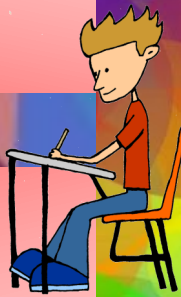


1: Young people should be involved in their aftercare plan at every stage

An aftercare plan is an important part of a young person's life after they leave the care system. They should be given clear information about their plan, and have a say in all aspects of the plan.



2: Appropriate accommodation must be secured for every care-leaver

Many young adults continue living with foster families once eighteen. However, some are faced with inadequate accommodation which in the worst-case Scenario can result in homelessness. The state, having assumed the parental role, is obliged to secure for every care-leaver accommodation that suits their particular needs.



3: Type and quality of aftercare services must not be influenced by location

A standardised system of benefits and services should be available and accessible to all care leavers. No person should be worse off because of where they come from or which local authority area they are in care.

4: Every care-leaver must be adequately prepared for independent living

Aftercare workers should be introduced to the young person at a suitable time, based on need. Every person should be supported in developing essential life skills, such as finance, health, safety and cooking. Skills should not only be taught in a formal setting, but throughout everyday life.

5: Aftercare services should be a priority for government investment

The government should prioritise these young people. Insufficient funding for aftercare services is a false economy. Spending at this early stage will save money that would be spent on homelessness and mental health issues later on



6: Access to mental health services

Young people should be encouraged to take care of their mental health and be made aware of the range of services available to them.

