

Preventing homelessness in care experienced individuals

"Every child in the care system should be felt loved and supported and cared for, because – these guys will be able to back me up here – like most of us feel like we've been failed in the care system and that, that's one big thing that stops us from moving on."

Care experienced young people face a **'care cliff'** when they leave care



This means young people leaving care are often **not ready to live independently** and **lack support**



Leaving care is considered a **"predictable route into homelessness"**



Around a quarter of homeless young people are **care experienced**



Being in settled, **safe accommodation** is key to young people's journeys into adulthood



Priorities for the future

EMPOWERMENT



"I think we perhaps as a society need to listen to them and ask them, what is it actually you want."

PREVENTATIVE INTERVENTIONS



"It's about nipping it on the bud early not waiting years down the line to fix it because, I'm going to say it, sadly for us it's a bit too late."

CONTINUITY OF CARE



"I've gone through, what, at least 25 social workers, so by the time I hit my fifth social worker I was like, I don't ***** care anymore."

READINESS FOR TRANSITION



"This is quite often more emotionally, not ready to be out, independent, rather than the practical skills which they have been able to develop, but it's that sort of big leap really."

LOCAL PLACEMENTS



"Moving 50 miles to another authority is really difficult for some of them, they have no support whatsoever then."

REDUCING STIGMA



"As soon as they find out we're care experienced they start labelling us as if we're different people, like we're not human."

BETTER COMMUNICATION



"To put it in a simple way it's that you've got to be at breaking point for the support to be there."