



ENJOY & ACHIEVE

BARKING & DAGENHAM CHILDREN'S SERVICES
COMPLEX NEEDS AND SOCIAL CARE

16+ LEAVING CARE TEAM



LEARN 2 LIVE TEAM
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What do young people want from a Leaving Care Service?

**TO BE SAFE &
FEEL SAFE**

**TO FEEL PROUD
AND STRONG IN MY
OWN CULTURE**

**HELP IN PREPARING
MYSELF TO LEAVE CARE
AND SUPPORT AFTER I
LEAVE CARE**

**TO BE PROVIDED
WITH INFORMATION**

**TO HAVE A SAY
AND BE HEARD**

**TO STAY HEALTHY AND WELL
AND GO TO A DOCTOR, DENTIST
OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL FOR
HELP WHEN I NEED TO**

**TO KNOW INFORMATION
ABOUT ME WILL ONLY BE
SHARED IN ORDER TO HELP
PEOPLE LOOK AFTER ME**

**TO HAVE A WORKER
WHO IS THERE FOR ME**

**TO TELL
SOMEONE IF I
AM UNHAPPY**

**CAREFUL THOUGHT BEING
GIVEN TO WHERE I WILL LIVE
SO I WILL HAVE A HOME THAT
FEELS LIKE A HOME**

**TO KEEP IN CONTACT
WITH MY FAMILY,
FRIENDS AND PEOPLE
AND PLACES THAT
MATTER TO ME**

**TO BE ABLE TO TAKE PART
IN FAMILY TRADITIONS AND
BE ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT
AND BE INVOLVED WITH
CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS
GROUPS THAT ARE
IMPORTANT TO ME**

**TO HAVE FUN
AND DO
ACTIVITIES
THAT I ENJOY**

**TO BE ABLE TO
DEVELOP LIFE SKILLS
AND GROW UP TO
BECOME THE BEST
PERSON**

**TO BE PROVIDED WITH THE
BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION AND
TRAINING**

**TO BE ALLOWED TO BE A
YOUNG PERSON AND BE
TREATED WITH RESPECT**

To be safe and feel safe

Learn 2 Live will try and ensure that no one can abuse or hurt you. Where you live must be safe and not dangerous. You also need to feel safe, so there shouldn't be people or things around you that make you feel scared.

To stay healthy and well and go to a doctor, dentist or other professional for help when I need to

Learn 2 Live Team will assist you with the things that will help your body and mind stay healthy and well, like being able to go to a doctor, dentist or other professional when you need to and also having a healthy diet.

To be allowed to be a child and be treated with respect

Learn 2 Live Team will ensure that you are treated according to your age and not be expected to act older or understand things that are too hard for you. Being treated with respect means accepting you for who you are, treating you fairly and not discriminating against you for any reason (this includes not treating you differently because you are in care).

To feel proud and strong in my own culture

Learn 2 Live Team will ensure that your carers and workers will understand, respect and value your own culture, help you feel good about your culture and also assist you in staying connected to your culture in all parts of life.

To have a say and be heard

Learn 2 Live Team will ensure you are being listened to about all things that affect you, like where you will live and where you will go to college. If you need help to have a say, someone will represent you whenever decisions are being made about you.

To be provided with information

Information is very important because without it you won't know who you are and won't be able to have a proper say about things that affect you. Examples of information include your life story, history and family's history, the choices you have and where you can go if you have a problem.

To tell someone if I am unhappy

Learn 2 Live Team will ensure that if your rights aren't being met, or if you are unhappy about something that has happened to you in care, you can make a complaint to someone who will sort it out on your behalf. You will also be put in touch with an advocate who will assist on your behalf.

To know information about me will only be shared in order to help people look after me

Learn 2 Live Team will ensure that information about you can't be given to just anyone - it can only be given to people who need to have that information so they can look after and care for you better.

To have a worker who is there for me

Learn 2 Live Team will ensure you have a named worker whose job it is to make sure you get the things you need, plan things for you and make sure things that are important to you are not forgotten, like family culture and education.

Young Peoples Response

To keep in contact with my family, friends and people and places that matter to me

Careful thought being given to where I will live so I will have a home that feels like a home

To have fun and do activities that I enjoy

To be able to take part in family traditions and learn about and be involved with cultural and religious groups that are important to me

To be provided with the best possible education and training

To be able to develop life skills and grow up to be the best person I can

Help in preparing myself to leave care and support after I leave care

Learn 2 Live Team Response

Learn 2 Live Team will work hard to support you in maintaining a relationship with your significant friends and family. This means all members of your family, like brothers and sisters, grandparents and friends from before you came into care and friends that you made when you came into care. We understand that people who matter are people who may not be related but are still very important, like a carer you used to live with or a teacher that you really liked. Places that matter might be places that are special, like an old school you used to go to or somewhere that is special to your family, community or culture.

Learn 2 Live Team will try to ensure that your home will feel like a home if carers and workers are clear about your needs. Things like family, culture and community are taken into consideration before making decisions about where you will live. We will try and make you feel like it's a place where you belong and are cared for, where you have your own space and things are safe. If you are moved again it will not be without good reason and consultation with you.

Learn 2 Live Team will ensure you are given opportunities to do a variety of different things. There may also be things that you enjoy like playing a sport or learning a musical instrument. What it is depends on what you like doing and what you are interested in. You must make sure you share your wishes and feelings with your allocated worker and carer.

Learn 2 Live Team will support you in learning the language your family and community speak, going to special events, being able to follow the rules of your religion, and wherever possible visiting traditional lands and places that are sacred and special to your culture or religion.

Learn 2 Live Team will strive to ensure that you receive the best possible education. This means going to a college that meets your needs and getting help so you can do your best at school. The best possible training is training that will help you achieve well so that you have the skills required to get a job or to do further training and learning.

Learn 2 Live Team will support you in learning from mistakes made, how to get along with people, how to live and behave like an adult, how to make good decisions about your future and be responsible for your actions.

Learn 2 Live will ensure that a Pathway Plan is completed with you every six months. This is a plan that makes sure you get the support to prepare you for leaving care. Support includes how to cook, budget socialise and relate well to others. Your allocated worker will be continually working with you even when you are living in your final accommodation. We offer the sort of help other young people get when they are not in care but get from their parents when they move out of the family home.

The Learn 2 Live Team works with young people who have been in care for at least 13 weeks since their 14th birthday, including on or after their 16th birthday; up to the age of 21 (or 25 if in Higher / Further Education). We provide advice, assistance and support enabling these young people to live independently. The Children's Act 1989, 2004, Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and The Young Peoples Act 2008 provides our legislative framework which underpins our practice.

We facilitate each care leaver's transition from being in care to becoming an independent adult. We assess their needs and establish Pathway Plans that detail the support they will require and stay in touch with each young person until they are no longer entitled to our services. By working in partnership with young people, carers and families, agencies within the council and the third and private sectors, enables us to work within the five key 'Every Child Matters' outcomes to be achieved for care leavers; keeping them:

- **Safe**
- **Healthy**
- **Economically active**
- **Enjoy and achieve**
- **Make a positive contribution.**

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE OUR PRIORITIES

Wherever the young person is placed, they will achieve the highest educational standards that he or she possibly can. This includes supporting their aspirations to achieve in further and higher education.

We want our young people to enjoy life and achieve. This means we encourage and support each of our young people to achieve their potential in education and to enjoy leisure and recreational activities.

To ensure that young people have access to lots of opportunities to make a positive contribution to their local communities, make the right choices when growing up and contribute to community cohesion.

Ensure that young people are aware of and make the most of any leisure activities and opportunities available to them where they are living.

Ensure that young people are given the opportunity to participate and contribute to decisions affecting their lives and in the shaping of future services.

Ensure that young people know how to contact the Children's Rights Service for advocacy and support if they need it.

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE OUR PRIORITIES

- Strategic planning and day-to-day processes demonstrate robust procedures to monitor educational progress and a culture of proactive commitment.
- Care leavers are encouraged to have high expectations of themselves and to achieve their full potential.
- Training, development and support for carers, 16+ providers and local authority staff to ensure that they understand the needs of care leavers.
- Ensure there are clear chains of accountability for discharging statutory duties which are monitored rigorously by a senior manager in the local authority.
- Ensure Social Workers, in partnership with other professionals, identify educational needs, regardless of the child's age, as part of the assessment process and these are reflected in the Pathway and Placement Plans.
- Ensure that looked after children have in place a Personal Education Plan that identifies any learning needs and sets out how these needs will be met.
- Ensure that the continuity of education is given a high priority in the placement arrangements.
- Provide Care Leavers with access to a range of activities and ensure that additional support is provided to ensure that children leaving care are not at risk of underachieving.
- Ensure that young people are able to maintain positive and productive employment or training and are ready to maintain independent accommodation.
- Ensure that young people are helped and supported to participate in learning, training and employment opportunities.
- Ensure care leavers are helped and supported to take up positive opportunities upon leaving school.
- To promote high quality work experience opportunities for young people.
- To help and support young people with the necessary skills to promote their independence and economic well-being.

LEARN 2 LIVE TEAM STAFF

- **Have experience of working with young people.**
- **Are skilled communicators, assessors and planners.**
- **Ability to work collaboratively with agencies to achieve positive outcomes.**
- **Have knowledge of the relevant legislation.**

Team Structure

The Learn 2 Live Team has the following composition:

- **Team Manager**
- **Deputy Team Manager 16+**
- **Senior Practitioner x 2 18+**
- **Social Workers x 6**
- **Young Person Advisors x 8**
- **Business & Admin support x 2**
- **Careers Advisers x 1 PT (Partnership agreement)**

Roles and Responsibilities

For young people still in care on their 16th birthday, case responsibility is transferred from the Children and Families Social Work Teams to the 16 Plus Learn 2 Live service. Before this takes place the initial Pathway Plan remains the responsibility of the Children and Families team. The Pathway Plan sets out support arrangements for the next 6 months, to enable young people to make the transition to independence.

Deputy Team Manager

Has overall responsibility for ensuring all performance indicators are met for Children Looked After. Line manages all Qualified Social Workers who work directly with the 16 – 18 year olds transferred into the service.

Social Worker – Leaving Care Service

With planned work, the Social Worker, (Leaving Care) will continue with the Pathway Plan, ensuring young people have the skills, knowledge and opportunities they need to move on. The actual stage that the young person leaves care will vary according to the individual, and may not be until nearer their 21st birthday.

Young Person Advisors

Undertake short-term programmes of tasks with our more vulnerable or less confident young people over 18. They assist, in the young people's Pathway Plan, to assist with developing the skills they need to cope with independent living. This might involve a short course on budgeting or sessions in cookery or other life skills, which can be provided on a group work basis. They also carry forward the Pathway Plan for young people aged 18 to 21, or 25 where appropriate. They identify resources and assist with accessing suitable accommodation providers; education and training provisions and ensure young people have access to financial support. They work collaboratively with partner agencies to ensure a support network is established.

Senior Practitioner

The Senior Practitioner will take responsibility for the more complex cases, with the same range of tasks as the Social Worker. They will also support and supervise YPAs as well as assisting the Team Manager with the day-to-day management responsibilities for the service.

Careers Advisors

The Careers advisors share our responsibility in ensuring young people who are not currently in education, training or employment are encouraged to do so. Therefore as part of our partnership arrangements, a Careers Advisor works alongside other Leaving Care staff to attain this goal.