

Staying Close

5 Minute Facts

What is it?

Staying Close is a service commissioned by the Department for Education supporting a two year trial from 2023 – 2025.

Offering wrap around support to young people who have been living in residential settings as they move on to live independently.

The service is for young people aged 16-23 however some 15 year olds may be considered if the support is appropriate and can help with transitions.

Who might be eligible for a service?

- A care experienced young person who is living in a residential home and has a move on plan or has recently moved out of residential care.
- A care experienced young person who is in a young offenders institute, prison or secure accommodation.
- A care experienced young person who is living in an unregulated home.
- A care experienced Young Parent.

What Support will be offered?

The team will support the young person's Pathway Plan and provide a more intensive service than currently provided within the leaving care service with lower case loads.

The approach we will take is around relational based Practice. Young people will have access to different workers with specialisms however the offer of the service can be flexible to ensure that young people are engaged and have trusting relationships. For example if the young person develops a positive relationship with their housing worker, the housing worker can do other pieces of work that their PA or Education Worker would usually do with them to offer consistency and promote engagement.

Education/Employment/Training

The Staying Close Team has a dedicated Education, Employment and Training Officer who will support young people's goals. They will support with things like:

- Finding Education, Employment or Training opportunities in or around the area young people choose to live.
- Support with applying for college/university courses and supporting them to visit the settings.
- Supporting with producing CV's, personal statements, Job applications and Interview skills.
- They will build a relationship with young people to help think about career paths, setting goals, building confidence and self-esteem.
- Offer 1:1 support, work in partnership with other professionals and also offer a monthly drop-in service.
- Support young people accessing universal credits to maintain their claim whilst continuing to encourage and support options in the young persons best interest.

Housing

There is a Housing Officer to help with looking at Housing options now and in the future. They will help with :

- Supporting young people to view different types of accommodation and learn more about what is expected within the different types of settings.
- They will help with referrals and searches for appropriate accommodation.
- They will consider all areas that young people want to live in and support them with how to build a connection within the area.
- They will help young people know about their entitlements as a care leaver e.g. SUHG, Exemption from Council Tax.
- They will run workshops and tenancy ready programmes.
- Offer support around maintaining a tenancy and young people managing their own front door.

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Emotional support

We have an Emotional Health Practitioner. We recognise that the transition to adulthood can be an extremely challenging, stressful and emotional time for young people and can impact on their emotional health.

They will help with:

- 1:1 sessions and group sessions.
- Trauma informed practice, support with understanding current and historic issues.
- Help to build Emotional Intelligence, Emotional Literacy, Coping Mechanisms and Safety Planning.
- Support with life story and helping young people understand about their journey through the care system.
- Support around building relationships.
- Mindfulness and other techniques and methods to promote positive mental health.
- Advise and guidance for professionals working with young people.

Personal Advisers

There are 4 x Personal Advisers attached to the team to offer intensive support to young people. They will work alongside the allocated social worker until a young person turns 18 and then take over as the allocated worker post 18.

They will help with things like:

- Being a Trusted Adult – having someone to speak to and develop a relationship.
- Building life skills – like learning to budget and manage household bills, cook, clean, do basic DIY and learn about maintaining a home.
- Supporting with appointments and building skills and confidence to manage these.
- Offering support with building support networks, building relationships and managing these.
- Co-ordinating support from other services.

For more information...

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