

Our offer for Care Leavers

Supporting Transitions into Adulthood

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Our Care Leavers Need Parents too

Corporate Parenting for young adults



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Not always an easy journey



Looked After Children

- 476 Children in Care
- 324 of “Our Children” are with the Care Service
- 27 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
- 69 17 year olds

Care Leavers over 18

- We keep on caring for Our Children
- Realignment of Care Service
- Care Leaver's Champion: Practice Group Lead (Leaving Care Service)
- 4 Specialist practice Groups: Personal Advisors and Social Workers
- 339 Care Leavers
- 43 Care leavers with Care Service Social Workers (to age 19)
- 296 Care Leavers with Leaving Care Social Workers and Personal Advisors

Where our Care Leavers Live

Type of accommodation	Number
Parents/relatives	36
Community home/residential	9
Semi independent /transitional	89
Supported lodgings	9
Deported	1
Ordinary lodgings with no formal support	4
No fixed abode/homeless	1
Foyer/similar supported lodgings	9
Independent living	80
Emergency accommodation	1
Other accommodation	8
Former foster carers	66

Housing and Accommodation

- Following assessment, Care Leavers are offered a priority Housing Nomination
- Supported accommodation to continue preparation for independence
- Support Workers can be agreed to support transitions
- Care leavers are entitled to a Setting Up home grant of £2,000 when gaining their permanent tenancy

EET and NEET

- Specialist Employment Advisor / Practice Group Leader
- Profiles of each young person completed by allocated worker
- Now established an expert panel of local providers
- Working towards doing the same for Care Leavers Out Of Borough
- Further Education Bursary: PC, Printer, Annual: £200 Registration, Transport £300
- Higher Education (University) Bursary: Travel £350, Books £100, Vacation Accommodation £1750
- 39 in University
- IT suite for Young people at Talfourd Place

Financial Support

- Pending Benefits Claims
- If ineligible for benefits
- Emergency support / unexpected circumstances
- Deposits and rent payments for privately rented accommodation (e.g. Out Of Borough Care Leavers)
- Higher / Further education

Health

- Health summaries becoming available for our Care Leavers (including physical health and emotional well being).
- Clinical Practitioners – embedded in Care Service
- Specialist substance misuse drop in
- CHYP (Children & Young Peoples Health Partnership) - through innovations funding - looking at proposal to provide specialist training for Personal Advisors around Care Leavers with additional vulnerabilities –e.g. mental health

Personal Advisor's

- Personal Advisors case loads have been reduced to 20 – 25
- Located together in 4 Specialist Practice Groups
- Training: Developing ideas around core training
- Substance Misuse
- Pathway Planning
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Benefits

Care Panel

- **Meets weekly:** Chaired by Assistant Director (Corporate Parenting) and Head of Service (Care).
- Ensures that all our Children and specifically our Care Leavers have planning of their placements / Transitions at the fore
- Care leavers move from foster care (if not Staying Put) to semi independent /key worker supported provision, to more independent accommodation through to their own tenancies.
- Panel also provides Quality Assurance: scrutiny of visits, reviews and Pathway Planning by the AD and HOS.

Summary of Key Partners

- Employment / Education Advisor
- Benefit's advisor
- Virtual School
- Housing
- Commissioning / Brokerage
- Substance misuse worker
- Advocacy services through Banardos.
- Speakerbox.
- Transitions Service / Adults

Adding Value

- Summer scheme this year for Care leavers: Food, Activities, Hearing their Voices: Opportunity to engage with them in looking at services for the future to ensure we are shaping services they want and need
- Hearing: what we could have done better as well as what we have done well.
- Support from our office for those in Crisis: Food, Clothes, Showers, washing / drying of clothes, temporary storage of property.

Where we need to be: Ambition

- Stable, permanent and skilled workforce
- Harness expertise through dedicated Care Leaving Service
- Good Pathway Plans
- Developing The Talfourd Hub: Multi agency partners in one place at one time (December 2016)
- Expand opportunities through the Virtual School for college and other provision.
- Close tracking of NEET and multi- partner Interventions and supporting EET
- Tracking Transitions: 17+ Tracking Group chaired by Head Of Service, with representative Personal Advisor, Social Worker and Practice Group Lead Champion (November 2016)
- Improving our health offer through the LAC nurse – well person checks in dedicated room at the Talfourd Hub
- Engaging hard to reach young people
- Opportunities for group work activity – cooking, budgeting, improving independence
- More effective working from our Clinical Practitioners concentrating on 18+ and out of borough.

Getting where we need to be...

- Drop in for care leavers where case closed – ability to signpost / support (November 2016)
- Co production by young people
- Weekend activities for Care Leavers (November / December 2016)
- Expand leisure opportunities at weekends with support from contracted provider
- Review of social work duty team for Care Leavers will remove the appointment system – ready access by young people to Personal Advisors and Social Workers (November / December 2016)
- Forums for Care Leavers in conjunction with Speakerbox to design and review services
- Developing a Care Leaver Covenant.
- Consultations: Listening and doing what is needed

Care Leavers – at the centre of what we do

