

JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE:

PLANNING AND REFERRAL

future planning



What is it?

'Future planning' is the first checkpoint in the *planning and referral* stage. It is the start of a young person's preparation for independence with a goal to transition to Leaving Care.

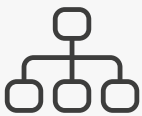
This checkpoint focusses on increasing the young person's independence, start to develop their confidence, taking on more responsibilities and preparing them to start thinking about their future beyond residential care.

"It's the first placement where I felt loved"

What to expect?

14+

At 14 years of age, the young person is enrolled to *Stage 1* of their journey to independence; -'Starting my Journey'.



Residential preparation for independence starts. The independence framework developed to help grow the young person's skills and confidence is introduced, with set aims and activities to work through, and rewards to achieve along the way.



The young person's progress and achievements will be monitored every 3 months by the home manager and discussed in Looked after Children (LAC) reviews.



Once the young person reaches '*Stage 2 - Looking Ahead*', the home manager will notify the Leaving Care Transition Manager. Likewise, the Transition Manager will contact services to track young people progress.



Transition Manager and home manager will discuss the needs of the young person and if the Leaving Care service would be able to meet their needs.

Get in touch!

Have a question? Want a bit more information? Feel a bit unsure?
Give our team a call today!

Tina Lawler - Leaving Care Placement Manager
leavingcare.referrals@keys-group.co.uk • 07749 433474

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introduction to leaving care (16+)

JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE: PLANNING AND REFERRAL

CHECKPOINT 2



"It's the only place I ever felt safe"

What to expect?



Young person's independence is growing. They reach the second milestone 'Stage 2: Looking Ahead'. It is now a good time to start thinking about their future.



The Transition Manager is notified that a young person has made progress in their independence and they are ready to consider the next steps towards independence. The Transition Manager will call the home manager to introduce the service and discuss future plans for the young person.



An information pack with details on Leaving Care, FAQ's and how to get in touch will be sent out to the home manager following the introductory call.



The home manager introduces Leaving Care to the young person (where appropriate) and will discuss plans for their future and answer any questions they may have.



Discussions continue to progress in LAC reviews about the young person's progress and future planning. At an appropriate time, a Leaving Care Manager will attend to support with transition planning.

What is it?

'Introduction to Leaving Care' is the second checkpoint in the planning and referral stage of a young person's journey to independence.

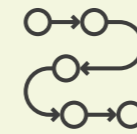
Once the young person reaches 'Stage 2: Looking Ahead' on their journey to independence, the Transition Manager in Leaving Care team will get in touch with the home manager to discuss future plans for the young person and the support that Leaving Care will provide.

What is it?

'Referral & enrolment' is the third checkpoint in the planning and referral stage of a young person's journey to independence.

After showing good progress in their independence and self-care, the young person is enrolled in to Leaving Care to start the next chapter of their journey. The home manager will send referral/enrolment information about the young person and their needs to the Transition Manager in Leaving Care. They will then assess if the service is able to meet the young person's needs.

What to expect?



The home manager and Transition Manager discuss Leaving Care placement could be a suitable next step for the young person, and if the time is right for the young person to be referred/enrolled.



The home manager completes an internal referral/enrolment form, detailing the young person's risks, care/support needs, as well as their goals and aspirations for their future.



The referral/enrolment form is sent to the Transition Manager and this is reviewed in collaboration with a Leaving Care Area Manager. All other relevant information about the young person (independence progression, education and achievements, pathway plan etc.) also shared.



The Transition Manager processes the referral and updates required systems.



Discussions will continue between the home manager and Transition Manager on the independence focus for the young person's remaining time in residential care, - to ensure they are best prepared to enter Leaving Care.

JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE:

REFERRALS AND ADMISSION

3 referral / enrolment

CHECKPOINT 3



Katie's story

Katie joined Leaving Care 18 months ago, after being served notice on her residential placement. Initially, Katie received a high level of support due to her complex needs and challenging behaviour and had not engaged in any education for a significant period of time.

Today, Katie has completed her first year at college, having passed her Maths, English and Health and Social Care level 1 qualifications. Whilst in Leaving Care, she has achieved great outcomes and essential practical life skills, and having recently turned eighteen is now ready for the next chapter of her life. The future is bright for Katie!

Get in touch!

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progress review



What is it?

'Progress review' is the fourth checkpoint in the planning and referral stage of a young person's journey to independence.

Here, the referral/enrolment information is revisited and the young person's readiness for Leaving Care is assessed. Steps towards offering a placement begin, such as identifying the placement location and scoping property availability and suitability.



CHECKPOINT 4

"The best placement I ever had"

What to expect?



The Transition Manager revisits the referral/enrolment information to assess the young person's the progress and readiness for the Leaving Care service.



If the young person is ready, the Transition Manager, the home manager and the young person discuss further placement arrangements and address any outstanding queries about transitioning to the Leaving Care service



Any questions, worries or anxieties the young person may have are addressed.

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decision

CHECKPOINT 5



What is it?

'Decision' is the fifth checkpoint in the planning and referral stage of a young person's journey to independence.

Once a placement is offered, funding arrangement as agreed and transition mapping begins. Support plans, funding structures, placement agreements and pre-planning meetings are completed. This is to ensure everything is in place and agreed before move-in day, to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"I feel safe... the staff are friendly and supportive"

What to expect?



Pre-planning meeting take place between the young person, home manager, Leaving Care Manager, Local Authority and any other relevant individuals to discuss the young person's needs and placement arrangements and requirements.



If the placement is agreed, the Transition Manager will complete a housing request and will pass on to the housing officer to source a property. The housing officer will source suitable properties considering the needs, preferences budget, and safety of the young person.



Following the pre-planning meeting, the Transition Manager is notified if the placement has been offered. For all offered placements, the Transition Manager will send a service proposal along with the funding structure to the Local Authority - Commissioning Team.



Suitable properties are discussed with the home manager and young person before a decision is made. Once a suitable property is secured and a move-in date agreed, the Transition Manager will request an Individual Placement Agreement (IPA) from the Local Authority.

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What is it?

'Team allocation & preparation' is the final checkpoint in the planning and referral stage of a young person's journey to independence.

By now, the placement is agreed and planning and preparation for move-in day is well underway. A date has been set, a team of staff allocated and introduced to the young person, and plans are being made for bridging the two services to ensure a smooth, successful transition.

What to expect?



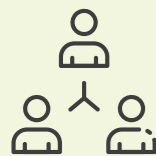
The young person, with input from residential staff, Leaving Care team, Social Worker and any other relevant professional/ person develops their Transition Support Plan. The plan details all the arrangements for the move, as well as the young person's wants and preferences.



Once a date is set, a Leaving Care team who will be supporting the young person is allocated. The young person has the opportunity to meet with their new support team and where possible choose their key-worker.



Additional arrangements can begin, such as visiting accommodation before move-in, and planning first week sleepovers with their existing residential team to ease the transition.



Leaving Care Team Manager continues to work with the home manager, young person, and the Leaving Care Housing Officer, to ensure a smooth, planned transition for the young person into Leaving Care.

JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE:

PLANNING AND REFERRAL

6 team allocation & preparation

CHECKPOINT 6



Josh's story

Josh entered Leaving Care straight from his family home at the age of 17. He has embraced living semi-independently and has been doing a great job looking after his home. Josh has enjoyed learning new skills with staff such as cooking, gardening, and laundry and has achieved a number of AQA awards. Josh is now focussed on a positive future, having successfully secured a labouring job and is also looking forward to return to college in September for a bricklaying course.

Josh is making some great progress towards his independence, and growing in confidence very day.



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