

Durham CiCC Survey Savings and Life Skills

Durham's Children in Care Council members meet with Durham County Council Corporate Parenting Panel [CPP] every six months. The CPP are a group of adults who come together to discuss how children and young people are cared for.

In April CICC members raised the importance of having more possibilities to save money and be supported with life skills when preparing to leave care. A survey was created after it was discussed and developed at both CICC group meetings in May.

The survey was distributed to all care experienced children and young people to complete via all Durham County Council children in care and care leaving teams. It was also shared with all foster carers and children homes in and outside of County Durham.

The survey was open for two weeks in June 2023.

42 responses were received.

40 responses agreed to share data.

25 responses were completed by children and young people new to the CICC

16 was the average age of young people who completed the survey.

The information will be shared with everyone who completed survey as well as being kept informed of further developments as a result of the survey and that of Durham CICC activities.

The following information is a result of the survey.

What is your gender?

Male	21
Female	18
Non-binary	1
Prefer not to say	0
Other	0



Do you think it's important to have savings when you leave care?

Yes	35
No	0
Maybe	5



88% agreed savings were important, this clearly demonstrates the importance of savings.

Do you think you should be supported to save money?

Yes	36
No	2
Maybe	2



90% of the responses thought children and young people should be supported to save money.

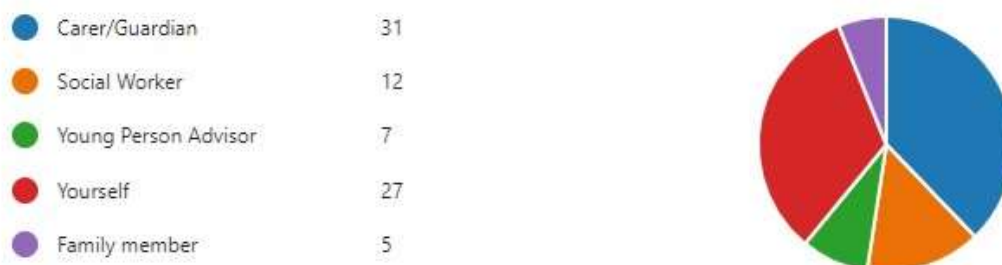
Have you been supported to save money whilst in care?



73% Yes, they had been supported to save money whilst in care which is a really positive result and demonstrates that a high proportion of children and young people are encouraged to save.

It may be that with further research we can establish how young people have been supported and share this information as good practice.

Who do you think should be responsible for keeping track of your savings?



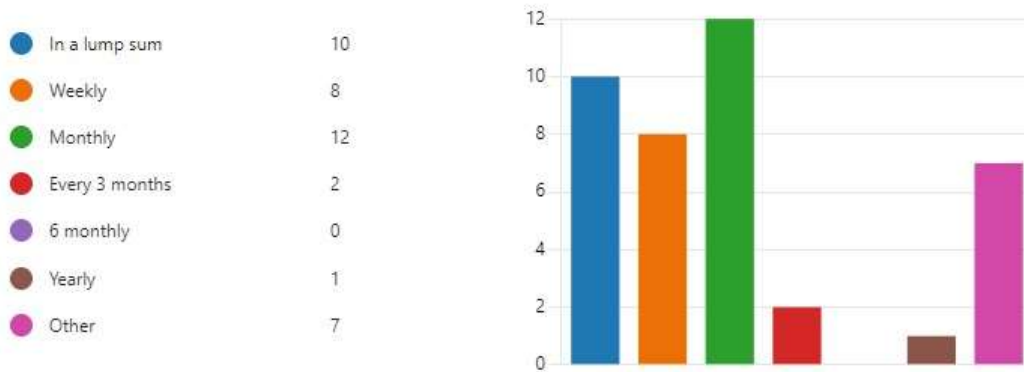
The above question was a multiple-choice question and the responses were varied. As you can see 38%, young people thought a Carer/Guardian should offer support regarding managing savings. However the second highest also recognising that young people need to take personal responsibility at 33%

15% - Outlined a social worker would be a good person track and support you with savings

9% - Suggested a Young Person Advisor would be a good advisor regarding savings

5% - Suggested a Family Member could offer advice and track savings.

How do you think your savings should be given to you when you leave care?



The data suggests savings should be given to young people in different ways. Consideration should be given to all of the suggestions as young people manage money differently. Highlighted in the data monthly instalments or in one lump sum are the most favoured.

Do you think being supported with life skills is important to young people?

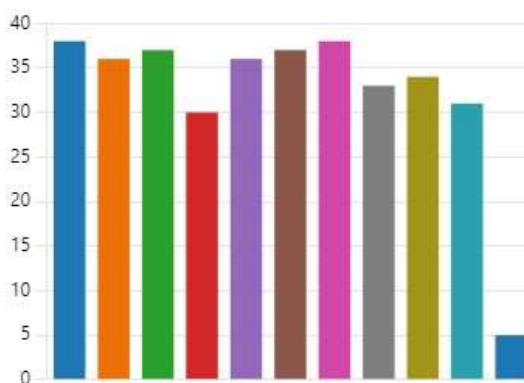


98% - young people responded to this question by suggesting yes being supported with live skills was important for young people.

2% - said no.

What life skills do you think are important to help you develop for when you leave care?

How to manage money/bank ac...	38
How to do laundry	36
How to cook	37
How to manage own time	30
How to find a job	36
Personal care and hygiene	37
Taking care of Mental Health	38
How to cope with setbacks	33
Develop effective communicatio...	34
Interview skills	31
Other	5



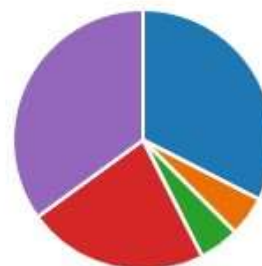
This question was a multiple-choice response. All choices were developed by CICC members as important.

Managing money and taking care of your mental health are marginally higher than the other responses but everything should be considered in any life skills programmes offered.

Further research could be done to find out what 'other' skills young people felt were important.

What type of support do you think there should be for life skills?

Daily life talks at home	13
Top tip videos	2
Life hacks	2
Workshops	9
Talks by your carers	14



Home life as a place for learning comes through strongly in these results with 32% thought daily life talks at home was an important approach to life skills support and 35% saying talks by their carers are important.

From this data it demonstrates that in person activities come out stronger as another 23% - Young people responded that workshops on life skills would be a good approach

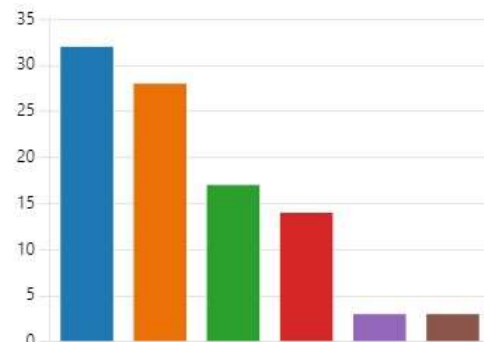
With only a small cohort viewing online as a favoured approach -

5% Viewed top tip videos as important way to learn about life skills.

5% Viewed life hacks as an important way to learn about life skills

Who would you go to for advice?

Carer/Guardian	32
Social worker/YPA/Support wor...	28
Friend	17
Family member	14
Council website	3
Other	3



Another multiple choice question which strongly suggests that young people feel connected as Carer/ guardians, social workers and support workers were viewed as important people who young people who go to for advice.

In conclusion the young people who completed the survey believed savings and life skills are really important issues for care experienced young people cared for by Durham County Council. Different approaches to life skills should be considered which focus on managing money, having a bank account, along with mental health support. Having savings was viewed as really important and young people should be supported to this. Carers were viewed as important people in children and young people lives regarding being supported to safe and being supported with developing essential Life skills.

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