



PROFILES FOR THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

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Bios of Laura and Shaddelle
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Scotland



Laura Beveridge – 29 East Lothian

Laura grew up in care from a young age, experiencing a number of different home environments. Laura was taken into care because her mum experienced ill health and was in an abusive relationship. She lived with extended family, foster parents and in residential care.

Laura's mental health was poor when she was in care and after she left care – this led to Laura running away, attempting suicide and eventually being kept in secure accommodation with her liberty being removed.

Laura is a former residential childcare worker but left last year, citing her difficulties with how care is delivered. She worked at a senior level but says that she could not influence the rules that she felt made life for young people in care different to others: one person allowed on the garden trampoline at a time, risk assessments for sleepovers with friends and a ban on the word 'love' being used to describe her relationship with young people.

In June 2016, Laura delivered a TED Talk on life in care, stating that a revolution is needed if we are ever going to turn the outcomes for young people around. She works with Who Cares? Scotland and spends her time meeting other older care experienced people who want to make a difference. She decided that she had to talk about her care identity when she attended a public meeting in East Lothian, after local residents rejected a children's house being built in their area because of their fears around "safety".

She is a mum to 3 year old Maia and currently lives in East Lothian with her husband Steven



Shaddelle Reid – 18 North Lanarkshire

Shaddelle currently lives in foster care with Hazel, who she calls Mum. She has been in care since the age of 10, having spent the years before that mothering her young brothers because her birth family were not able to offer safety.

She has spent the last two years at college studying makeup and beauty therapy. After joining the Who Cares? Scotland Care Council, she has started to question why so many care experienced people are moving into low status courses like hair and makeup, compared to professional courses like law and medicine.

Shaddelle has had a positive care experience and describes her home as being full of love and support. Even with that, she still experienced loneliness and her mental health deteriorated to the point that she made attempts on her own life. It was after this that she received support to deal with the trauma that she experienced before being taken into care. She talks about how other young people's experiences make her feel guilty for being part of the same system but ending up in a very different place.

Shaddelle is at an interesting point in her life where she says "I know that doing people's make up gives them a boost and that I'm making them feel good. But it is only skin deep and it washes off at night – I want to make more of a difference to people than that."