiming the tax advantages of a charitable trust. All our beneficiaries ('care leavers') are clearly defined by law as set out in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

What do you mean by care experienced-led?

Beyond is not interested in building yet another advocacy organisation that talks about care leavers; while hiring professional staff who often have no direct experience of being in the care system themselves. Of course, there is an important place for these bodies, but it is not what Beyond is about.

Our philosophy is that Beyond is run by care-experienced volunteer management committees, set up around the country in collaboration with local authority corporate parenting boards.

The director/trustees remain legally responsible for ensuring the effective running of the organisation and that donor funds are spent in line with our Trust Deed and governance procedures. These individuals are drawn from outside the care sector, including the professional advice we may need from time to time to successfully carry out our duties.

Why are you only Sussex based at the moment?

We started small, but with big ambitions. After a challenging start due to the Covid-19 lockdowns, we quickly found that we had a model that worked. Discreetly, we got on and raised funds from private donors and, as per our grant-giving policy, are now in a position to start helping care leavers.

We are restricting this support to care leavers resident in Sussex until such time as we can persuade local authorities to come on board. In short, the more local authorities come on board, the larger the potential to leverage private donors, creating a truly national fund to support care leavers with direct grant support.

For more information contact@beyondtrust.org.uk

Please consider making a donation [here](#).