

**A competition for all children homes in the Eastern Region.
Write a short story – win £100, £50, £25 for your home for top 3 entries.**

You will be presenting Residential Child Care as a positive in children's lives.

The story can be written by a child, a grown-up, a group – all are welcome.

750 – 1500 words

Stories will be read by a writer of children's books, an academic, and an actor.

The stories will be collected and published in a free to access way – an e-book.

Stories to be in by September 18th: the winners will be announced in October.

Send them by email to easternregioncib@norfolk.gov.uk : Subject box: Short Story

Here's the idea that must be in your short story

Children's homes provide safe, empowering, and transformative environments that give young people in care a stable foundation to heal, grow, and build their future.

Children's homes are vital spaces where dedicated practitioners offer child centred care, turning overwhelming events and emotions environments into true healing sanctuaries for children

Why this? Why now?

[NCERCC](#) went looking for stories that presented or championed Residential Child Care as a positive place.

We were surprised to find that there were none that we would see as presenting the positive, celebrating life in group care. There were plenty of the opposites.

Children may read these negative stories or see them on TV or in films. They deserve a positive picture of their lives.

Understanding that professionals increasingly do not read reports or research and connect to narrative it was clear that the people who are going to write these stories that others will read and absorb as residential child care as it is lived today we the people living residential child care today – the children and grown-ups.

Residential child care is burdened by stories told *about* it rather than *from within* it.

The sector can and must change the situation. Short stories are one way to start.

So please get writing As ever NCERCC understood that it can help if someone goes first.

Here are three short stories by grown-ups and children linked to NCERCC.

We hope you agree that they highlight how a supportive children's home can profoundly change a child's life trajectory.

Click here to read the stories - [ECCRN Useful Resources – Improvement East](#)