

NYAS
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Care Leavers Research Project

National Youth Advocacy Service

Presented by

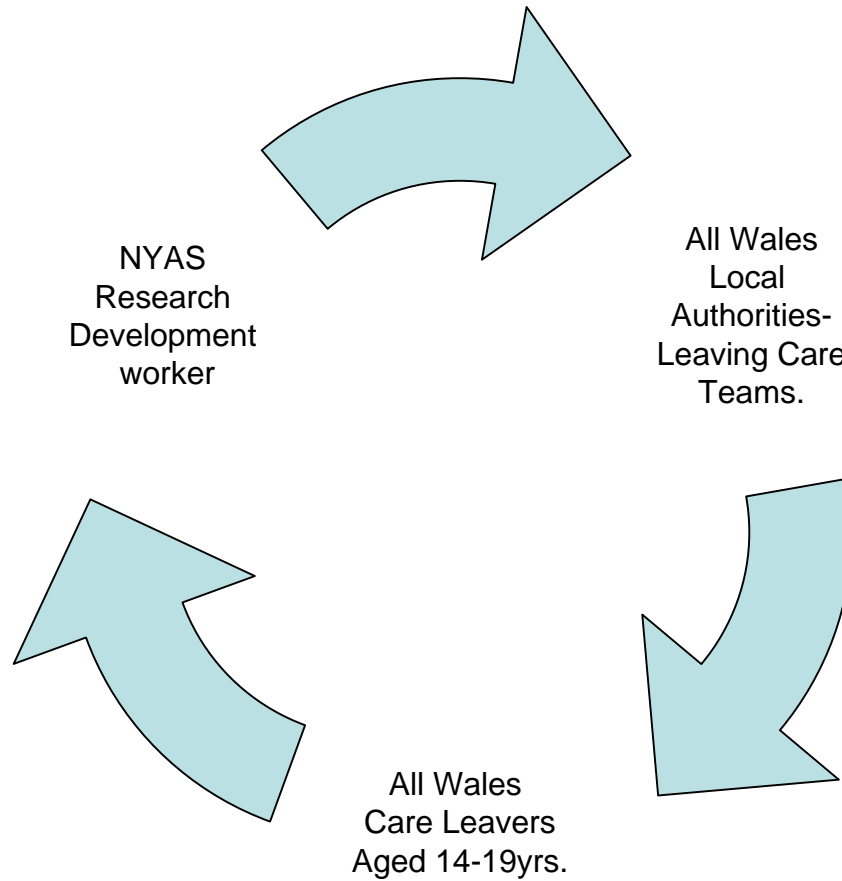
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The purpose of the research

- Investigate the existing financial awareness and available information and support packages for Young People and Care Leavers aged 14-19 in Wales offered by each Local Authorities.
- Explore what information and support Young People consider is needed to help them in the future and the way they wish it to be delivered to them so that they are able to understand it.
- Review the present levels of information, advice and grants available to each Welsh Local Authority for Care Leavers.
- Add to existing knowledge and understanding and areas will be identified where there are gaps and barriers to accessing financial information.

Involvement & Participation



Legislation

- Leaving Care arrangements as stated in the Children's (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children's (Leaving Care) (Wales) Regulations 2001
- National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services
- National Minimum Standards for Children's Home Regulations

Research undertaken by the Welsh Assembly Government in their Care Leavers survey 2005.

- Response rate

- Over 1,500 surveys were distributed throughout Wales via Local Authorities. 347 were returned (a response rate of 23%).

- The returns fell into the following categories of care leavers:

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
• <i>Eligible</i>	51	14.7
• <i>Relevant</i>	69	19.9
• <i>Former Relevant</i>	125	36.0
• <i>Category not specified</i>	102	29.4

Local Authorities questionnaire.

- All the 22 Local Authorities has been contacted and a name person has been identified.
- The response from them all has been very positive.
- I have been sign posted to groups and forums within the local authority.
- All the 22 local authorities are currently completing a questionnaire regarding information that I require.

Information

- Size of the population of Care Leavers (in and out of County) where & who they are placed with.
- Build up a demographic picture of the Leaving Care population in each Local Authority (e.g. Care Leavers with disabilities, ethnic origin, age and gender)
- Investigate what services & support each Local Authority provides (e.g. training for professional & young people, benefits advice and Leaving Care Grants and how young people receive this information)

Care Leavers Questionnaire

- I am currently working upon a questionnaire for young people.
- Groups and forums across Wales are involved in the development of this.
- Young people will receive a paper copy but will also be able to complete the questionnaire on line on NYAS's website.
- The questionnaire will include:

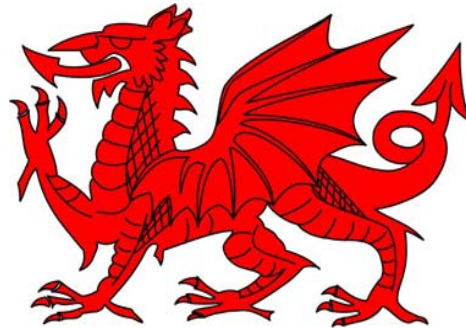
Questionnaire.

- Preparation for Leaving Care.
- Budget and financial planning
- Banking (types of accounts, credit cards, credit unions)
- Welfare Rights benefits (including support for Housing)
- EMA and Leaving Care grants
- How do young people receive this information.

Consultation events in Wales

- Young people will be invited to attend 1 of the 6 consultation events I am currently organising across Wales.
- There will be 3 workshops for young people to attend during the event.
- **These workshops will include:**
 - A series of structured discussions.
 - Focus groups.
 - Activity groups.
- Sessions will be monitored, recorded and facilitated by staff with experience of direct work with young people.

The findings from this Research will be collected
and a Report will be published for the Welsh
Assembly Government.



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