

Education Children & Young People's views

A presentation created by the User Voice
and Participation Team and Care Council

August 2020



Who contributed to this presentation?

- Care Council, Care Council Juniors and the Care Leavers' Forum members through the use of social media platforms, phone and Zoom calls
- Feedback recorded in participation group minutes
- Young people were aged between 7 and 25
- Results from the Looked after Children and Care Leavers BIG Survey 2020 have been used in this presentation

**The Corporate Parenting Board
have asked children and young
people who are currently in care
and those who have been looked
after their views on:**

Education

What is working well or has worked well with your education?

- *"I was lucky I had support from my college with finding the right career and apprenticeship".* **20yr care leaver**
- *"Since leaving school and starting an apprenticeship, this has been the height of my education in my opinion as I have been able to gain work experience, earn money alongside gaining a qualification."*
17yr looked after child
- *"I now have tutoring to help me catch up and improve my grades in order to help me pass my upcoming GCSEs so that for the long run I can get a job."*

What is working well or has worked well with your education?

- *"I had some good support from the Virtual School, I was sent a pencil case full of stationery when I started secondary school which was really helpful for me."* **14yr looked after child**
- *"I would get different text books for school sent to me by the Virtual School which was good as it helped me with my learning".* **16yr old looked after child**
- *"During my time at secondary school, my PEPS were helpful to me, as I could talk about anything I needed and how things are going for me, despite people from the Virtual School not attending."* **17yr looked after child**

What are some of the challenges you face with education, or have done in the past?

- A fifth (20%) of our looked after children in the BIG Survey told us they did not feel they had enough support with education. Nearly a third told us they weren't sure.
- Over a quarter (27%) of care leavers in the BIG Survey said they did not receive the financial support needed for education.
- Open Action Card for care leavers to remain open to services whilst in education
- The looked after children's BIG Survey report reported that 26% of looked after children stated experiencing bullying at school in the last year.

What does the Virtual School do to support children with worries about areas of work?

What are some of the challenges you face with education, or have done in the past?

- *"I came into care at the beginning of year 11 and moved schools because of this. It was difficult to start again with new people and keep on top of revising for GSCEs, especially with so much change happening."* **17yr looked after child**
- *"The things that may stop me from being able to find work is the fact that I am struggling at school at the moment due to missing so much education when I was younger and lived with my mum."*
- *"I have never heard of the Virtual School before, they seem to be virtual. But the work they do sounds good for kids in care".* **18yr care leaver**
- *I wanted to go to Uni after college, but I thought of giving up due to lack of consistent support from social services."*
- *"If I won the lottery, I would go to uni so I didn't get into debt as that is my biggest worry".* **19, care leaver**
- *My PA was not supportive at all with my career development."* **20, care leaver**
- *"The laptop I was provided with from Virtual School was broken and never got fixed so I had to stay behind or use my phone to study."* **17yr looked after child**

Thinking about
your experience
of education,
what one thing
could be
improved?

- *"It would be great to have extra support for care leavers who move into dorms at university and better mental health support for care leavers in education". **19yr old care leaver***
- *Tailored support. "I am in the process of starting a business and looking for support around financing and mentoring has been difficult - don't know where to look."*
- *"There is a lack of knowledge on skills such as cv writing, so I would make workshops or online tools on Surrey websites or an app about education that would be beneficial as well as speaking to career advisors."*

If you were in charge of education, what would you do differently?

- *If I was in charge, I would give better financial support for young people who want to go to uni as they want to have a better life, but many can't afford the cost of living".* **23yr care leaver**
- *"I would make education accessible for all, especially higher education which doesn't really help people who want to do work experience. There is too much focus on grades."* **18yr care leaver**
- *"I would have a virtual system that allows all looked after children and care leavers in education to provide feedback messages regarding their education."* **17yr looked after child**
- *"I would also ensure that every single young person is aware of their entitlements for education, so that outcomes for young people are fair."* **17yr looked after child**

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