

LIIA Care Leaver Survey Results - 2024

Newham
Kingston upon Thames
Haringey
Hammersmith and Fulham
Greenwich
Redbridge
City of London
Wandsworth
Islington
Bromley
Southwark
Kensington and Chelsea
Hackney
Havering
Enfield
Camden
Richmond upon Thames
Waltham Forest

21

LA responses

Practice and Views on:

Housing

Education Training Employment

Health

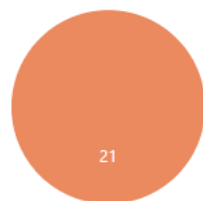
Relationships

Immigration/Criminal Justice/Safeguarding

Miscellaneous

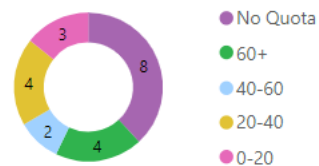
Housing

Do you have specific priority in your housing allocation policy regarding care leavers (including former UASC)?



Yes

Do you have a quota for care leaver housing allocations?



No Quota
60+
40-60
20-40
0-20

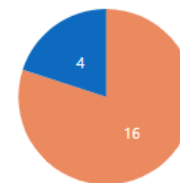
Do you have any specialist housing support for care leavers - e.g. a dedicated housing officer?

	No.
Specialist within your service	11
Dedicated Housing Officer	9
Partner / Commissioned provision	6
No specialist support	2
20 young people per year aged between 17 & 18 participate in the House Project. This prepares them for independent living and offers ongoing support and community once they have their own home.	1
managers from LCT and Housing meet every two months to review the housing for care leavers	1

What other housing solutions do you provide for care leavers?

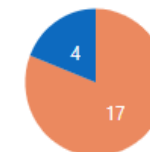
	No.
Commissioned places from accommodation provider	16
Dedicated property for care leavers	8
Looking to purchase/repurpose property	7
Housing First Project	1
None	1
Ringfenced private sector transition properties	1
Seek reciprocal arrangements with other local authorities. There is an option for private rental sector accommodation but this is very rarely, if ever, used.	1
Staying put with foster carers as long as needed up to age 25	1

Do you have a joint childrens/housing policy for care leavers?



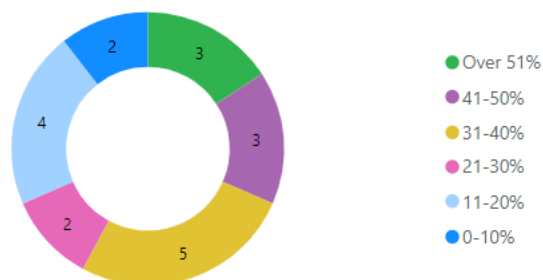
Yes No

Do you work with Housing Associations or other Accommodation Providers to find places, ensure quality, and wrap around support?



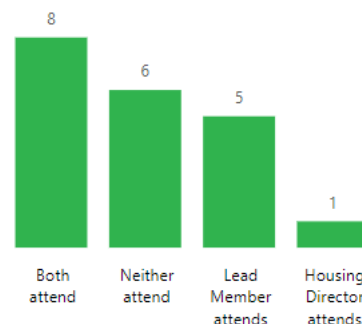
Yes No

What percentage of your care leavers between 18-25 live in accommodation outside the Local Authority?

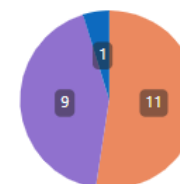


Over 51%
41-50%
31-40%
21-30%
11-20%
0-10%

Does your Council Housing Director and Lead Member attend your Corporate Parenting Board?

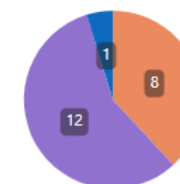


Does your protocol follow new DHLUC and DfE good practice advice (03.05.24)



Yes We will be updating it No

Have you implemented updated DHLUC guidance (31.05.24)



Yes We will be putting this in place No

Housing – Key considerations

- Housing stock is mentioned in almost every response, esp final stage independent accommodation.
- What is available does not always match CL need.
- The cost and barriers of private renting are prohibitive.
- Lack of reciprocal agreements, including when needed for safety.
- Joint working with housing and specialist roles are effective – should all LA's have these?

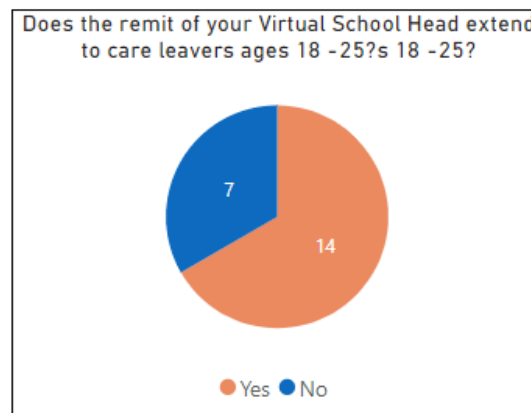
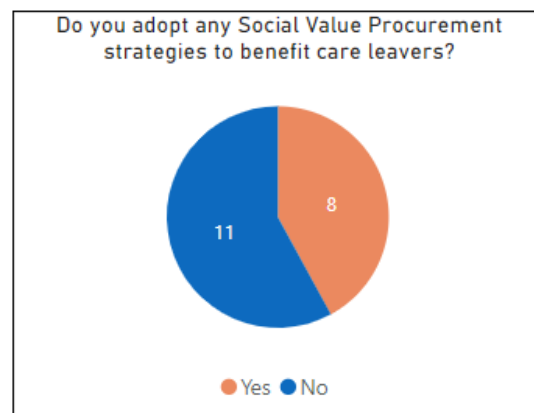
Housing

- LA's are showing innovative repurposing of properties to provide small scale semi-independent accommodation for care leavers – can we grow this?
- High quality, well co-ordinated support is vital to success in tenancy, can we grow the best models?
- Can we incorporate care leaver housing need into new building projects
- How can we use our commissioning powers and relationships with HA's to leverage better provision and support for CL?

Education Training Employment

Do you offer care leavers bespoke ETE opportunities within the LA (the 'family firm')?	No.
Guaranteed interviews	14
Apprenticeship	13
Work experience/internship	13
Ring fenced posts	8
None	2
Recently employed 2 ex Redbridge Care leavers into the leaving care service	1

Do you have specialist provision to support care leavers to enter and sustain ETE?	No.
In-house ETE service	17
VCS/commissioned service	9
Business	5
Partnership with HE/FE providers	5
Camden has community budget in conjunction with DWP to provide care and capacity support to our young people through Drive Forward Foundation. Partnership with HE/FE providers UCL and Camden have a joint MoU which sets out principles of joint working. Business Other – Inner Circle Education Trust: Charity no. 291583	1
No	1
Our Virtual School works with care leavers up to 25	1
Virtual College	1



Do you support care leavers financially to enter and sustain ETE?	No.
Study equipment including laptop/IT	21
Travel Costs	21
Clothing	18
Accommodation outside of term time	16
Course Fees	15
Living Costs	14
Bursaries, prom and graduation funds, termly incentive payments	1
Grants and top up payments	1

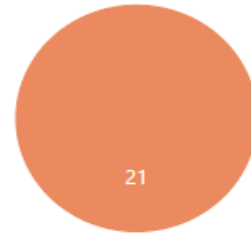
- Intersecting needs were flagged, especially mental health, housing, financial barriers and a lack of familial/social role modelling and support.
- Previously negative experiences of education, in particular school. Linked with lower levels of qualifications and skills than peers.
- Discrimination and stigma, including a lack of understanding around the experiences and needs of care leavers.
- Former UASC face language and legal barriers
- Geographic displacement – being out of borough
- Financial incentives to progress into employment from benefits
- Lack of co-ordination and quality in ETE offers – often feel hurriedly put together without a proper understanding of CL needs.

Education Training Employment

- A holistic approach. Supporting ETE alongside emotional wellbeing, housing, financial security, relationships etc.... How can we build these approaches? Has commissioning a role?
- Should all LA's have Virtual School involvement until age 25?
- Should London take a more consistent approach to a family firm offer?
- Strong partnerships, including with DWP, employers and employer networks, and skills/training providers. How can we influence?
- Ring fenced opportunities and apprenticeships, which should be at the London living wage
- Can we grow effective social procurement strategies?

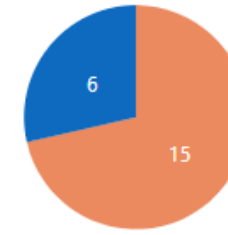
Health

Do you collaborate with your ICS area to support care leaver health?



● Yes

Do you work with any other organisations to support care leaver health?



● Yes ● No

SAMPLE RESPONSES - What would help joint working with your ICS area to support care leaver health?

- Would be good to develop some best practice / standard ways of working across new ICB footprints (ie multi LAs) as offer across boroughs seems very inconsistent.
- Shared approach to ensure timely health summaries are available to care leavers
- Regular meetings with Health professionals: eg attendance to Service /Team meetings, or to the Cocoon
- Extension of looked after nurse duties to aged 25
- Dedicated support to care leavers around mental health and those with complex conditions to support better transitions and not being lost in the adult system
- Clearer escalation pathways for emotional wellbeing into adult mental health services similar to arrangements in place for escalation to CAHMS.
- A standard NEL commitment from the regional ICB
- To create opportunity for collaborative at a designated space.

Health - Key Considerations

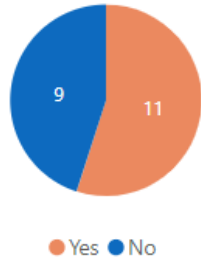
- By a distance the top issue flagged is mental health and emotional wellbeing, particularly for a cohort that has experienced high levels of trauma. Views are that, with some exceptions, the services do not exist to meet this need.
- Lack of continuity in healthcare caused by geographic moves and differences in provision
- Health care transitions into adult services (higher thresholds, navigating the system, not equipped to meet CL needs)
- Access to dentistry
- Wider lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise, preventative healthcare. Social Prescribing?
- Accessing timely NHS GP appointments, and the complexity of doing this

The following have been flagged as working well, can we build consistent, best practice approaches?

- Co-designing CL mental health services across LA's and ICS
- Health passporting
- Specialist health posts within the LA CL team such as transitions nurses and post-18 mental health support
- Early transitions and preparing for adulthood work, including with adult services where they are going to be required
- Outreach health services, including at hubs
- Where it is available, MH and EWB support from health and voluntary sectors is highly valued. How does this affect our commissioning?

Relationships

Have you developed any LA led mentoring activity for care leavers?



SAMPLE RESPONSES - details of the LA led mentoring activity for care leavers.

Within leaving care team we have a volunteering scheme and mentors

We have set up a mentoring scheme for children in care and care leavers. This includes mentoring by council employees, Grandmentors.

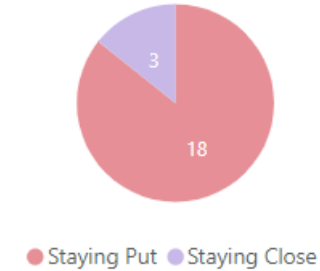
We have an Experienced Practitioner for Social Capital who leads the in house mentoring service

The Participation service is developing older YP within th service who support activities for the younger ones. Our Care Leaver Influencers (the steering group of young people who drive service development) are also developing a Big Brother, Big Sister scheme. We also have a very proactive lifelong links service.

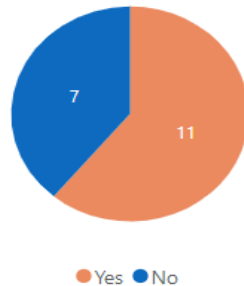
Need for a mentor is identified via Needs assessment and Pathway Plan and referral made accordingly.

Managed by participation service

Do you have a 'staying put', 'staying close' or other policies to enable care leavers to sustain relationships via accommodation arrangements?



Do you access or commission any partner led mentoring activity, e.g. GLA funded services or services like 'lifelong links' or the House Project etc?



SAMPLE RESPONSE - please provide further details of any partner led mentoring activity.

DfE funding to mentor UASC

Grandmentors- in conjunction with Volunteer Matters. Networks for life- recently recruited to this role

Hope for the Young

LifeLong Links, House Project and a GLA funded service for young people living in buyback council properties used as TA.

Relationships – Key Considerations

- Just over half (55%) of LA's have developed their own mentoring scheme
- These vary, for example peer mentoring, staff mentoring, grandmentoring
- 61% of LA's commissioned or accessed externally commissioned mentoring services
- The most referenced was Lifelong Links – six boroughs have partnerships with these scheme, some of whom are supported by DfE funding.
- Richmond and Kingston have a DfE funded mentoring scheme for UASC and former UASC
- No LA mentioned regional schemes – e.g. New Deal for Young People schemes – are PA's sufficiently connected with these?
- Geographic moves, language barriers, and lack of trust/confidence in relationships (stemming from previous trauma) are barriers

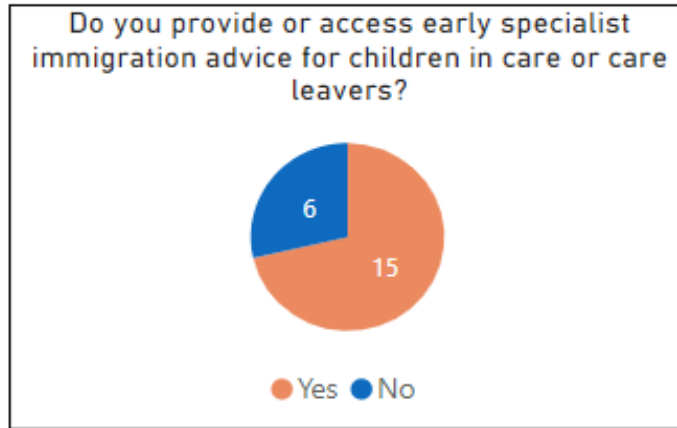
Relationships



The following are valued, can we build on them:

- ☐ Participation forums, group activities, and opportunities for care leavers to get together
- ☐ Hubs as a physical location for care leavers to gather, have 'ownership' of, and access support
- ☐ Lifelong links is highly regarded, as is the importance of undertaking this work early
- ☐ Reconnection with family and foster carers
- ☐ Improved awareness/connection with regional mentoring offers
- ☐ Consistent, long term PA support, without changes of worker (PA workforce retention)
- ☐ Some answers referred to the council as a 'family', (see also the 'family firm'), this appears to be a cultural factor, linking to 'whole council approaches' and maybe protected characteristic decisions.

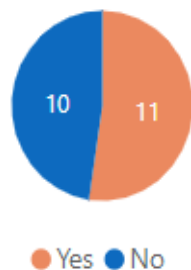
Immigration



- 71% of LA respondents provide access to early specialist immigration advice (15/22 LA's).
 - Some Local Authorities have this embedded within their CL service, for example Hounslow and LBHF have specialist posts
 - Several other LA's partner to access support, for example from Coram, SLRA, Refugee Action. Some work with local law associations.
-
- Access to solicitors – more challenging still at the point of appeal. Query whether there are enough practising.
 - Knock on effects to housing, health, ETE access
 - The impact of uncertain status on emotional wellbeing and mental health
 - Delays and lack of communication throughout the system, again the impact of this on mental health
 - Why do some boroughs consider they don't provide or access early specialist support?

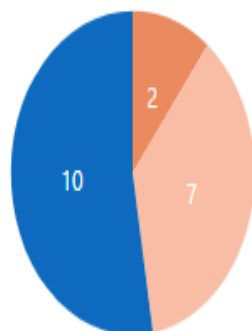
Criminal Justice/ Transitional Safeguarding

Do you have any working agreements with Police, Probation and/or HMPS to better support care leavers within the criminal justice system?



- 52% of LA's reported having working agreements with partners such as the police, prisons and probation around care leaver support
- Some of these arrangements cross over with transitional safeguarding approaches in those LA's
- WF brings together a quarterly meeting between the LA, Probation, DWP, Housing, Virtual School, Homelessness team to take a multi-agency approach to meeting CL needs.
- Some LA's are part of the Prisons Group. Wandsworth have also undertaken workshops for Care Experienced young people within Wandsworth Prison.
- Some LA's are in the process of developing working agreements with Probation.
- Resettlement approaches appear to vary, with some LA's adopting their normal PA support role and some taking a more enhanced approach.

Do you have a Transitional Safeguarding policy and are care leavers included as a priority cohort?

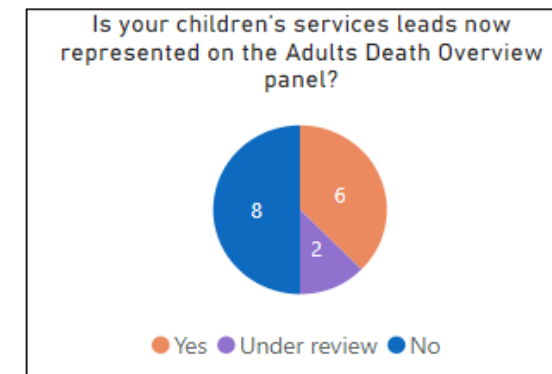
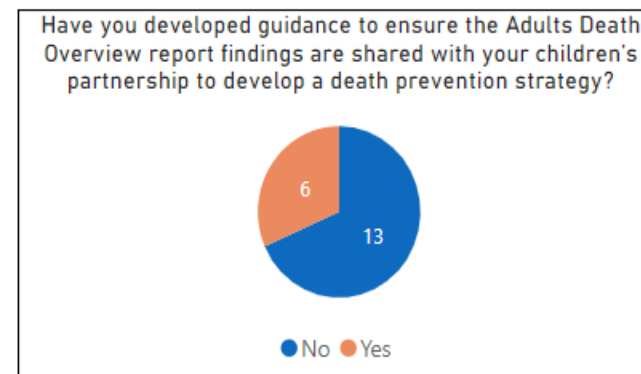
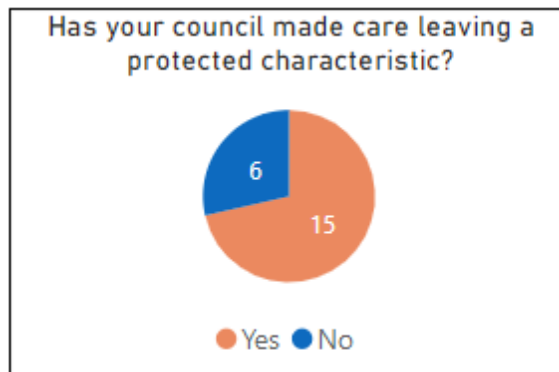


Yes - care leavers are NOT a priority cohort Yes - care leavers are included as a priority cohort No

- ☐ Just under half of LA's have a transitional safeguarding policy, the majority of those that do have care leavers identified as a priority cohort
- ☐ Mostly the focus is contextual harms and exploitation, though Greenwich also have a focus on SEND. There is some overlap with adult transitions more widely.
- ☐ Several Boroughs refer to having developing approaches, or reviewing their approach.

Miscellaneous

- 71% of responding boroughs (15) have made care leaving a protected characteristic
- All but one borough felt their elected members champion the cause of care leavers.
- Boroughs talk highly about their lead members pushing through measures to support care leavers.
- Although responses generally have a theme that members are supportive, there appears some variation in the level of 'whole council approach'. Some LA's appear to have high level of support and prioritisation across the council. Others appear to be more dependent on children's services and the lead member.
- At the time of responding a minority of boroughs (6) had developed guidance to share adult death overview report findings with their children's partnership to develop a death prevention strategy.
- LA's who responded were generally aware of the requirement to notify care leaver deaths, some had put in place formal frameworks for doing this, others signalled their intent to do so.



Catch all question – Would you like to add anything else?

- ☐ Planning policy across London should have mandatory allocations for care leavers
- ☐ Benefits – Care Leavers should be entitled to 25+ rates, they are living independently from family support.
- ☐ Wider health issues such as access to GPs must be sorted for this cohort of young people as a priority
- ☐ Reconsider care leaver status for a cohort of those who enter care through serious offending at the age of 16/17 and do not want to engage or have our support
- ☐ Clear immigration timeframes and access to housing stock
- ☐ Dedicated MH provision
- ☐ Full reciprocal council tax exemption
- ☐ Better, and easier, reciprocal housing agreements between LAs
- ☐ Full transport discount on all TfL travel, including underground
- ☐ DfE to undertake an analysis of care leavers death nationally; by capturing the themes and recommendations from Coroner's inquests; Domestic Homicide Reviews and safeguarding adult review. The aim to inform policy and strategy development.
- ☐ 'Family Firm' offers to be reciprocal, enabling placement with another LA
- ☐ Dentistry and eyesight support.