

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION INTO THE COMMUNITY OF CARE LEAVERS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

FEVACA'S EXPERIENCE AND APPROACH

International Knowledge Exchange Symposium on Leaving Care

Anglia Ruskin University
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LEGAL FRAMEWORK


- Human Rights Act 1998
- Children Act 1989 / 2004
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children and Family Act 2014
- [...]



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- **Human Rights Act 1998** 
 - Children Act 1989 / 2004
 - Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
 - Children and Family Act 2014
 - [...]
- “... to give further effect to rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights.”
 - Prohibition of discrimination
 - “The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground”
 - Right to education
 - “No person shall be denied the right to education”


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 - **Children Act 1989 / 2004** 
 - Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
 - Children and Family Act 2014
 - [...]
- “the child’s welfare shall be the court’s paramount consideration [...] In any proceedings in which any question with respect to the upbringing of a child arises”
 - “a court shall have regard in particular to—
 - (a) the ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child concerned (considered in the light of his age and understanding);
 - (b) his physical, emotional and educational needs;
 - (c) the likely effect on him of any change in his circumstances;”


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 - **Children Act 1989 / 2004** 
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 - [...]
- Inclusion of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 in UK Children Law
 - Co-operation to improve well-being, safeguard and promote welfare between LA and Relevant Partners (Health, Education, Police, Probation Services, Youth Offending Services...)


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 - **Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000** 
 - Children and Family Act 2014
 - [...]
- Establishing “further duties of local authorities towards children whom they are looking after”
 - Establish LA duties and responsibilities towards those that were looked after by LA for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 (at least 1 day after 16, if are
 - 16 or 17 and in care (“eligible children”)
 - under 18, not in care anymore, but were “eligible” previously (“relevant children”)
 - 18/21 (or 25 if FT education) and were when before being 18 were “eligible” or “relevant” (“former relevant children”)
 - 16/21 (25 if FT education), no longer in care, but in when 16+ for less than 13 weeks (“qualifying care leaver”)

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 - **Children and Family Act 2014** 
 - [...]
- Introduces an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment and, if applicable, an EHC Plan
 - Establish “Staying Put Arrangements” for children in foster care, allowing them to live with their “foster parents” until the age of 21, with advice, assistance and support from the LA.
 - These “Staying Put Arrangements” **DO NOT** apply to children in Residential Care / Accommodation

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 - [...] 
- Other Guidelines were also developed to improve child protection in UK
 - Every Child Matters
 - Working Together
 - Children and Social Care Act 2017
 - “Staying Close Scheme” (2017) allow care leavers to remain close to the place where they were living (but in their own place), and to continue to receive support from staff they used to work with



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Statutory Entitlements

Eligible Children (16/17 on care)	Relevant Children (16/17 not in care)	Former Relevant Children (18+)	Qualifying Care Leavers (16/21, less 13w after 16yo)
Needs Assessment	Needs Assessment	Pathway Plan	Advice and Assistance
Pathway Plan	Pathway Plan	Personal Adviser	Accommodation (if FT/HE)
Accommodation (RCH / SIA)	Suitable Accommodation	Support in EET (if in PP)	
Financial Support	Financial Support	Support Applying Benefits	
Personal Adviser	Personal Adviser	Support w Accommodation	
Ind. Review Officer	LA must keep in contact	Help with Living Costs	
Income Maintenance	Assistance to Achieve PP		
Constant Contact from LA	Income Maintenance		



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Additional Statutory Entitlements when Leaving Care

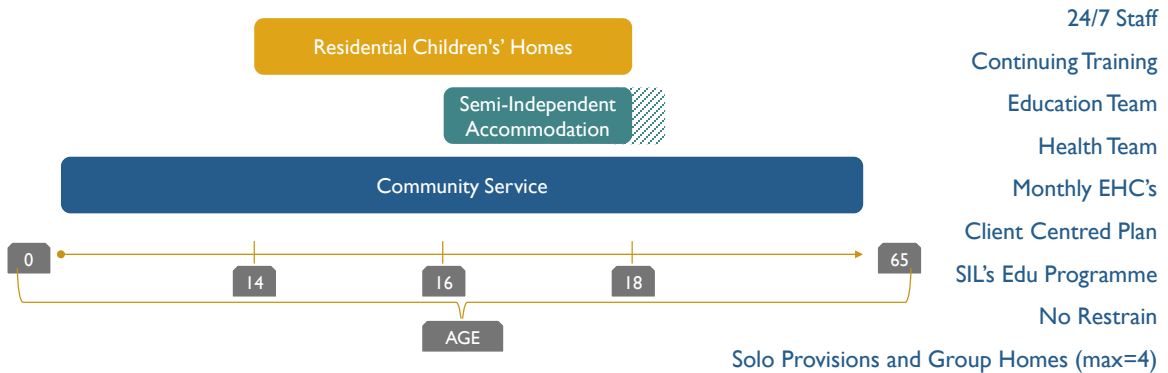
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

- Bursary of £1,200 a year if they stay in full-time education
- Higher education bursary of £2,000 if on to higher education
 - If attending university, LA should provide accommodation and financial support during the holidays.

FINANCE SUPPORT

- Setting up home allowance (also known as a leaving care grant) when moving into own home.
 - This is a £2000 allowance. Depends of the LA on how this is given (cash or as a budget for house appliances/furniture, etc.)

FEVACA SERVICES



MIGUEL VALERIO (FEVACA) * SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION INTO THE COMMUNITY OF CARE LEAVERS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

15/05/2019

11

FEVACA SERVICES

- **CYP's move to FEVACA if they agree to**
- Allowing Mistakes
- CYP's involved in planning and decision making
- Premises Quality / Home Environment
- Supervision / Reflective Practice
- Low ratio Client / Key-worker
- Tailored to the needs of the CYP
- Allows continuity in Care (14 to 18+)
- Staying Close / Relationship Based



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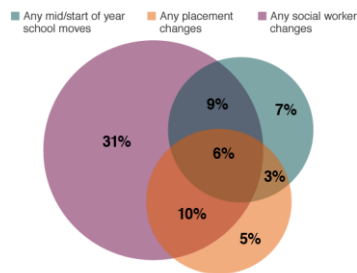
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Most children experienced one or more change during 2016/17



*Figures based on data for around 40,000 children in care who are enrolled in school
Source: The Children's Commissioner/Stability Index

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**ALL TEAM HAVE, AT LEAST,
MONTHLY SUPERVISION AND
REFLECTIVE PRACTICE GROUP**



FEVACA SERVICES

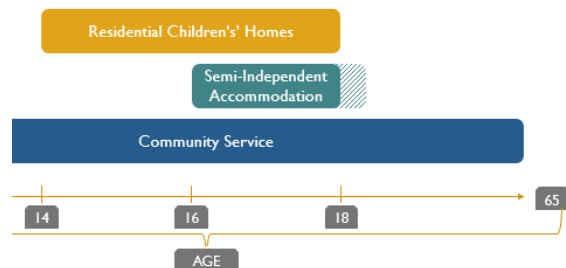
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**FEVACA SOCIAL WORKERS
WORK WITH A MAXIMUM OF
4 YOUNG PEOPLE**



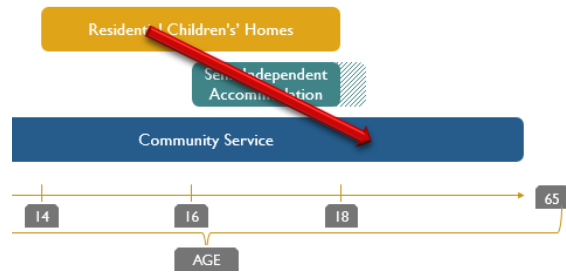
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Young
Person's
Forum



LEAVING CARE FUTURE CHALLENGES



- Generalization of “Staying Close” Scheme as mandatory for all Local Authorities;
- Extension of the “Staying Put Arrangements” to Residential Care;
- Increase of mandatory support for Care Leavers. Currently, contact from PA is to happen once every 6 months;
- Support to Care Leavers until 25yo, independently of Educational Status or Health Difficulties;