NATIONAL LEAVING CARE BENCHMARKING FORUM

An Uneven Playing Field: Challenges Facing Care Experienced Young People

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National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum

- 130 Local Authority Leaving Care Teams
- Improving services & support
- Young People’s Benchmarking Forum (YPBMF)

When we're not here, what are we doing?

- Events & Online networks for sharing good practice
- Members website
- Influence: Local Authority Practice; National Policy; Other public bodies
- Working with partners

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Challenges & Trends...

Reasons for Optimism

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"SURVIVAL IS NOT EASY"

Capturing the views of 461 care experienced young people on the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis

December 2022

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82% Struggling to buy food, some or all of the time

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76% report the cost of living crisis has impacted their mental health

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31% Struggling to pay rent or at risk of homelessness

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14% admitted they had put themselves in a vulnerable position to afford essentials E.g. shoplifting

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Only 35% reported receiving financial support from their Local Authority

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Recommendations:

- Over 25 rate of Universal Credit
- Local Authorities Ringfenced Household Support Fund
- Financial wellbeing key to the success of Care Review missions
- Read the report Here.

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Postcode Lottery of support across the country

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Health Provision

What works for Children's Social Care: An Exploratory study of the emotional wellbeing needs & experiences of care leavers in England

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Supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People (UASC)

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Young People
'living out of area'

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What happens at 25?

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Specific Groups of Care Experienced Young People with particular needs

Young parents, those in custody, LGBTQ+ community, young people with a disability, UASC young people

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Reasons for Optimism

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The Care Review

The Proposal for corporate parenting duties across public bodies

DFE's stable homes built on love initiative

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Ofsted's separate judgement for care leavers

This started again in January and places more of a focus on care leaving services

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Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic

This has already been adopted by 30 local authorities across the country even though it was declined by government

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The overall commitment from leaving care teams and personal advisors to make a difference

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Increased Awareness

John Lewis advert

Support from businesses

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Ongoing consultation with Care Leavers

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Corporate Parenting Consultation

On using the term ‘corporate parenting’ – 14 CEYP said to stop using this, 4 wanted to keep using this and 1 not sure.

Important that they understand the challenges

- ‘Try and put themselves into the shoes of a care experienced individual – they can be so far removed.’

The importance of family, care & love

‘I see the care leaving team as a big family,’

‘They should take their roles more seriously and recognise that there is more to the offer than logistics, it’s the human side of it’

‘Every child needs a parent’

Need to ‘Actually Care’

Corporate Parenting Consultation

They needed corporate parents

- ‘They are the most important for people in my situation who don’t have a family around them.’
- ‘We may not have parents to turn to for advice & guidance and we need a corporate parent who is neutral and gives us that love, support, care and guidance.’

The need for accountability

- ‘ I think they are important as they can be held accountable’
- ‘Young people’s lived experiences will not improve unless corporate parents hold themselves accountable & drive forward.’

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Commitment from our Care Leavers across the country

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"Social justice is love applied to systems, policies and cultures"

– Bernice King (Martin Luther King's daughter)

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In Their Own Words:

Experiences and Insights from Care Experienced Young People

5 Topics: Protected Characteristic, Cost of Living, UASC, Transport, Care Leavers' Hubs

9:30-11:15 Friday 14th July - Online

www.leavingcare.org to book

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