



Liverpool care leavers
Terry Ware



Liverpool Leaving Care Service Policy on supporting care leavers in custody.



In 2009 2 members of the children in care council, went to prison which for every one involved was a total shock, within the first 24 hrs of the youngest of the two being in prison it was clear , he didn't have a network of people he could contact, and he was feeling lonely and isolated.

Our participation Officer contacted the prison and made arrangements to visit him and take his Nan to see him, every time a visit was made a report was given back to the CICC, it was very clear that there were issues around him being a looked after child in prison.

Some of these issues were

- Money
- Support
- Visits
- Clothing i.e. training shoes
- Education

- These issues were raised with Senior Management and elected members at the children in care council meeting and they promised to investigate, we wrote to as many care leavers we knew who had either been in prison or were still in prison and asked them about visits by family, clothing allowance, do they have phone credit, etc.

We then set up a prison group which was made up of 4 young people and 4 staff and after weekly meetings the new prison recommendations were presented to senior management.

This document is now a live document and it sets out clear guidelines for staff regarding how often visits are made, what a young person should have put into place whilst they are in custody.

At a recent children in care council meeting, the senior manager of the leaving care team was asked by a young person to explain the document in young persons language

This is what he told us.

No longer will a social worker be able to class DT visits as a statutory visit all visits have to be recorded and visited during the social workers own supervision session.

A clear plan must be made with the young person in plenty of time of them leaving prison regarding education ,training,etc

A relationship will be formed between the prison Social Workers and the young persons workers ,so support is always there for the young person.

Any monies that is to go to young people will no longer be given to social workers or personal assistant, but given directly to the prison, so they can pay the young people monthly.

We hope the changes supported by the children in care council

Will support our care leavers in custody, but will hopefully support the re-offending plan published by the government.

If you would like to see a copy of Liverpool's policy please email

Julie.cashin@liverpool.gov.uk

Telephone 07709398583

Thank you for listening

In Liverpool we have more young people in University than we do in custody

Health Care Drop in

In 2009 Liverpool's first Children in Care Council (CICC) meeting was held.

The Director at the time asked for Teenage pregnancy and sexual health to be put on the agenda the reason for this was because both were on the increase within the City above the national average.



Liverpool Care Leavers Sammy Jo Fitzpatrick



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We decided to talk to as many young people as we could about why they thought this was happening using text face to face and BBM

From talking we found out:

- Health wasn't a high priority because young people felt it wouldn't affect them
- Only having £50.00 a week to live on many felt that spending money on travel to the city centre where the clinic's were based was a waste of money
- If they did go the clinic they felt that staff were judgemental and not supportive

We the CiCC then got around the table to share our findings with each other and to come with some ideas about how we could change some of these issues.

These are some of the things we said:

- Clinics should be based near services we use regularly
- They should be staffed with people we know and trust
- There should be no stigmas around exploring our sexuality

We then came up with the idea that the clinic should be based within our Leaving Care Building

2 of the young people on our council sit on the Health care Partnership so we asked them to take our idea to the Partnership to see what support we would get from Childrens services and the PCT. The outcome was:

- They agreed to joint fund a drop in service that would be available every Friday afternoon (This is the time when Leaving Care get a lot of young people turning up)
- Because we wanted to support young people they offered us training in Sexual Health and contraception, HIV Awareness Dental Health and Substance Misuse

- They also agreed to staff the service with 2 LAC Nurses a drugs councillor and a sexual health worker
- The Drop in was also registered for C Card distribution (This is where staff are trained and condom monitoring takes place)
- We were also able to buy a fridge to store vaccinations so that LAC nurses could improve on the immunisation programme as they were not reaching care leavers

The Health Care Drop in opened in 2010

- It has regular groups of young people accessing it
- The rate of conceptions amongst looked after young women in the city is comparatively low
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) has dropped

In a recent Ofsted inspection it was stated

*“ A well established and effective healthy care partnership group is in place. This has enabled young people to consider health improvement issues affecting themselves and their peers. The provision by the one stop health session is **outstanding**”*

Thank you for Listening

Sammy Jo Fitzpatrick