

In Control Community of Change

Care Leavers and the Care Leaver Covenant

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Department for Education**



Keep on Caring

- **Approx 70,000 children are in care in England**
- **75% of cared-for children are fostered; the remaining 25% are in residential care**
- **62% in care due to abuse or neglect**
- **56% have a special educational need or disability (EHCP 37% SEMH; SEN support 46% SEMH)**
- **A huge 40% of all care leavers aged 19-21yrs in England are not in employment, education or training**
- **Only 7% of children in care gain entry to university**
- **20% of young homeless people have previously been in care**



Keep on Caring

- **Young people leaving care are better prepared and supported to live independently**
- **They have improved access to employment, education and training**
- **Care leavers experience stability in their lives and feel safe and secure**
- **Their access to health and emotional support is improved**
- **They can achieve financial stability**



Children and Social Work Act 2017: Corporate Parenting Principles

Seven principles that LA must have regard to in relation to looked after children and young people:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people;
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.



What is the Care Leaver Covenant?

- **The Covenant is a promise made by private, public or voluntary organisations to provide support for care leavers aged 16-25 to help them to live**



<https://mycovenant.org.uk/>



Support Offered	Bradford College	University of Bradford	Calderdale College	University of Huddersfield	Kirklees College	University of Leeds	Leeds Arts University	Leeds Beckett University	Leeds College of Building	Leeds City College	Leeds Trinity University	Wakefield College
(Click for more information)												
Foster Family Fun Days	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pastoral Support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Named Contact for information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Web Support/information	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓				✓	
Summer schools and weekend activities						✓	✓	✓			✓	
Application Support	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Contextual Admissions *	✓	✓		✓		✓					✓	✓
Accommodation	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Financial Support	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transition Support				✓		✓						
Employment Support	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Staff Awareness Training	✓			✓		✓		✓				

* To find out more visit <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/adviser-news/news/contextualised-admissions-and-what-it-means-your-students> and <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/supporting-care-leavers-toolkit>

The Life Of Ryan

<https://youtu.be/gPEoJtXVUuo>



Looked-after Children Mental Health Assessment Pilots: An update

- **DfE funded in up to 10 local areas** – links to trailblazers and other NHS work. Aim to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing assessments children receive when they first enter care, so that they are:
 - **thorough;**
 - **of good quality;**
 - **needs focused;**
 - **person centred;**
 - provide **accurate** diagnosis of need; and
 - occur at the right **time.**
- **Supported by Anna Freud Centre – pilots being selected as we speak!**



For more information

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