

## **Reflecting on the Museum Association’s Learning and Engagement Manifesto**

### **Social Justice – A case study from The Danish Welfare Museum, Sarah Smed, Head of the Danish Welfare Museum**

Today, in Denmark, people who have been in care as children are 5 times more likely to get a conviction in a criminal court. They are 7 times more likely to receive substance abuse treatment. And 33% of people experiencing homelessness were in care as children.

These statistics are part of contemporary arguments by politicians in Danish government, who are striving to improve future welfare legislation for children and young people in care. With this work, the numbers from the statistics above will improve.

The Danish Welfare Museum are helping to inform, challenge, and nuance this political discussion about the future of welfare for marginalized and vulnerable children. Over the past year, we have invited politicians, professionals and life witnesses to take part in “time travelling experiments and events” under the headline “Placed in care before, now and later”.



Minister of Social Affairs, the city mayor listening to Camilla sharing her story from and childhood in care.

Together with representatives from the user-driven interest organization “De anbragtes vilkår” (The Welfare of Children in Care), the museum co-designed initiatives where people could get unique and authentic insight into the contemporary challenges of care, which in all too many ways still mirror those of the past. Institutionalized care can still be characterized by abuse and neglect.

Despite COVID19 we have managed to facilitate outdoor events, online debates and more. And in 2021 a new bill will be passed on the issue.

In unity and solidarity with the interest organization representatives, we have continuously confronted both government and local politicians with personal and intergenerational accounts of care. These testimonies demonstrate that if we want to create real change for the care-experienced children of the future, we really need to listen to and learn from the people who represent the care-experienced children of the past.