

Care Leavers Service

Custody Project

Tracy Shaw, Team Manager

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Background

The Care Leavers Service have 13 Young people in custody and were concerned about the following:

Access to the young people and getting visits booked to see them.

That young people in custody understanding the Local Offer and what support they can get as a Care Leaver.

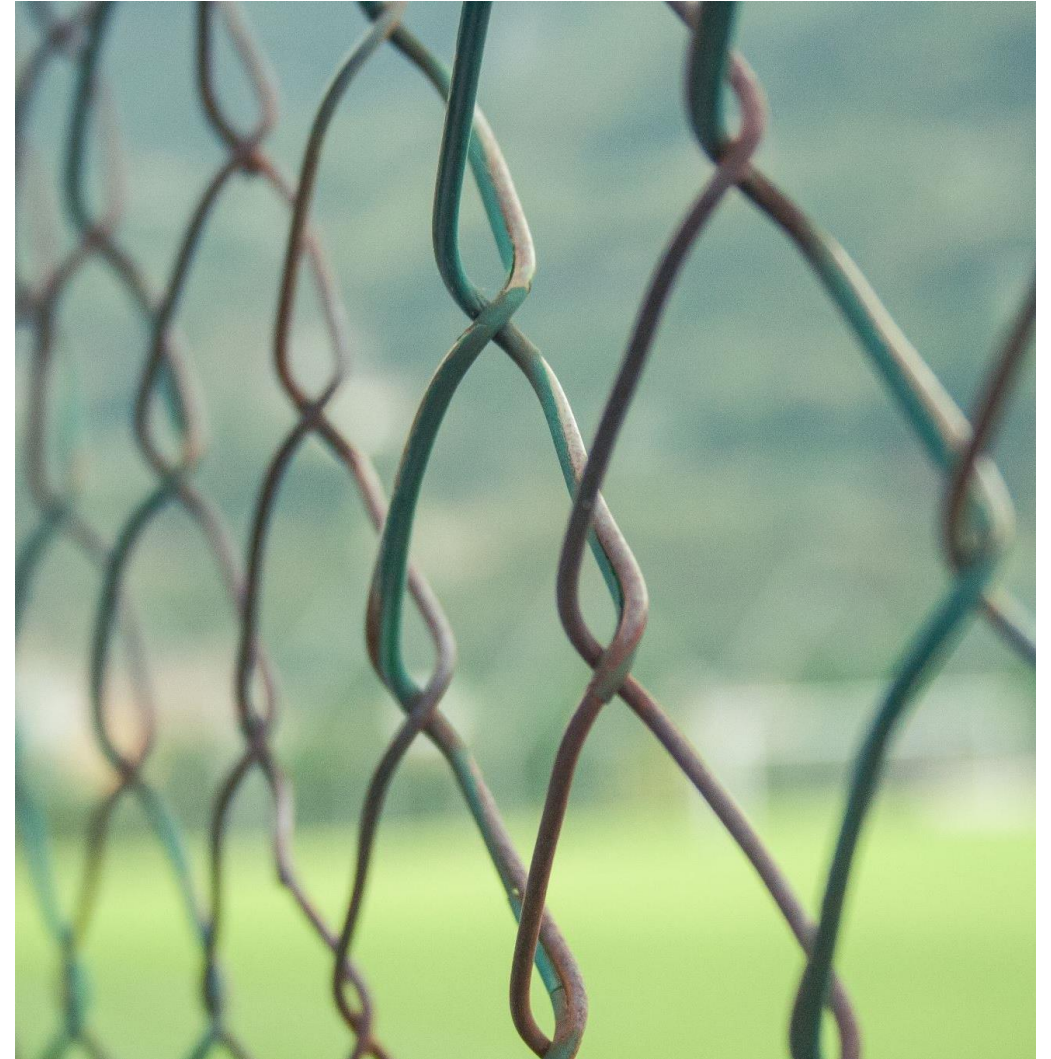
Embed this within our CLA team for the children looked after in custody.

Do they have the support in place that would be expected by any good parent when in custody.

Do we have good links with prison staff to ensure care planning takes place for the young person when they are in custody and for when they come out of custody.

What did we do?

- Team Manager Tracy Shaw and Young People's Advisor Graham linked in with Rachael Brown, Care Leaver Lead in Durham prison.
- A drop-in session was agreed to take place monthly so that any Care Leaver in custody could attend and speak with Tracy and Graham.
- The sessions began in August 2023
- Up until now we have had 38 young people attending
- Sessions take place every month and the care leaver leads from probation also attend and follow up with
- We have outcomes such as:
 - Linking young people up with the care leavers service in their area
 - Educating young people on the local offer and their entitlements
 - Helping them understand their eligibility





Future Plans

- Make links in other prisons we know our young people are in such as Low Newton and Wetherby to try and establish the same groups.
- Encourage other authorities to do the same in their local prisons. Stockton have agreed to do something similar in Holme House prison.
- Audit our young people in custody to consider the factors that have contributed to them being there and how we can work with services around earlier intervention.
- Develop a peer support group within Durham prison where young people influence how we develop this work in the future – early 2024.
- Ensure we have an agreed service bottom line of support for all young people in custody including time lines on file for support given to ensure stability and support when they leave custody.

Examples of positive outcomes from the voice of the young person

- Young people feel supported again
- One young person returned to tell us he had made links with his authority and his worker was visiting now she knew he was in prison.
- A Durham young person said he would not be here if it wasn't for the care leavers service
- Young people are aware of the support they can get and are now accessing that support.
- Young people are spreading the messages amongst others in prison to raise awareness.
- The staff in the prison understand care experienced young people better.

