

Client Group: Young People Leaving Care

Needs Analysis
(Refreshed December 2008)

'Supporting you to build an independent life'



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Introduction

This client group includes young people leaving local authority care who need support.

The data presented here projects levels of need for supported accommodation as well as recording past levels.

The data collection for Looked After Children and therefore Care Leavers is not as straightforward as it appears to those not familiar with it. For example:

- a) The absolute number of children in care at any one time is not much of a guide to need. The most up to date absolute figure is 534 (November 2008). However the numbers remaining after a set period, say one year, is more of a guide to need and at a rough estimate there are likely to be in the region of 390 young people in this position. It should also be noted that these figures will be subject to constant change.
- b) The majority of children exit from care each year (usually after a period of months of being Looked After) to be reunited with their families, whilst others become Looked After, so that it is difficult to talk about a static population of identified names year on year.

Current Supporting People Position

Current Supporting People Spend (2008/09) **£151,387.60**
1.49% of total SP pot

Summary of services funded by Supporting People:

Accommodation Based: **8 units**
 Floating Support: **0 units**
 Total number of people supported **8 units**

Table 1; Supporting People Provision, Breakdown by District/Borough:

District/Borough	Floating Support			Accommodation based		
	% of total client group spend	No. of units	% of units	% of total client group spend	No. of units	% of units
North Warwickshire BC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby BC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stratford on Avon DC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwick DC	0	0	0	100%	8	100%

Average utilisation of services in 2007/8:

Floating support: **n/a**
 Accommodation based: **98.48%**

Information from Sectorial Overview

- Housing related support needs to focus on support for 16 to 17 year olds who are unable to return home and in their first steps to independent living. This support can include financial assistance, housing provision, and education and training in order to facilitate the path to independence.
- The numbers of young people leaving care in Warwickshire are rising, with the greatest numbers in Warwick and Nuneaton & Bedworth Districts. Further work and information is required to establish how many young people leaving care require some form of support, either through floating support in their own home or within a supported accommodation environment.

Waiting List

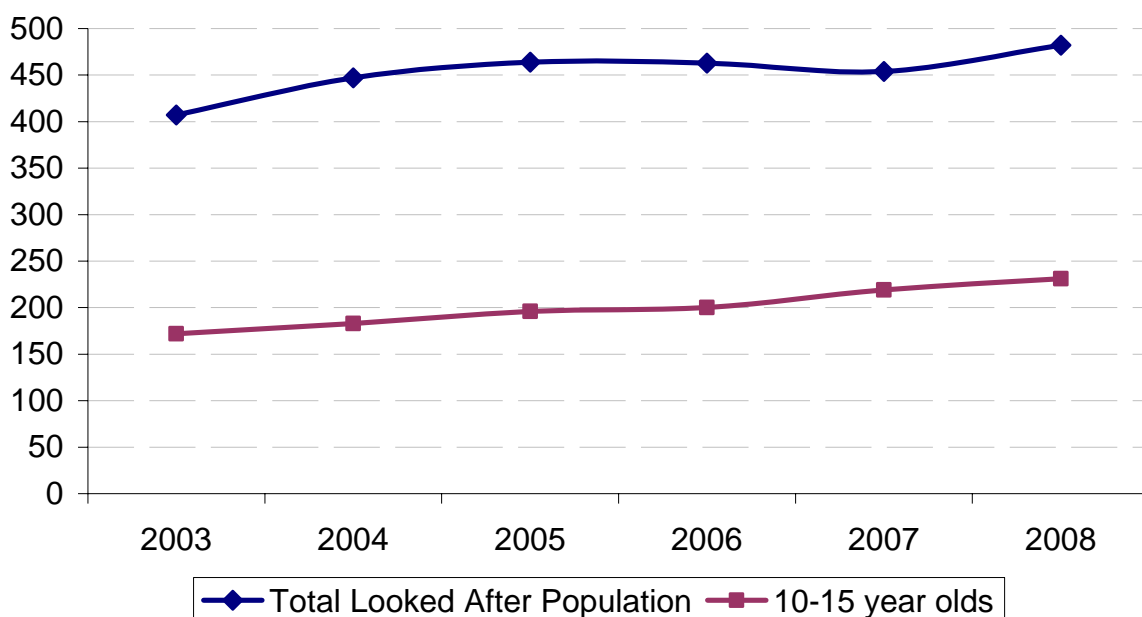
Table 2: Waiting list for Young People Leaving Care on 6th July 2008

Service Type	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford on Avon	Warwick	Total
Floating Support	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Accommodation Based	0	0	0	0	8	8

CURRENT POSITION WITHIN WARWICKSHIRE

A relatively reliable measure of young people leaving care for Supporting People planning purposes are those reaching 16 years whilst they are still Looked After. This is when planning for their independence begins and the statutory duties and services under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 commence.

Figure 1: The total 'Looked After' population and those 'Looked After 10-15 in Warwickshire, 31st March 2003 to 2008



Source: Extracted from Carefirst by Knowledge & Information management Service.

Figure 1 illustrates the rise in the Looked After population and the number of 'Looked After' young persons aged 10 to 15 year olds, or 'rising 16's', between 2003 and 2008.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of Looked After Children by District at the end of January 2008, with the highest proportions of children looked after by Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough and Warwick District. In Leaving Care Act terms those over 16 are "Eligible" whilst they remain in foster or residential care. At the end of March 2008, there were 482 Looked After Young People, and around 230 were aged 10-15 years.

Table 3: Number of children looked after by District, January 2008

Team	Number (as at 31 Jan 08)	% of Looked After Children
North Warwickshire	41	8.5%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	142	29.5%
Rugby	65	13.5%
Stratford	55	11.4%
Warwick	119	24.7%
Integrated Disability Service	19	3.9%
Asylum Seekers	37	7.7%
Youth Offending	3	0.6%
No Allocated Team	1	0.2%
Warwickshire Total	482	100.0%

Source: Extracted from Carefirst by Knowledge & Information Management Service

Supporting People (SP) Requirements

The Leaving Care Categories that correspond to Supporting People data needs are primarily those assessed as 'Relevant' and 'Former relevant' young people:

- (a) "Eligible" young people aged 16-18 years, who are still "in care" with foster parents, or in residential establishments. These are primarily the responsibility of Children's Services, but are entitled to multi-agency planning.
- (b) "Relevant" young people aged 16-18 years (who were Eligible), who are not able to claim benefits. Children's Services pay for their accommodation costs, across a range of providers. Where there is a block contract with SP, the SP programme can recoup retrospectively costs directly via leaving Care Teams.
- (c) "Former Relevant" young people, who will have been either "Eligible" or "Relevant" or both. They are aged 18 to 21 years (24 if at University). They too have multi-agency planning and support in finding accommodation. They are able to claim benefits.

Table 4; Ethnicity of young people covered by the three leaving care statuses, 31st March 2008

Ethnicity	Number of young people by Leaving Care Status		
	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant
African	1	0	0
Caribbean	1	0	0
Dual Heritage	1	1	7
Indian	1	1	1
Other Asian	1	0	1
Other Black	0	1	0
Other Ethnic Group	10	17	12
Other White	1	3	2
White British	68	32	146
Total	84	55	169

Source: Extracted from Carefirst by Knowledge & Information Management Service

Table 4 shows the ethnicity of the young people who currently fall under the three leaving care statuses of Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant in Warwickshire. For each status, the large majority of young people are White British, with 12%, 23% and 13% of young people under each status respectively, recorded as a Non-white British ethnic group.

Table 5: Number of “relevants” and “former relevants” by district or service actively involved in Pathway Planning (October 2008)

Team	Relevants	Former relevants
Asylum Seekers Team	20	25
Nuneaton & Bedworth	14	36
Warwick & Leamington	5	45
North Warwickshire	3	8
Rugby	11	20
Stratford	1	15
Youth Offending Team	2	3
Learning Disability Service		
Learning Disability, Older People & Physical Disability Adult Services	8	22
Incomers from outside Warwickshire	10	17
TOTAL	74	191

Source: Annual Performance Assessment (D.C.S.F requirement)

Table 5 shows the number of young people aged 16 and 17 (relevants) and between 18 and 24 (former relevants) actively involved in full Pathway Planning. These figures therefore show the number of young people receiving a substantive service. The trend has been for the numbers in both categories to increase year on year and this is expected to continue.

Anecdotal evidence from professionals working within the County Council’s Childrens’ Services is that at any one time one quarter to a third of the young people categorised in table 5 will be subject to crises that threaten their accommodation stability.

The number of young people who are assisted by the Asylum Seekers Team has risen rapidly to 20 relevants and 25 former relevants and further substantial increases are anticipated.

The original Needs Analysis document published in 2007 included a projection of the number of anticipated relevant and former relevant. This was based on figures from more than one source available at the end of 2006 and included those not subject to full Pathway Planning. The number subject to Pathway Planning is a better indicator of needs as these are the young people receiving a substantive service. The projections include in the last report have therefore been omitted.

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

PAF A4 - We collect data each year as part of the OC3 (government statistical return) which looks at where young people who recently left care are accommodated on their 19th birthday. Below is the county breakdown for the last three years. In 2005/06 there were 42 young people included in the return, 36 in 2006/07 and 49 in 2007/08.

If past trends are a reflection of the future need for supported accommodation by those young people who are leaving and have left care, then the numbers of young people leaving care and requiring supported accommodation will continue to rise. Nuneaton & Bedworth and Warwick are the districts expected to have the larger numbers of young people requiring accommodation support.

It is advised that those young people aged 16, making the transition from Eligible to Relevant, will be the neediest of care leavers requiring more intensive support than those over 18. Nevertheless, those 'Former Relevant', who are often 'Yesterdays Relevant', may also require intensive support so as to ensure gains are not ruined and to avoid the breakdown of living arrangements.

Table 6; PAF A4: Where young people who recently left care are accommodated on their 19th Birthday

		2005/6	2006/7	2007/8
Total proportion in EET - PAF A4		29/42 = 69.0%	23/36 = 63.8%	33/49 = 67.3%
Accommodation	Independent Living	17/42 = 40.5%	13/36 = 36.1%	18/49 = 36.7%
	Foyers and similar	2/42 = 4.8%	1/36 = 2.8%	2/49 = 4.1%
	Community Home/residential	1/42 = 2.4%	2/36 = 5.6%	4/49 = 8.2%
	Supported Lodgings	4/42 = 9.5%	1/36 = 2.8%	4/49 = 8.2%
	With parents/relatives	9/42 = 21.4%	10/36 = 27.7%	4/49 = 8.2%
	Emergency Accommodation	0	1/36 = 2.8%	0
	Semi-independent transitional	4/42 = 9.5%	1/36 = 2.8%	7/49 = 14.3%
	Ordinary Lodgings	0	0	1/49 = 2.0%
	Bed and Breakfast	0	1/36 = 2.8%	1/49 = 2.0%
	Custody	1/42 = 2.4%	2/36 = 5.6%	5/49 = 10.2%
	Other accommodation	2/42 = 4.8%	3/36 = 8.3%	1/49 = 2.0%
	Not in touch - unknown	2/42 = 4.8%	1/36 = 2.8%	2/49 = 4.1%

Source: Extracted from Carefirst by Knowledge & Information Management Service
 *EET refers to education, employment and training.

Emergency Accommodation Requests

The Care Leavers Helpline was set up to respond, and find a solution where possible, to issues raised for, and by, Care Leavers out of office hours. Table 7 represents those who have contacted the Helpline requesting accommodation assistance out of hours and subsequently referred to the Emergency Duty Team (EDT).

Table 7; Requests for Accommodation to EDT by Care Leavers, Oct 01- July 08 inc.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Tot
Oct01- Mar02							6	3	7	5	4	5	30
Apr02- Mar03	5	5	3	6	13	1	2	4	1	5	4	2	51
Apr03- Mar04	2	4	8	3	0	3	1	2	9	5	6	3	46
Apr04- Mar05	1	4	4	2	4	5	0	4	4	7	4	6	45
Apr05- Mar06	3	2	0	3	0	0	1	7	0	7	16	4	43
Apr06- Mar07	4	2	2	1	3	1	0	4	8	8	3	0	36
Apr 07- Mar 08	6	8	8	1	2	1	3	7	3	0	2	1	42
Apr 08 – Jul 08	0	0	1	0									
Average	3	3.57	3.71	2.28	3.66	1.83	1.85	4.42	4.57	5.28	5.57	3	41.85

Source: Emergency Duty Team

The Situation

Based on information for the period from October 2001 to July 2008, the number of referrals averages at 41.8 per year. The figures do reflect the contact made, although, in some limited cases they include a sequence of nights when the same person has presented with the same issue. The role of EDT is to provide sufficient support until the next working day. The figures provided do not reflect the duration of placements made on an emergency basis, since weekends can extend from Friday to Monday.

With each case, EDT will seek a resolution, or negotiation, to allow the situation to hold overnight, however there are instances when the need to locate alternative accommodation is necessary.

The type of establishment used to accommodate a young person in crisis has changed over the years. Prior to the Helplines' introduction YMCA, CAHA etc, provided a good resource but for different reasons were unable to continue to offer their services. Subsequently, a greater use of Bed and Breakfast establishments was made, and whilst initially they provided a positive response to young people in crisis, in recent years, the number of appropriate B&Bs has reduced through reasons such as closure, change in management, unacceptable standards or clientele, or increased costs. Consequently, there has been a need to resort to larger facilities such as Holiday Inn and Travelodge, proving impersonal, expensive, usually isolated, and excluding meals and other necessary facilities.

It needs to be noted that accommodation crises do not usually occur in isolation, but are invariably accompanied by financial, physical or mental health issues, none of which can be effectively met by existing emergency provision.

Update 2007/2008

- The departure of the Specialised Senior Practitioner in late 2007 has led to a diminution of young people (Care Leavers) seeking help from the EDT for accommodation.
- The arrival of the next Leaving Care Co-ordinator post in EDT is expected to revive the robust relationship between care leavers in very vulnerable homelessness situations and a known worker – a figurehead.
- Referrals for and by non-Care Leavers continue to be received.

Proposed Provision

A number of locations are under consideration to become a staff office and accommodation, essentially separate from other young people, with existing tenure in the property, and close to supervision and support.

Supporting People Client Database Information

The client record data analyses people who enter a Supporting People funded service during a set period. The figures below show who has started using a service between April 2007 and March 2008. Details of anyone already in a scheme prior to April 2007 will not be included in this breakdown.

Table 8; New Supporting People service users in 2007/08 whose primary need had been assessed as a 'young person leaving care' (12 clients)

Client Age		Client Sex		Client Ethnicity	Service Type		Provider						Secondary Client Group				
16-17	18-19	Male	Female	White	Floating support	Supported Housing	Bromford Carinthia Housing association	Charnwood House	Christian Alliance Housing Association Ltd	Doorway	Covertry and Warwickshire YMCA	FCH Housing and Care	Fry Housing Trust	Offenders	Single Homeless	Young People at Risk	Unknown
10	2	4	8	12	4	8	2	1	4	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	6

Source: Supporting People Client database

Twelve young persons with their primary need assessed as 'young people leaving care' were new to the Supporting People programme in 2007/08. All twelve clients were of White ethnic origin, ten were aged between 16 and 17 years. Four were male and eight were female.

Table 9: Primary Client Group for those persons with 'young people leaving care' assessed as their secondary need

Offenders or at risk of offending	1
Single Homeless with Support Needs	2
Teenage Parents	1
Young People at Risk	12

P1E Homeless Returns 2007/08

Table 10; Households eligible for assistance, and unintentionally homeless, 2007/08, whose primary or secondary need groups were associated with 'having been in Care'

Priority Need Category	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford on Avon	Warwick	Total
Applicant formerly in "Care", and aged 18 to 20 years old: <i>Primary</i> need	1	0	0	0	0	1
Applicant formerly in "Care", and aged 18 to 20 years old: <i>Secondary</i> need	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applicant is vulnerable as a result of: Having been in 'Care': <i>Primary</i> need	0	1	1	0	0	2
Applicant is vulnerable as a result of: Having been in 'Care': <i>Secondary</i> need	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: P1E Data 2007/08...Figures for Rugby cover 3 of the 4 quarters only.

P1E data contains detailed information on those households presenting themselves as homeless to a Local Authority. This dataset is updated quarterly. Table 10 shows that one person formerly in "Care" aged between 18 and 20 was accepted as homeless and in priority need in the year and a further two were accepted as homeless, being vulnerable having been in "Care".

Need at Any Stage

- (a) The pattern of Need is fairly well-known and understood, even when numbers of young people falling into any particular category in any of the five Directorates will vary from month to month (week to week in crisis situations).
- (b) Tables, statistics and graphs in this report relating to the number of young people in care and / or leaving care are snapshots, taken from a moving picture. However, need is increasing in the sense that the overall number of children coming into care is increasing (again) this year and the age profile is continuing to show a disproportionate rise in the number coming into care in their teens (these will most likely stay to be Care Leavers). This picture has continued in the past three years.
- (c) A small number will also feature in YOT figures, either because they were in care prior to sentence or have achieved 'Eligibility' whilst in custody (may be 6 or 7).
- (d) A small number will feature in Teenage Pregnancy figures, disproportionately higher compared to the general population.
- (e) A small number will feature in Drug and Alcohol Abuse figures, disproportionately higher than the general population.
- (f) A small number will have their Services provided by the Integrated Disability Services (there are 25 Children and Young People of all ages in I.D.S. care placements).

How Need fits the S.P. Service Categories

- (a) It is helpful here if the important Leaving Care Categories such as Relevant and Former Relevance are put to one side, and the overall number of young people 16-21/24 needing accommodation are considered (County wide)

- (b) These young people 16-21/24 need somewhere to live, to achieve any stability, and therefore to enter education training, and employment, (and to remain there). They currently occupy both the projects that S.P. fund and some accommodation Projects S.P. do not fund. However, they also occupy private and local authority tenancies, and others may live temporarily with relatives or friends. They are supported emotionally, practically and in small financial ways by the Leaving Care Teams.
- (c) However, this instability and frequent change of address/circumstances mean that plans are routinely being changed.
- (d) What is required is a range of options from very supported provision (Accommodation-Based) through supported living arrangements to complete independence, with the ability to move between options (backwards as well as forward).
- (e) The Leaving Care Act also requires the provision of Contingency Arrangements for when living arrangements fail. The "Second Chance" Project based at Binswood Lodge (C.A.H.A.) in Leamington Spa was a County-wide Intensive Accommodation Scheme, with up to five places. It ran for three years up to 2005/6, when the funding expired. A bid to Supporting People was first accepted as eligible for funding, but later that decision was reversed. No such options now exist within the County, but at the request of the then S.P. Service Manager, Leaving Care Services kept a log for a year of Need for a year, showing a Contingency arrangement was still very much needed.
- (f) However, the O.C.3 Returns serve as a good benchmark. Each year the Government requires data on a sample of the circumstances of young people around their 19th birthday, and other factors, including Living Arrangements.
- (g) For example in June 2007 the sample was 36. It broke down as follows:
- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Parents or Relations | 10 |
| 2. | Independent Living | 13 |
| 3. | Supported Lodgings | 1 |
| 4. | Bed and Breakfast | 1 |
| 5. | Emergency Accommodation | 1 |
| 6. | Semi Independent Living | 1 |
| 7. | Custody | 2 |
| 8. | Residential Care | 1 |
| 9. | Foyer | 1 |
| 10. | Other | 3 |
| 11. | Not in touch | <u>2</u> |
| | TOTAL | 36 |

It is fair to say that categories No. 2,3,6,8,9 (may) represent a stable environment for 17 of the young people.

But Category 1 – Parent/Relative – will probably be, by default, all that is/was available, and cannot be called stable. Approximately 50% of those i.e. 5 are small 's' stable and 5 are not. This leaves therefore 22 out of 36 young people in unstable living arrangements that did not meet their needs. Given that these figures were taken from a sample it is reasonable to conclude that the actual number in unstable arrangements will be much higher.

Assumptions of Need

- The numbers of young people leaving care in Warwickshire are rising, with the greatest numbers in Warwick and Nuneaton & Bedworth districts. While there is a high level of support services available in Warwick, there is a very low level of provision in Nuneaton & Bedworth.
- The Local Authority has a legal obligation to support young people leaving care to access appropriate housing that meets their needs. It is predicted that the numbers of young people leaving care will continue to rise as illustrated in Figure 1, and the majority, if not all, will require some form of housing related assistance.

The White Paper titled '**The Care Matters: Time for Change**'¹, lays out steps the Department for Children, Schools and Families will take to improve outcomes for children and young people in care. With respect to the transition to adulthood, young people without parental and family support are often exposed to greater risks than other adolescents. Government steps to improve this transition include preventing local authorities from discharging people prematurely from their care placements until properly prepared. However, many young people may not necessarily want to, or be able to, stay in their placements beyond the age of 18. This is when supported accommodation would be a valuable option.

Feedback from the Departments' consultations with young people has highlighted accommodation as a real and pressing issue, with young people wanting more choice in accommodation and also the opportunity to try out living independently and develop life skills, before making this living arrangement more permanent.

Another concern among young people, and highlighted by The White Paper, is homelessness. 'Good practice authorities' have established move on arrangements for care leavers using a range of approaches such as quotas from supported housing in the private rented sector and choice based lettings schemes for social housing. Floating support and resettlement services also help reduce the likelihood of young people losing their home².

The Directorate has been successful in being awarded resources, under Pilot Status, for a number of the initiatives contained within "Care Matters" and within the Children and Young People Bill (2008) now progressing through Parliament.

- (a) "Wright2BCared4" – a Pilot designed to enable young people to remain Looked After in greater numbers up to their 18th birthday. This pilot is in its early stages, and will affect a cohort of 16-18 year olds, not the whole population.
- (b) "Staying Put" – a Pilot designed to work over the next three years to increase the modest number of Supported Lodgings Placements for the 18-21 year old age group. Work on this is just beginning.

Specific Omissions in Provision

- There is a lack of provision in the north of the county (North Warwickshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth) despite the fact that a greater number of young people leaving care reside in the north and this is projected to rise.

¹ Department for Education and Skills (2007) Care Matters: Time for Change.

² Cit [1]

- The In House Lodgings Scheme does not have enough capacity to meet need. The “Staying Put” Pilot is designed to increase their capacity by 100% - over three years.
- There is no contingency provision anywhere in Warwickshire. The Children (Leaving Care) Act requires children’s services to provide feedback on contingency accommodation for care leavers when their first bid for independence fails.
- Since the closure of ‘2nd Chance’ in Nuneaton no such accommodation exists.

Implications of Service Unavailability

Some assumptions about the implications of service unavailability include:

- The recently published Green Paper on Looked After and Care Leaving Children and Young People makes it clear that the Government expects, in the near future, that Local Authorities will provide more and better accommodation based support, until 21 years of age and beyond. They do not expect to provide central funds for this but will be inspecting services in greater detail to seek evidence of provision.
- Young people are at greater risk of being homeless if no emergency provision is available. Provision needs to enable young people to progress to more secure accommodation options.
- Young people requiring emergency accommodation are more likely to be placed in unsuitable accommodation, e.g., B&B.
- Young people may be more at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour such as substance misuse and crime and disorder.
- Implications for young people’s mental health and emotional well-being, including increased risk of suicide.
- Lack of accommodation has a detrimental impact upon young people’s education and employment opportunities and therefore their economic well-being.
- Poor performance in government statistical return OC3 concerned with whether care leavers are in suitable accommodation. This in turn will have an impact upon WCC’s annual performance assessment, joint area review and star rating.

Feedback from Supporting People Big Event and the Partnership Day

- At the Supporting People Big Event, 6% of the total money allocated to client groups using the ‘post box’ exercise was received by the ‘Young People Leaving Care’ client group. However, those people who attended in a professional capacity allocated 7% of their total funds to this client group whilst those people who attended in a non professional capacity allocated 5%.
- At the Partnership Day, using the same ‘post box’ exercise, ‘Young People Leaving Care’ received 8% of the total money allocated to the client groups.

What Young People say

Care Leaving Services have a duty to provide Participation Opportunities for their young people, i.e. opportunities for service users to be involved in Service Improvement. This has been done. The lessons from the last seven years are:-

- i. Young people want a variety of stable supportive provision in which to make the slow transition to independence. Accelerated transition post 16 is destabilising and can be catastrophic for life chances.
- ii. Young people want individualised support wherever they live.
- iii. Young people want a variety of the choices of accommodation, step-graded to work to increased autonomy (up to 21). (They actually would like it after 21!).
- iv. Young people want a chance to 'go back' into more supportive living, when it is needed.
- v. They want a chance to "fail", i.e. to try something. If it doesn't work out, then try again – later in their lives (Hence the 2nd Chance Project).
- vi. Some young people want "normalised" provision without everyone being a care leaver, some do not want that.
- vii. All young people do not want provision that continues to reinforce the stereotypes held of them by the media and general public, i.e. "drug using, pregnancy-prone. Law-breaking, unemployables".

So with whom they live matters to them in the sense that it should not promote, by association, such stereotypes. The overlap discussion with young offenders for example is therefore potentially misguided.

Young people want 'respect', 'choice, and support on hand. They want their achievements celebrated. They join regularly with Leaving Care Staff in a range of Participation activities.

Strategic Context

- On 14th November 2006 the Government announced a package of measures to tackle youth homelessness through a commitment to end the use of bed and breakfast accommodation by local authorities in discharging their statutory duty to secure suitable accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds.
- Local authorities have a duty to provide the funds for accommodation for young people over 16 leaving care.
- SP aims to work with other local authority departments and their partners in identifying the housing related support needs of young people leaving care to enable them to maintain or improve their ability to live independently. The focus is on delivering the right services and outcomes for this client group and requires authorities and providers to ensure that service design and provision for vulnerable young people is integrated and focused, and delivers outcomes rather than process.

The Legal Categories etc.

- (a) Eligible Young People – are young people between the ages of 14 and 18 who have been in care for 13 weeks and are in care on, or after, their 16th birthday. They live for the most part in foster care, and are subject to either a Care Order (imposed by a court) or voluntary provision, both under the Children Act 1989.
- (b) Relevant Young People – are young people who were Eligible, who have left care after 16, but are still under 18. They are benefit-ineligible and are reliant on Children's Services for their funds to pay for Accommodation and Maintenance. They live in a small range of approved settings, such as the lodgings scheme or tenancies, (private or local authority licences). They are subject to considerable instability of accommodation, education, training and employment, and it is one of Leaving Care Services' tasks to minimise the number of young people leaving care under 18.
- (c) Former Relevant Young People – are 18-21 and have been either Eligible, Relevant or both. Whilst they are benefit-eligible, they are emotionally supported by Leaving Care Teams. It is Children's Services duty to assess and support them in all aspects of their lives until 21 (or 24 if at University) including Accommodation (except for their income).
- (d) All three Groups are entitled to multi-agency Pathway Plans, reviewed by Independent Reviewing Officers, until aged 18, and Team Leaders thereafter.
- (e) Children in Care of all ages and Care Leavers benefit from the Corporate Parenting Strategies and Processes that all the Directorates in Local Authorities, including Warwickshire, are required to provide by Government. In Warwickshire such Strategies involve Elected Members, Senior Officers and Chief Officers of all Directorates working together for the benefit of 'our' Children and young people.
- (f) The Joint Area Review by Ofsted/Audit Commission of Children's Services in June 2008 reviewed evidence of proper accommodation provision for Care Leavers, across the County.
- (g) The County Children and Young People's Plan 2007/8, under 'Making a Positive Contribution', requires the Authority to "pursue the development of supportive residential accommodation project for Care Leavers in the North/Nuneaton and Bedworth and Rugby Districts (-: 315/D71)" (Leader-Martin Cliff).