



CARE
LEAVER
COVENANT

READY WHEN YOU ARE

Durham County Council
Corporate Parenting Board



What is the Care Leaver Covenant?

The Covenant is a promise made by the **private, public or voluntary** organisations to provide **support for care leavers** aged 16-25 to help them **to live independently**.



We have five core outcomes:

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Care leavers are better prepared to live independently.

EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION TRAINING

Care leavers have improved access to opportunities.

SAFETY + SECURITY

Care leavers feel safe, secure and stable in their living situation.

HEALTH

Care leavers have improved access to health & emotional support.

FINANCE

Care leavers are financially capable and independent.



OUR 250 SIGNATORIES HAVE CREATED OFFERS INCLUDING:
PRO-BONO LEGAL AID, EMPLOYABILITY TRAINING, FREE COUNSELLING,
TAILORED BANKING PROCESSES AND MORE.





NHS

**Sandwell and West
Birmingham Hospitals**

NHS Trust



**EMPLOYMENT
EDUCATION
TRAINING**

Live & Work Apprenticeships



CARE LEAVER COVENANT

2. WHOLE COUNCIL APPROACH



ADDED VALUE TO THE 'LOCAL OFFER'

ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES COULD 'BUY IN' TO THE CARE LEAVER COVENANT AS A MECHANISM FOR ENHANCING THEIR 'LOCAL OFFER'.

Some local authorities are leading the way in changing the membership and focus of the Corporate Parenting Board to increase its effectiveness in improving outcomes.

As part of their review of current practice, local authorities are strongly encouraged to engage with the Covenant. This is a voluntary indication of a desire to do their utmost to fulfil their role as a corporate parent to care leavers.

The Covenant encourages local authorities to follow good practice in offering additional discretionary services in line with the recommendations of the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers.



1# AWARENESS RAISING

Both staff and care leavers within your Council.

All local authorities could ensure that staff working with care leavers are aware of the Covenant and the benefits offered.

Local authorities could ensure that all relevant staff are aware of the Care Leaver Covenant website, app & Connects.

Some local authorities are building this into their pathway planning.



With a single point of contact at Essex Council the Covenant has been able to share relevant opportunities, which are disseminated to participation leads and PA's who then support Care Leavers to access offers & opportunities from our signatory network.

Connects Portal for Care Leavers

Life skills, discounts,
employment opportunities...

A direct way of reaching young people
with offers and opportunities that
matter.

Personal Advisors & Leaving Care
Teams can also register to receive the
same offers and support young
people in accessing them.

Incentivised through giveaways and
experiences.



CONNECTS
Sign up to Connects to access Covenant opportunities with these partners and more!

itv amazon

REED TALENT SOLUTIONS ACCOR

CHelsea FOOTBALL CLUB FOUNDATION FOUNDATION THE CLUB'S OFFICIAL CHARITY

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CARE LEAVER COVENANT

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP NOW!



2# TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Opportunities within the Council – leading by example.

Local authorities (in partnerships with their providers and their supply chains) aim to offer up to 12 apprenticeships, internships or work experience (ring-fenced) opportunities for care leavers over a year.

This also includes positive recruitment procedures to support care leavers.



Utilising the Kickstart scheme Telford & Wrekin Council are looking across their organisation to become a gateway for 100 opportunities 10% of which would be protected for Care Leavers.



Birmingham Children's Trust will be one of the first to adopt a new ringfencing protocol to guarantee opportunities across the family firm.





3# POLICY PARTNERSHIP

Care Leaver proofing policy and governance.

Reclaiming VAT on the setting up home grant to fund free broadband and digital devices when young people move into their first home.

Multi-agency partnership between NHS Trusts and leaving care teams to develop a core offer for care leavers. This includes free prescriptions up until the age of 25.



The role of elected members as champions and advocates cannot be underestimated. Members have been asked to identify an employer or business from within their ward to become a Covenant signatory.



4# THE SOCIAL VALUE TOOLKIT

Transforming your Social Value action plan, to improve outcomes for care leavers.

Local authorities could revise their Social Value Policy to ensure that meaningful offers of work, apprenticeship, internships and work experience for care leavers are a standard part of procurement practices.

The Toolkit launched in March 2020 and is being used by over thirty Councils across England.



Leeds City Council was the first to adopt the Toolkit alongside thirty other Councils. This partnership with procured services, has in the case of ENGIE, enabled the renovation of properties to support care leavers as they make their transition to independent living.





IMPROVED LIVING SPACES WITH ENGIE



I hated my flat up till now and really didn't want to live here with my baby, now that [the Covenant and Engie] have been able to help me with everything it finally feels like home! I absolutely love my bedroom, its so beautiful! I really can't thank you enough"

Ciara, young person, London

Procurement & Employment Opportunities

Service providers & social value

Organisations working with local authorities on significant contracts are becoming smarter with their social value contributions.

Many within construction have signed the Care Leaver Covenant and developed unique offers for care leavers. Including pre-employability training and accreditation, alongside guaranteed careers.

Local Authorities are using the toolkit to hold organisations accountable and create clear outcomes for their young people.





5# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Taking advantage of your Council's local partnerships & connections.

Local authorities could work with SMEs, local employer groups and other partners to set and meet ambitious targets to increase the number, range and take up of employment, education and training opportunities.

Building a network of local Covenant signatories, supporting care leavers with opportunities, support and offers.



Following the launch of Coventry City Council's 'Local Offer', with the support of the Covenant, they invited local businesses, partners and employers to an event where they'd also develop offers for care leavers.

Following this event Severn Trent Water developed a social tariff for care leavers reducing bills by 70%.



South Staffs Water



FINANCE

Discounted Tariffs 70% off Water Bills





DEVELOPING A 'WHOLE COUNCIL APPROACH'

Strategic buy-in and support across the Council

This means accepting that the responsibility for being a corporate parent does not solely reside with those people and departments that have Care Leaver in their job title.

This strategic partnership involves both the political leadership and Directors from across the Council.



Herefordshire Council's Cabinet adopted their own Covenant with the intention for the Care Leaver agenda to be adopted across the Authority.

Following this they've adopted a strategic 'Care Leaver Board' made up of elected members and senior officers and external partners who'd champion those priorities in each respective work program.



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