

Submission from Become, National Care Leavers Charity (Unable to attend in person)

Positive aspects of housing support that young people like to see more of:

- Rent support and guarantor schemes to help care leavers access private renting;
- Designated housing officers within leaving care teams or really strong connections with housing to support care leavers in finding and accessing appropriate housing;
- Housing support to identify private landlords accepting benefits
- 'Training flats' to help young people at 18 test living independently with the option of returning to supported accommodation;
- A huge area is planning before a young person turns 18. It is quite shocking the number of care leavers who become homeless at 18 as they 'age out' of their current accommodation. Essential support for those in care/care leavers is better planning ahead of age 18 to identify accommodation, ensure it is appropriately furnished, and that the young person themselves feels ready to move in - with the skills they need for independent living- so they are not suddenly becoming homeless at 18.
- Support for care leavers from the Local Authority who live out of borough and wish to remain there (usually due to having built support networks in the area, or being in education in the area, or having job opportunities there) - such as linking up with housing from other local authorities to support care leavers in accessing accommodation.
- Clear guidance and information for those in care and foster carers around Staying Put- the practical and financial implications.

This good practice guidance is helpful in considering joint protocols between housing and leaving care- [Joint housing protocols for care leavers: good practice advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/joint-housing-protocols-for-care-leavers)