A presentation from David Holmes, Chief Executive, BAAF

Supporting Young People Leaving Care Annual Forum

6th July 2010

Increasing Consistency: Effective partnership working across professional and geographical boundaries

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Consistency and leaving care

- Are we consistent?
- Why does it matter?
- Who is responsible?

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Are we consistent?

- 152 LAs in England
- 8,700 young people (16+) “ceased to be looked after” in 2008/2009
- 6,100 care leavers aged 19 followed up in national statistical collection

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Children looked after at 31 March 2009 by Gender and Age

Gender	**60,900 (N)**	**100 (%)**
Male	34,600	57
Female	26,300	43
Age in years	**60,900 (N)**	**100 (%)**
Under 1	3,200	5
1 to 4	9,500	16
5 to 9	10,500	17
10 to 15	24,800	41
16 and over	12,900	21

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All children 16 and over who ceased to be looked after in the year ending 31 March 2009 by Gender and Age

Gender	**8,700 (N)**	**100 (%)**
Male	5,200	61
Female	3,400	39
Age (in years)	**8,700 (N)**	**100 (%)**
16	1,800	21
17	1,500	17
18th birthday	5,300	61
Older than 18th birthday	60	1

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All children 16 and over who ceased to be looked after in year ending 31 March 2009 by Final Placement (1)

Final Placement	8,700 (N)	100 (%)
Foster placements	3,200	37
Placed for adoption	10	0
Placed with parents	540	6
Other placements in the community	2,200	25

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All children 16 and over who ceased to be looked after in year ending 31 March 2009 by Final Placement (2)

Final Placement	8,700 (N)	100 (%)
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	2,200	25
Other residential settings	200	2
Residential schools	190	2
Missing – Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	100	1
Other placement	50	1

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Young people aged 19 (at 31 March 2009) who were looked after on 1 April 2006 aged 16

- 6,100 young people (5,800 previous year)

Of whom:

- 370 were unaccompanied asylum seeking young people

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Young people aged 19 (at 31 March 2009) who were looked after on 1 April 2006 aged 16

Of the 6,100:

- 3,400 male
- 2,700 female

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Consistency in context of current *activity*

Of the 6,100:

- 420 in higher education (390 previous year)
- 1,600 in education other than HE (same as previous year)
- 1,800 in training or employment (same as previous year)
- 300 NEET owing to illness or disability (270 previous year)
- 1,600 NEET owing to other reasons (1,400 previous year)
- 340 not in touch (380 previous year)

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Consistency in context of *accommodation*

Of the 6,100:

- 780 living with parents or relatives
- 260 community home
- 550 semi-independent transitional accommodation
- 570 supported lodgings
- 80 foyers
- 2,600 independent living
- 30 emergency accommodation
- 50 bed and breakfast
- 160 in custody
- 370 other accommodation
- 340 not in touch

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Why does it matter?

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Studies have identified three outcome groups

- “Moving on” successfully from care
- “Survivors”
- “Strugglers”

‘the evidence shows that these different pathways are associated with the quality of care they experience, their transitions from care and the support they receive after care’ (Stein, 2008)

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Who is responsible?

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WE ALL ARE

The importance of partnership working

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Helping care leavers move on

- Start from the basis “Would this be good enough for my own child?”
- Recognise the individuality of each young person and make sure this is reflected in planning for their future
- Try to start preparation work for adult life when it is right for the individual young person
- Create the foundation of a positive transition into adulthood
- Have high aspirations for young people and encourage them to fulfil their potential
- Ensure young people have practical skills for young adult life

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