

CCoM: Children Caring on the Move

Thank you again for agreeing to do the interview. Throughout this interview, I'm going to use the term separated child migrants. We use the term separated child migrants to acknowledge that children and young people may be migrating without parents, but they may be cared for by family members, even at a distance, and they may choose to seek asylum or not to seek asylum. You may be more familiar with the terms Unaccompanied Minor or UASC

[questions in blue are of lower priorities]

Interviewee's care encounters and background

1. Can you tell me about your broad experience of being with separated child migrants? Can you say a little bit about your role in their lives? [PROMPT: work role, relationship]

For those young people that you support, does everything happen through the Trust or do they or you work with the council to offer them some services?

Making sense of and valuing care relationships and caring practices (children for each other), and connecting this to wider economic, social and political priorities

Now we are going to talk about the notion of care...

2. When you think of the word 'care' in relation to separated child migrants, what does it mean to you?
3. *In your experience, how does care change over time [PROMPT – when you first meet them, when you get to know them, and when they are moving away from your horizon?]*
4. Would you recount a situation (if you know of one) in which separated child migrants take care of each other? What are your views on children's care of each other?
5. Do you distinguish between care and support? If so, how do you understand the distinction between care and support? How do you decide who is need of care and who needs support?
6. What are the priorities of your team and operating constraints that you work with? How do you balance these/ negotiate them?

(prompts: what are these priorities, example of managing and balancing them, advice and guidance received from colleagues/IROs, legal input, line management, working with Home Office)

What impact do you think asylum and welfare rules, regulations and resources have on your ability to care for separated child migrants?

Initial (needs) Assessments and placements

7. We know that as a social worker/PA, you carry out initial needs assessments to make placement decisions for SCM. Can you think about an assessment of a separated child migrant that you did recently? Without disclosing any personal details, could you please tell us about what happened in that assessment? How did it go? Any challenges?

(prompt: what are the initial questions that you ask? How do you work with standard markers for assessing someone's care needs?, placement request form, needs assessment tool, placement agreement /delegated authority form, LAC review, example of a recent assessment)

Difference between UASC and British born.

8. What factors do you consider to be important for a placement match? Could you give us a concrete example of a time when you felt that you made a successful placement? And what do you think made it successful?

Placements

9. What do you think are pros and cons of foster care compared to semi-independent accommodation? If you could make a call, what sort of placement would you prefer for SCM and why?
10. Turning to supported or semi-independent accommodation more specifically: How do you decide on the number of support hours required for a child? Once you decide then what happens? Do you ever run into challenges in relation to your decision?

Quality assurance

11. We have heard about ongoing concerns regarding the quality of semi-independent placements. We are aware that in unregulated accommodation it is often social workers who are unofficially expected to keep an eye on the quality of a placement. Who do you think should be responsible for ensuring the quality of semi-independent provision? What steps do you take to monitor quality? What happens when you find a placement of insufficient quality?

What are the common issues that come up in separated child migrants' complaints about their placements?

12. Have you ever found yourself in situation where separated child migrants are unhappy with their placements? What are the common issues that come up in separated child migrants' complaints about their placements? Can you recount a time when you successfully navigated these challenges?

Reflections on practice

13. Are there any targets that you are expected to work towards in relation to care and support placements for separated child migrants?

(prompts: if no targets, then what outcomes/results are expected and how is this communicated to you?)

Can you say a bit about how practice is evaluated individually and/or in your team?

(prompts: self-reflection, online system, management, etc)

Closing

Is there anything more on this topic you would like to add or ask me about?

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today.