

Regional Care Cooperative panels found in the Bayeux Tapestry?

The Bayeux tapestry exhibition has just opened and is attracting a lot of interest. It got us thinking about what happened back then and what is happening now.

In this work of imagination we consider the Normans as Regional Care Cooperatives.

Here is the epic struggle of the residential child care sector in five chronological panels like the wool-stitched borders of the Bayeux Tapestry.

Panel I: The Council of the High Rulers

In the grand halls of Whitehall, the overseers gather under flickering fluorescent lights. They look out across the land at the unruly homes, the scattered fiefdoms of independent residential child care providers. These providers argue passionately that they have the right to decide their own way of life, tailored to the children they shield.

But the High Rulers shake their heads. They are sketching blueprints for a new governance: the Regional Care Cooperatives (RCCs).

The tapestry shows the rulers sharpening their quills and drawing up ironclad mandates to tame the wild market.



Panel II: The Fractured Shield Wall

Word of the coming RCC invasion spreads through the valleys of the residential child care sector. But the resistance is unorganised and ill-disciplined. Instead of standing shoulder-to-shoulder, the barons of the sector turn on one another.

Those with large fiefdoms and the small yeoman homes argue over who should lead. Competing claims for sector leadership weaken their tactics and drain their opposition. While they bicker over policy and prestige, the invaders of thought and deed are marching steadily toward their borders.



Panel III: The RCC Invasion and the New Order

The tapestry shifts to a scene of sudden, overwhelming movement. The RCC structures land upon the community like a conquering army. There is no negotiation, the laws of demand and supply have new definitions dictated by new rulers.

The residential child care community must submit and obey. A great yoke is placed upon the shoulders of the local homes.

The RCCs now control exactly which child goes where, at what price, stripping the providers of its voice and its choice.



Panel IV: The Policing and the Slow Squeezing

Here, the borders of the cloth grow crowded and heavy. The RCC officials are stitched holding great ledgers and chains, policing the daily work and capping the income of providers. The vibrant, creative energy of the homes of old is replaced by rigid compliance.

The tapestry depicts the slow encircling then impoverishment of the community. Resources dry up, budgets shrink, and the walls of bureaucratic demands close in. The proud caretakers of children are reduced to weary servants of the state's tight purse strings.



Panel V: The Scatter and the Independent Fringes

- The final chaotic scene shows the aftermath. The old sector is broken, and its people are scattered into three distinct groups:
- **The Submissive:** bending the knee they are settling to work for themselves but strictly within the narrow parameters the RCC decides. The RCC extracts the value of their workforce's labour, leaving them only subsistence.
- **The Exiled:** opting out entirely this group are seen burning their banners and closing their doors forever, unable to live under the new crown.
- **The Independents:** there are defiant souls all over the country. They operate finding loopholes and hidden pathways to care for children on their own terms, forever hiding from the watchful eyes of the RCC sentries.



"Thus was the old realm of care remade; not in a single battle, but through decree, division, compliance, and quiet resistance."

"Here the old guardians of the children beheld the coming of the new order, and many paths were taken: some submitted, some departed, and some remained hidden in defiance."