



**TELL.SHOW.INVOLVE.**  
A WHOLE COUNCIL APPROACH



READY WHEN YOU ARE



## INDEPENDENT AND FULFILLING LIVES

Compared with their peers, children in care face multiple challenges. They are more likely to under achieve in education<sup>i</sup>, be lured into crime<sup>ii</sup> and suffer more emotional and health problems<sup>iii</sup>.

On leaving care, these young adults are three times more likely to be NEET<sup>iv</sup> and experience financial hardship. They are at greater risk of homelessness, substance abuse and poor mental health. Most will lack the social networks to support them in leading independent, fulfilling lives.

The number of care leavers continues to rise<sup>v</sup> whilst the negative impact on financially challenged local authorities grows ever larger.

As corporate parents, councils must make a local offer to care leavers. But wider society also has a duty to act as a 'lifelong family.'

## CHAMPIONING CARE LEAVERS

The Care Leaver Covenant is a programme developed under DfE's<sup>1</sup> *Keep on Caring* policy and aims to improve outcomes for care leavers.

**The Care Leaver Covenant aims to ensure that young adults leaving care:**

- **are better prepared to live independently;**
- **have improved access to employment, education and training;**
- **experience stability in their lives and feel safe and secure;**
- **have improved access to health support;**
- **achieve financial stability.**



The Care Leaver Covenant seeks to create practical, specific offers, from organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, to support care leavers aged 16-25 to live independently.

The Covenant links care leavers to offers such as discounts, financial support, exemptions, personal development, workshops, training, work experience, apprenticeships and internships.

We know that the most innovative councils use their local knowledge and partnerships to make improvements to care leavers' lives.

We are proud to be working with six local authority Champions, each of which has adopted a dynamic and progressive approach to developing their local offer for care leavers.

Leeds | Doncaster | Staffordshire | Wolverhampton | Somerset | Lewisham

*“Chairing the Care Leaver Covenant Advisory Board is such a privilege. There’s nothing more important than working together to ensure that young people leaving care flourish, experiencing the love and belonging that should be at the heart of everyone’s life.”*

**Mark Rogers – Chair, Care Leaver Covenant Advisory Board**

*“I’m delighted to be the first local authority champion of the Care Leaver Covenant... the social value toolkit is a real attempt to get a cross council intergrated response from not just the children’s services, but planning procurement and wider initiatives within the business community.”*

**Tom Riordan – Chief Executive Leeds City Council ‘Whole Council Approach’ Champion**

*All contracts exceeding £181,000 are subject to a social value scoring procurement assessment. The Council has a particular focus on opportunities for children and young people in care and care leavers.*

**Wolverhampton City Council**



## ENHANCING YOUR LOCAL OFFER

Our Champions use the powers and duties in the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2017 to consider care leavers' needs at the pre-procurement stage.

With the help of leading law firm Trowers & Hamlins, we have produced a guide to procurement and using Social Value provisions. It contains a toolkit with examples of contract notices and questionnaires as well as evaluation criteria, methodology and contract terms.

Over the next 12 months, we will be piloting our Covenant toolkit with Champions and a growing network of councils.

We want to explore how local authorities can adopt a 'whole council' approach recognising that being a corporate parent does not solely reside with children's services and care teams.

We hope you will join us alongside existing Champions to help us test and evaluate what works best to improve services to care leavers.



## TO GET INVOLVED

Contact **Natalie Latham** – Senior Engagement Advisor

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<sup>1</sup>Outcomes for children looked after by local authorities in England, 31 March 2018, Fig. 8, p.14

<sup>2</sup>Children looked after in England (including adoption), year ending 31 March 2016, Section 5, p.14/Table I1 Table I1: Offending by children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months<sup>1</sup>, by age and gender, DFE statistics.

<sup>3</sup>Table I5: Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children - Average score for children looked after at 31 March for whom Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was received, DFE statistics, 2016.

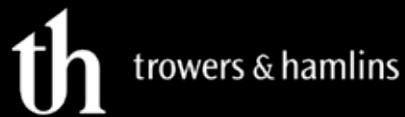
<sup>4</sup>DFE, Care leavers' transition to adulthood, NAO, 2015

<sup>5</sup>DFE, Outcomes for children looked after by local authorities in England, 31 March 2018, 2019



“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”  
– Benjamin Franklin

**MANY THANKS FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF**



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