



### **Video: Chloe - Health**

My name is Chloe Wyper, I'm 19 and I live in Castlemilk. My dad walked out when I was about 2 or 3. Not long after he moved out my brother's dad moved in who had a big drinking problem and when he drank he got quite aggressive with my mum, and quite violent, although he was violent with my mum, I can't remember him ever hitting us or being violent with us, but I do remember my mum telling me that one time or a couple of times she's had to stand in front of us so that we wouldn't get hit.

So, when he moved out my mum's mental health went downhill as did everything else in the house. Em, finances no, totally deteriorated and there was a lot more anger in the house. And by the time I was 13 my mum had had enough of me and taken me to, taken me to the social work office and just kinda said I can't do this and just left me there and went home.

***Chloe has experienced almost every type of care placement. She found the process of moving between placements to be abrupt and stressful.***

So, I was in a foster placement for around 9 months and it kinda broke, broke down really bad near the end. And when that happened, it happened quite fast. So, I was in school, I got taken out of class by my social worker and she basically sat me down in a little room, next to the library and said, "we've got good news and bad news", "the good news is we've found you a new placement, but the bad news is, it's a residential unit". When I first moved into the unit it was all really strange because I did not know what to, I did not know what to expect at all, and the only thing I'd seen about units was 'Tracy Beaker'. And that's all very romanticised about how it's just a big household of friends and you can just you know, if you've got foster placements and it breaks down you can just go back and it's not like that at all.

It was really clear that this was a place where people worked because it had a very clinical feel about it and people would come in and talk about shift times, when people were in and when people were off, even down to holidays and annual leave.

***Whilst living at home, Chloe had difficulties in establishing a dental routine due to tensions in her relationship with her mother. However, she had a good relationship with her family dentist.***

So, when I was young I always had trouble with my teeth in keeping them clean and I kinda still do to this day. I never managed to get into that routine of brushing my teeth every day and you know my mum; my mum would always get on at me a bit and always persist with me. But I think a little part of me just didn't do it out of spite, you know coz you keep me telling me to brush my teeth and I don't want to brush my teeth, but because you keep telling me to brush my teeth, so I'm not gonna brush my teeth, and unfortunately, almost became a habit for me of just not doing it because I didn't put it into a routine.





I wouldn't say I enjoyed going to the dentist but it didn't scare me going to the dentist, and we had a really good family dentist almost, because everyone who all went to this dentist, who, knew us by our first name, Valerie, and she put me at ease. I would go in as a 6-year-old and get teeth pulled out no problem.

***When Chloe went into foster care, she moved to a new area, and struggled to cope with the upheaval. She also registered with a new dental practice, but found the unfamiliarity difficult.***

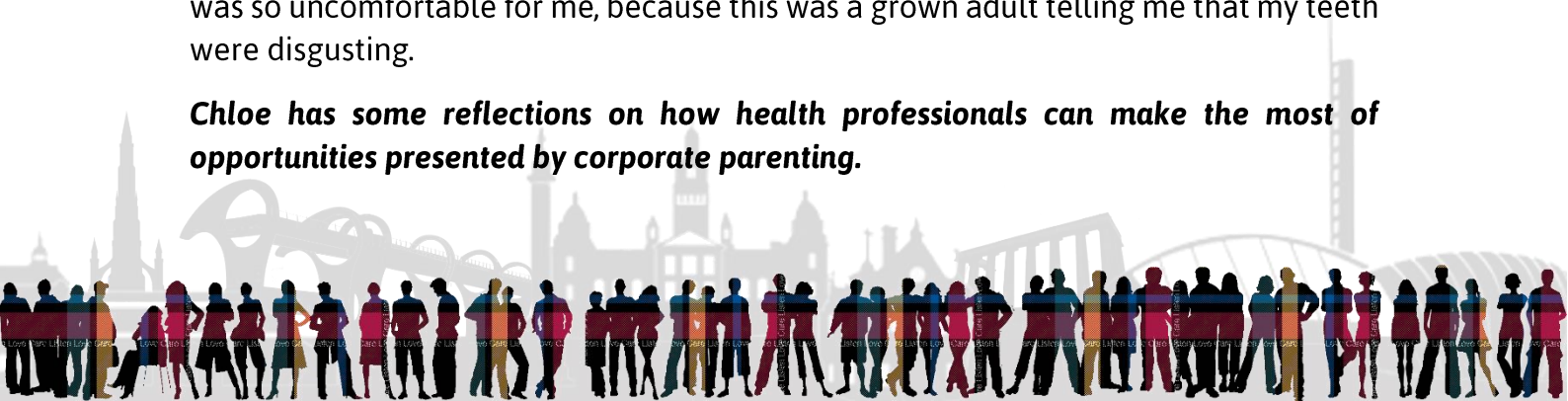
I was fine with dentists until I went into foster care and I think it was because I was really unfamiliar with the situation and with that particular dentist, when the fear just kind of started to build. And I remember one time I went in to get a filling done and I went as far as to get the anaesthetic done and couldn't go any further. And looking back now it seems a little bit silly because I'd done the hardest part but there was obviously something that I was really unfamiliar with and that I didn't want to do because I just couldn't stay there, and from that I hadn't been to the dentist for about 4 years after it. I didn't realise how much that had affected me.

***Living in the residential house, Chloe encountered a number of health professionals who specialised in LAAC (Looked After and Accommodated Children). One of these professionals was a dental nurse.***

When I went into residential care, there was a dental nurse sent out specifically to, you know teach us about dental health, and how to keep our teeth clean and healthy. I found it very patronising and I remember one time, she came in with a big model set of teeth with this big giant red toothbrush and I was about maybe, 15, and she taught me how to brush my teeth and she was like "you have to brush it in circular, small circular motions, not up and down", and she handed me this big, you know almost children show looking toothbrush and said "do you want to try?". And I just found it very patronising because I was thinking I'm 15, I know how to brush my teeth, and she picked on something that was a very sensitive spot for me and she looked at my teeth, and said "Oh, they're quite orange", which was obvious to me, I knew that my teeth were orange and I knew that I'd had problems brushing my teeth.

It did really strike a nerve with me because it wasn't unfamiliar ground for me. When I was in school, people did pick on my teeth because they seen that they were really bad, and they seen that you know, they'd probably smelled my breath and I probably had bad breath as well, and they came up with names and you know little songs and stuff. So, when, when anyone would mention it, it just kind of took me back to those times, it just made me really aware of it and really sensitive about it and that's why it was so uncomfortable for me, because this was a grown adult telling me that my teeth were disgusting.

***Chloe has some reflections on how health professionals can make the most of opportunities presented by corporate parenting.***





## corporate **PARENTING**

When you think about the phrase corporate parenting or corporate parents, why don't you take away the corporate and just be parents. We want real people, we want people who are going to be there because they care about their job because they care about the people involved in their job and they want to make a change. And people who want to make people feel better about themselves and people realise, you know, how they're gonna fix what needs to be fixed. If there is anything that has to be fixed. When you are talking to a young person about their health or their mental health you have to be sensitive, you have to choose your words carefully because you don't know what would make that person really sensitive about that certain subject.

And I think if people realise that, and realise that being in care on top of that, is really difficult and if they realise that then that will make it a little bit easier and it will make people a little bit more willing to engage with those professionals because they realise they're not just other professionals that are there to be paid, they're there because they care about the job that they're in and because they care about the patients they're working with.

***You have listened to Chloe's story because YOU are a Corporate Parent.***

