Salford City Council

6 July 2010
Supporting Young People Leaving Care

Michael Kelly
Head of LAC, Care planning and Leaving care services.

After care…what are the options?

Leaving care…ready or not!!

- Council Tenancy
- Private rented
- Supported Lodgings
- Return home
- Halls of residence
- Armed forces
- Hostel

Barry's story

- Placed out of area at 14
- Moved to several different placements out of area due to difficulties with managing his behaviours.
- Transferred to Leaving Care Services at 16
- Assessment and pathway plan at 16 years 3 months.
- Potential Vulnerable Adult
- Did not meet criteria for adult services
- Wanted to remain living in the area
- Complaint and independent advocacy service
- Joint assessment

Barry’s story continued

- Where next?
- Supporting people funded placement
- Transport and local awareness plan
- Local College
- Moved at 18 years 4 weeks
- Impact on Jon

Resilience

Resilience is about overcoming the odds, coping and recovering and succeeding despite prior disadvantage.

Promoting the resilience of young people leaving care will be assisted by:

- Good quality placements that provide compensatory secure attachments and the stability necessary to focus on education and career.
- Good holistic preparation for adult life that provides opportunities for planning, problem solving and learning new skills.

Resilience…

- Gradual transitions from care that give young people the psychological space to deal with changes over time and to take supported risks

Abridged from Stein, forthcoming

Protocols

- Supporting people Team.
- Accommodation providers.
- Adult services.
- Vulnerable Adult policy
- F.E. + H.E. Providers

Relationships

- Independent Reviewing Officers.
- Commissioning and contracts.
- Foster carers (In House and Independent Fostering Agencies)
- Children’s Homes Providers (In House and Private sector)
- Connexions
- YOS
- CAMHS
- Drug and Alcohol services.
- Independent Advocacy Services
- Virtual School Head Teacher
- Children in Care Council
- Lead Member for Children’s Services
- Parents

Care Planning + Transition

- Overview from LAC to Leaving Care Service
- Robust Care Planning and Pathway Planning
- Sufficiency of resources within the Local Authority
- Placement Strategy
- All plans must have a contingency plan/exit strategy
- Meaningful participation
- Person centred planning
- Identify ‘vulnerable young people’