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**PRESS RELEASE:**

For more information:

Sophie Berkley

[sophie@highrisecommunications.co.uk](mailto:sophie@highrisecommunications.co.uk) / 07999048422

**Greater Manchester Youth Network celebrates Care Leavers Week with new campaign designed and led by young people**

Care Leavers Week, 25<sup>th</sup> October - 1<sup>st</sup> November, is an important time for [Greater Manchester Youth Network \(GMYN\)](#) to celebrate the young people the charity supports.

Many of the young people that attend the programmes ran by GMYN are raising awareness of their experiences and talking about their own stories as cared-for young people.

Susie, a beneficiary of the youth charity at aged 19, was referred to GMYN through her care worker who thought she would benefit from attending the sessions the charity runs.

Now, through Susie's experience with GMYN, she gained the exciting opportunity to join the team, first as a Sessional Worker, and now works as a Programme Worker supporting other young people to gain skills and improve their mental health and wellbeing.

She is the first beneficiary of the charity to be employed by GMYN. She credits the charity for her growth as a young person, saying GMYN built her confidence and allowed her to navigate and find out who she is.

"Going along to GMYN showed me a different way of life, it took me away from what was going on in my own personal life and I was surrounded by positive people." Susie says her natural leadership really came out at GMYN, where she got involved in helping other young people who weren't as confident as her.

"I had never felt so valued and appreciated as a young person before I joined GMYN."

Greater Manchester Youth Network supports young people aged 10-25 from across Greater Manchester by offering innovative and exciting opportunities that build vital skills and improves their health and wellbeing. GMYN's goal is that young people are safe, heard, and capable of great things, charities like this are vital to ensure young people are given every opportunity to succeed.

"There are no barriers to what you can do. It is often difficult as a young person to financially support a lot of things you want to do, but GMYN is there to help you with this and so many things suddenly became accessible to me that I'd never had the chance to do before."

GMYN are hoping to gain more support from businesses and individuals across Greater Manchester who can support more cared-for young people and care leavers with their latest campaign.

This campaign was designed and led by GMYN's young people, which was launched in September, and runs until 27th October on over 90 screens in the heart of Manchester, including digital billboards on Princess Parkway and Hyde Road as well as city centre Community Information Panel (CIP) screens.

A young person who took part in the campaign says: “Wherever you have come from, whatever walk of life you’ve come from, GMYN always makes you feel happy, safe, and listened too.”

To celebrate the brilliant work of the young people, GMYN is hosting an event for businesses and individuals to attend to see how they could support the charity on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November from 8.30am at the Feel Good Club in Manchester’s Northern Quarter.

Alex Fairweather, Founder and CEO of GMYN, says: “We are so grateful for the support of the JCDecaux Community Channel who are showing our campaign on their screens. This really is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our charity and the young people we support.

“We need business support now more than ever and we are excited to see who will step up and help us!”

You can attend the event at Feel Good Club on 2<sup>nd</sup> November by signing up through [this link](#), with the event being held between 9 - 10.30am.

*For more information about the Manchester-based youth charity, please see their website [here](#).*