



AFTERCARE THE NEXT STEP LTD

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Providing A Range of Flexible and Targeted Services to Young People Leaving Care and In Need, Aged 16 +

Young people leaving care face many challenges. We believe that preparation for leaving care is most effective when it is holistic in approach, attaching equal importance to supporting the development of practical, emotional and inter-personal skills. The process of leaving care should be built upon a firm foundation of positive experiences for young people.

We provide a range of flexible, targeted services to young people leaving care and in need, aged 16 plus. Services are provided to young people through outreach and through one-stop-shops to ensure accessible information and services.

Young people need help that enables them to make a gradual, seamless transition from care, or from homelessness, to independence. We aim to ensure that outcomes are transformed – in education, employment, health and accommodation – with young people benefiting from the same positive experiences, opportunities and life chances as their contemporaries.

Helping Young People in Transition to:

BE HEALTHY

Young people will have full access to the community health services they need and we assist them in registering with a GP or dentist. To begin to meet emotional and mental health needs, we work closely with colleagues in CAMHS, and in health support, sharing facilities at the 'one-stop-shops' so that specialist counselling and health services are easily available.

We run focussed workshops on specific issues such as domestic violence, and also provide support for groups with specific interests such as young men and young mothers.

STAY SAFE

Ensuring the safety of young people and supporting them to keep themselves safe is at the heart of our projects. We place each young person's need for continuity of care at the centre of the referral, needs assessment and pathway planning process.

We work with young people whether living in or out of the region. We assist them in finding suitable accommodation and provide support to ensure they are able to live independently.

MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Young people often have practical ideas about the way that services can be improved and consultation groups meet regularly to feedback on what we are doing well and what we can do better. The groups provide opportunities such as developing skills in public speaking, solving problems, planning and negotiating.

ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

We are keen to see more talented young people leaving care go through into higher education and be supported while they are studying. We work with young people who are not in employment or education to help them gain access to whichever is most suitable for their needs.

We provide help with CV's, applying for jobs and attending interviews and will provide ongoing support to deal with any problems as they occur.

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

We focus on support in education – in school, college and for university to ensure that young people achieve to the very best of their ability and we celebrate all of these achievements. We encourage young people to participate in a whole range of stimulating and enjoyable.

STATEMENT OF OVERALL AIMS & OBJECTIVES

We will work closely with Young People in developing caring professional constructive relationships.

To discuss regularly the developments of the individuals needs and support them on an individual or group basis.

To produce a professional assessment of current and future needs in partnership with the Placing Authority concerned professionals, the Young Person and their Family.

To make sure clear and constructive recommendations are made in reviews and reports.

We will identify and comment upon the future needs and requirements of any pending placements.

To support the individual Young Person with an integration program into a new residency and onto independence.

To actively seek professional advice, assessment and working in partnership with appropriate agencies, within the commissioning instruction of the Placing Authority.

We will ensure the positive continuation of the placement, to include participation of individual programmes, ensuring that the placement continues to be productive and positive for the Young Person.

We will report any incident or restraint to the appropriate people within regulatory requirements. Ensure that the Young Person and Staff are supported and also debriefed. All reports must be cascaded within five working days to all identified persons. Prior to this, they will have been informed by telephone as soon as possible after the incidents occurrence or the incident of restraint.

To inform the Social Workers or out of hour's duty team of the Placing Authority or any other key person identified, if the Young Person absconds [unauthorised absence]. The local police are contacted and all relevant details are given. Parents or other persons who are deemed to have an appropriate interest are also informed. Upon a Young Person's return, all contacted parties are notified.

To welcome the Young Person back home and ensure that their needs of sustenance, comfort and possible medical attention are met. At a later stage, reasons for their absconding are sought, the possible dangers are highlighted and who was contacted with regard to their safety are discussed and outlined to them. Report to be compiled and processed accordingly.

To ensure that a bound complaints book is kept which can be utilised by the young person to lodge a complaint. All complaints are taken seriously and investigated fully. The outcomes are shared with the Young Person, Organisation and the Placing Authority.

To develop appropriate, Education, Training or Work plans and positive links for Young people who are resident. To give professional advice and guidance from agencies such as Connexions and Careers Service.

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To ensure that each Young Person has their own accommodation, which they are, encouraged to decorate and personalise by the use of posters, pictures and personal items. Throughout their tenancy, this is their space and is respected as such.