



DISCRIMINATION LAW ASSOCIATION

Briefings

Care leavers and housing – a complex story of discrimination and inequality

Phoebe White and Kathy Evans from the [National Youth Advocacy Service \(NYAS\)](#) set out some of the challenges and disadvantages facing care leavers seeking safe and secure homes. NYAS is the leading charitable provider in England and Wales of independent advocacy and independent visitors for children in and leaving care, and of specialist legal representation for children in family law proceedings. They share insights and learning from the young people in both nations with whom the organisation works. They explore options for reform including making care-experience a protected EA characteristic or extending statutory corporate parenting duties to more public bodies. Given the many differences in political context and policy, laws and practice between the two nations, their policy and legislative analysis mainly focuses on England.

Setting the scene

Every year more children are entering the care system in England than ever before. In 2023 over 83,000 children¹ were being cared for by a local authority and this number is projected to rise further to 100,000 by 2025.² The experience of care, and what follows, can be far from what any parent would hope for their child. Though the system is intended to provide children with a stable and loving home, it is fast becoming, if not already, a system in crisis which is struggling to provide children with the care and tools they need to thrive.

Young people regularly report that on the day they first entered care, a social worker arrived at their home, asked them to pack a bag and then moved them to live with adults they had never met before. As one young person told us *'I was only nine and I came home from school one night, I was playing with my cousins and then social services arrived. The next thing I knew I was being taken on a "trip" somewhere, but my mum wasn't coming with me.'*

Once in care, their homes, bureaucratically referred to as 'placements', can offer little stability, familiarity or consistency. One in 10 children will experience *'high placement instability'* – three or more moves per year – and 20% of children will be moved over 20 miles away from their local area, making it difficult for children to find their social circles, form healthy relationships and succeed in education.

Perhaps the most difficult part of the care experience starts when, at 18 years of age, the journey of being 'in care' ends and being a 'care leaver' begins. After leaving care, support for young people is significantly reduced as they enter adulthood. Over a third of care leavers have reported to Ofsted that they felt they left care too early, attributing this to the transition happening 'abruptly' without the young person feeling prepared for *'all the sudden changes'* which accompany a life after care.³ Most young people turning 18, will start university, travel or take up apprenticeships and continue to live with their parents (or return to live there periodically) until they feel ready to fully start adulthood. Some care leavers will also enjoy similar experiences, but research suggests the transition out of care to into adulthood is more often associated with negative outcomes than positive ones.

1 Department for Education, 2023 [Children looked after in England including adoptions, Reporting year 2023 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

2 BBC News, 2021. [Children in care in England could hit almost 100,000 by 2025 - BBC News](#)

3 Ofsted, 2022. ['Ready or not': care leavers' views of preparing to leave care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

One of the most concerning challenges facing young people leaving care is finding safe, secure and stable housing. Though the option of supported accommodation and schemes such as 'Staying Put' (an arrangement for care leavers to continue living with foster parents after the age of 18) are available, these are quite often short-term arrangements or require a young person to move further away from their local area. These limited options, alongside an overall reduction in support services, make homelessness a very real and immediate threat for care leavers. One in three care leavers will experience homelessness within the first two years of leaving care, and around a quarter of all individuals who experience homelessness have also experienced the care system.⁴ Data released by the UK government in October 2024 showed that 4,300 care leavers aged 18-20 were assessed as homeless in 2023/24, representing a 54% increase over the last five years.⁵

The legal context

[October 2024 Data] showed that 4,300 care leavers aged 18-20 were assessed as homeless in 2023/24, representing a 54% increase over the last five years.

The primary legal basis for the definitions of, and duties towards, children in need of protection, care and support as they become care leavers, is the Children Act 1989, and the many subsequent amending acts expanding and updating it. The Children Act places a particularly unique and strong legal duty on a local authority to act as if they have become the actual parent of any child entering their care – referred to as a 'corporate parent' duty. This duty makes the authority responsible for the life and welfare of the whole child in their care – their safety and stable home life, their health and emotional wellbeing, educational outcomes and career prospects, and their transition into adulthood – not merely their 'accommodation' in an alternative home from that of their birth parent.

While only a small proportion of children will ever experience local authority care, councils collectively are expected by law to act 'corporately' as the responsible parent to tens of thousands of children every year, and to continue to be responsible (or legally liable), for every adult for whom they were once responsible as a child. This is a very different kind of statutory duty from all others held by a local authority. This is important to recognise because in a child's transition from being 'in care', to leaving that care and entering the housing market as an adult, there is no equivalent duty in the housing sector matching the strength of the council's duty as a corporate parent to try and prevent them becoming homeless.

The second essential applicable legislative framework is the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) and the Strasbourg court's judgments under the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) – which has in turn, since 1989, used the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as its guide to interpreting the application of ECHR rights to children. The HRA makes any breach of the rights and freedoms every child enjoys challengeable and enforceable in a domestic court, including protection from discrimination under Article 14. There is no restrictive list of the potential grounds for discrimination under Article 14, although it includes the well-established 'protected characteristics' of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation as set out in the Equality Act 2010 (EA). Care experience is not a 'protected characteristic' in law, although the Independent Review of Children's Social Care⁶ (the Care Review) did recommend government considered making it one, and there is ongoing campaigning

⁴ Step by Step, 2022. [Care_Leavers_and_Homelessness.pdf](https://stepbystep.org.uk/Care_Leavers_and_Homelessness.pdf) (stepbystep.org.uk)

⁵ BBC News, 2024. [Huge rise in number of young care leavers facing homelessness - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-68111111)

⁶ The Independent Review of Children's Social Care, 2022 [The-independent-review-of-childrens-social-care-Final-report.pdf](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-independent-review-of-childrens-social-care-Final-report.pdf) (nationalarchives.gov.uk)

pressure to pursue this aim. NYAS understands that there have been some attempts to challenge discrimination against care-experienced people under Article 14 HRA in British case law, but to our knowledge no significant legal precedent establishing care-experienced discrimination under the HRA has been set to date.

Discrimination

Young people who have experienced care will frequently encounter care-related discrimination throughout their lives because of the negative, and often inaccurate, perceptions society holds of what it means to be care-experienced. These perceptions are mostly underpinned by harmful narratives in the media or pop culture which suggest that care-experienced individuals are inherently bad or deviant from societal norms, resulting in this group becoming marginalised within society. Those experiencing care are not a homogeneous group; children from ethnic minority backgrounds for example, are disproportionately over-represented within the care system yet are much less likely to receive support and onward referrals to helping services such as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The Care Review highlighted that racial inequality is *'amongst the most pronounced disparities in children's social care'* and heard accounts of social workers witnessing racism towards families in their day-to-day work.⁷

In research conducted with Coram Voice, 40% of children said they had been treated negatively because of their care-experience.⁸ Other children have told us they often hide their experiences of care as they are worried that knowledge of these might change how they are perceived:

People often assume that you are problematic and have many things wrong with you because you're in care. They expect you to be aggressive and loud, when really you just want to be heard. Being in care is probably the worst thing a child experiences and they need support, not discrimination for being in an unfortunate circumstance.

As the Care Review highlighted, those with care-experience can face both direct and indirect discrimination but, without any specific legal protection against care-related discrimination, it can be almost impossible for an individual to seek legal redress even when there is tangible evidence that discrimination has occurred.

Direct discrimination: prejudiced attitudes and overt discrimination because of care experience

Residential care homes account for nearly one fifth of all care settings for children in care and there are just over 2,000 children's homes across England.⁹ Though residential care can provide a safe and nurturing environment, children living in these homes are more likely to experience discrimination and stereotyping than children who live in other types of care. This can be attributed to residential care being stereotyped as a 'last resort' for children, alluding to a view that children living in these homes are *'at their worst'* as they cannot live in other forms of accommodation.¹⁰ Not only is this an inaccurate representation, but it has also fuelled negative views of children's homes and the children living in them.

⁷ The Care Review, p89.

⁸ NYAS and Coram Voice, 2022, page 17-22. [Children and young people's views on England's care review \(coramvoice.org.uk\)](https://coramvoice.org.uk)

⁹ Ofsted, 2023. [Main findings: children's social care in England 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

¹⁰ The Therapeutic Care Journal, 2022. [Perceptions and Attitudes towards Children's Residential Care Homes in the Community. By Hannah Dobbs - The Therapeutic Care Journal \(thetcj.org\)](https://thetcj.org)

Young people who have experienced care will frequently encounter care-related discrimination throughout their lives because of the negative, and often inaccurate, perceptions society holds of what it means to be care-experienced.

As there is no legislation prohibiting care-related discrimination, there is nothing to stop landlords refusing to rent their properties to tenants because of their care experience.

Organisations setting up new children's homes can face objections and hostility from residents which are underpinned by outright discriminatory views about children living in residential care. Planning applications receive objections which express 'fears' about what the presence of a children's home, or rather the children living in them, would mean for their neighbourhood. Though some objections have included concerns such as a reduction in residential parking and increased traffic, the majority feature complaints suggesting that a children's home will increase crime rates, reduce house prices and compromise the 'health and safety' of neighbourhoods. In such cases, residents have labelled these children as antisocial, deviant and only likely to bring trouble to their communities, rather than recognising the trauma and adversity they have experienced leading them to needing a home in residential care in the first place. In one particularly shocking story, the chief executive of the Independent Children's Home Association told the BBC that residents making these complaints generally view children living in care as '*criminals rather than victims*' recalling that they had seen terms such as 'murderer' and 'rapist' used in some objections to planning.¹¹

There are plenty of UK examples where those wishing to set up children's homes have met with discriminatory attitudes towards children in care. In Derbyshire, multiple councils received nearly 100 complaints, letters and petitions from residents over applications for just three homes.¹² In Leicester, one home intended for children aged four to eleven years of age received over 100 objections from residents.¹³ One application in Stoke-on-Trent generated 68 objections that a nearby children's home would '*lower property prices*';¹⁴ and another home in Basingstoke received objections from councillors themselves citing that the homes would '*fundamentally alter the residential character of the neighbourhood*'.¹⁵

Discrimination is also present within the private rented sector and is another barrier facing care leavers seeking safe and secure homes after leaving care. There are multiple accounts from care leavers across the country detailing that once their prospective landlord found out about their care experience, their tenancy applications were denied. Research conducted by the charity Centrepont found that 13% of care leavers reported being unable to access private rented property because landlords were unwilling to rent to them.¹⁶ The same report also describes how for local authorities, discriminatory landlords remain one of the biggest challenges preventing care leavers finding homes. As there is no legislation prohibiting care-related discrimination, there is nothing to stop landlords refusing to rent their properties to tenants because of their care experience.

This was most recently demonstrated in a property advert from one England's largest affordable housing and care providers – Guinness Partnerships. The advert was for a two-bedroom flat in Greater Manchester and had been labelled by the provider as a:

*SENSITIVE LET: No history of substance misuse within the last 5 years - no care leavers – no criminal convictions within the last 5 years.*¹⁷

11 BBC News, 2022. [Children in care homes 'seen as criminals not victims' - BBC News](#)

12 Community Care, 2022. ['Resident protests against children's homes are a microcosm of an uncaring care system' - Community Care](#)

13 Leicester Mercury, 2024. [Young people in care are in need and not jobs, children's home organisation says - Leicestershire Live \(leicesterm Mercury.co.uk\)](#)

14 Stoke on Trent Live, 2024. [68 objections as neighbours fear children's home will lower property prices - Stoke-on-Trent Live \(stokesentinel.co.uk\)](#)

15 Basingstoke Gazette, 2024. [Building to become children's home despite objections | Basingstoke Gazette](#)

16 Centrepont, 2017. [From care to where - Centrepont report](#)

17 CYP Now, 2024. [CYP Now - Housing association under fire over 'no care leavers' advert](#)

Though the advert was quickly removed, and an apology issued, it highlights the very real issue of direct care-related discrimination and its impact on young people simply trying to find a home.

Indirect discrimination: structural and societal barriers to care leavers being treated equally

In addition to widely reported instances of direct discrimination, the failure to consider the needs and particular circumstances of care leavers can amount to discrimination which significantly disadvantages them, even if unwittingly.

The societal 'norm' for young adults as they reach 18 is one of ongoing reliance on their parents and carers. The average age for young people leaving their parents' family home in Britain is now 24. The '*bank of mum and dad*' is a trope in British culture because it reflects a documented reality for increasing proportions of young adults still relying on their parents for financial support, or accommodation at their childhood home long into adulthood as they start to navigate work opportunities, as they save up for (or are given) deposits for tenancies, or house purchases.

... the high demand for social housing across England means that action is needed to make the private rental sector more accessible to young adults whose parent is the state.

In 2012 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), in an attempt to avoid asking the taxpayer for financial assistance, withdrew entitlement to Housing Benefit for anyone aged under 25 on the basis that if they couldn't afford to rent, they should still live at home. Exceptions to this policy do include care leavers and young parents, but they are nonetheless viewed as anomalies to the norm for young adults in our society. Even when eligible for Housing Benefit, there are no guarantees that it will cover the full cost of a young carer's rent should the DWP disagree with the valuation price set by the landlord. In Wales, however, young care leavers have been the focus of a very radical pilot scheme, in which they are offered a generous basic income of £1,600 a month.¹⁸ It will be important to see how the impact of that scheme will affect care leavers' ability to afford and secure a home.

We acknowledge that the private rental market is a sector in which all young people (except perhaps those from the very wealthiest of families) face significant barriers to securing and keeping their homes. Landlords and lettings agents increasingly require extensive 'vetting' information and requirements which are hard for most young adults to provide, especially those seeking their first home; these include: good references from employers and previous landlords; a person willing to act as guarantor for the tenant; security deposits at several multiples of their monthly rent; bank statement histories to prove stability of income and outgoings; not to mention steep annual rent rises to match the 'market rate', regardless of affordability for existing tenants. If these are challenging barriers for most young people who are new to becoming tenants, they are insurmountable for most care leavers, especially if their council isn't willing or able to act like a parent and help them through it.

While councils have a corporate parenting duty to care leavers until the age of 25, those duties do not currently require them specifically to act as a guarantor for care leavers as tenants. Even where councils do put themselves forward as a willing guarantor, they can be rejected by landlords and lettings agents who insist on having a named individual rather than an organisation. For these and many more reasons, social housing will often be the more appropriate, preferred option for a care leaver, but the high demand for social housing across England means that action is needed to make the private rental sector more accessible to young adults whose parent is the state.

18 Welsh Government, 2022. [Basic income pilot for care leavers: overview of the scheme | GOV.WALES](#)

... there is evidence of an intergenerational cycle of discrimination for care-experienced young mothers.

NYAS sent Freedom of Information Requests¹⁹ to 151 local authorities in England and out of 113 responses, found that only 48 local authorities (42%) will offer to act as a guarantor for their care leavers and 87 local authorities (77%) will provide rent deposit schemes. Of those willing to act as a guarantor, over 60% have an eligibility criteria care leavers must meet before they can access this scheme and an additional 32% will only offer this on a case-by-case bases. Similarly, of the 77% which will provide a rent deposit, 80% of these have eligibility criteria and an additional 14% work on a case-by-case basis. In one response, a local authority told NYAS that acceptance onto these schemes *'is not automatic'*.

Not only is the offer of guarantors and rent deposit schemes not equally available for care leavers across the country, but it is also not equally accessible at local level because of the qualifying criteria set by some local authorities. While some of the criteria set out may be considered reasonable, the majority appear to mimic landlords' vetting requirement of a stable record of previous responsible renting. Some even create a two-tier system which care leavers may find impossible to meet – for example, only offering such support to care leavers who go to university. This makes it extremely difficult for a care leaver who falls short of their council's criteria for tenancy support (or whose parent council offers no such support at all) to find a home in the private rental sector and illustrates some of the barriers which care leavers must overcome just to have a safe and secure roof over their heads. What's more, it also poses a question as to why services expect so much more from care leavers than young people who grew up without comparable trauma, adversity and instability.

At public housing level, there is little focus on, or provision for, the needs of young adults in the development and planning of new housing. Public housing duties do not require councils to plan and develop housing for sections of the population or types of housing need, other than ensuring that proportions of the new build to be 'affordable', defined as 80% of the average market value. Nonetheless it can be common to see the development of housing sites and communities for older people and their particular needs for example, but there seems to be no comparable encouragement for developing new housing which is safe, affordable or accessible to young adults. Perhaps because the societal 'norm' is that they're expected to still be living with their parents?

Systemic and intergenerational disadvantage

Care experience mirrors, intersects with, and compounds other recognised forms of systematic, structural and intergenerational disadvantage and inequality, like racial inequalities and poverty. This is true both at the level of the risk of being brought into care in the first place, (which is far higher for BAME children, and more likely for children in low income families), and the risk of care-experienced people being disproportionately overrepresented in school exclusions and unemployment, or experiencing poverty, poor physical and mental health, homelessness, crime and imprisonment.

Just as children who grow up in poverty are more likely as adults who become parents to remain trapped in poorly paid work and economically depressed communities, there is evidence of an intergenerational cycle of discrimination for care-experienced young mothers. Within the general population, women beginning their journey to motherhood at what is perceived as a *'young parenting age'* are more likely to experience discrimination and stereotyping than those who are older. While UK

¹⁹ NYAS, What support are councils offering care leavers in need of private tenancies across England and Wales? 2024. [https://nyas.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Policy%20docs/Housing%20FOI%20Briefing%20-%20Oct%2024%20\(2\).pdf](https://nyas.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Policy%20docs/Housing%20FOI%20Briefing%20-%20Oct%2024%20(2).pdf)

The Care Review recommended an amendment to the EA to make care-experience a protected characteristic, increasing legal protection and providing mechanisms to challenge care-related discrimination in the provision of goods and services.

parenting policy is said to ‘view young parents through a narrow deficit lens’,²⁰ this does not take account of the additional challenges or discrimination facing young mothers who are also care-experienced.

Over a quarter of mothers who have had their child placed for adoption were themselves care leavers²¹. Other data suggests that 40% of mothers who have had more than one child removed from their care, spent time in care as a child. This disproportionality has often been associated with a generalised view held by health and social care professionals regarding ‘intergenerational cycles of parents and their children experiencing care’. It can be wrongly assumed that these mothers are inherently less capable as parents in comparison to their peers who did not experience care or childhood adversities. The stereotypical perceptions of care-experienced young women are said to only intensify if their child is taken into a care, contributing to further mental and emotional challenges.

Potential reforms

The many barriers and disadvantages which care leavers face in our society generally, and in housing specifically, are complex and deep-rooted. Potential remedies are equally complex and require a combination of actions to offer significant improvements.

At the time of writing, the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer MP, has made a hugely valued announcement that care leavers (as well as military veterans and domestic abuse survivors) will be given priority status for social housing. Care leavers who have moved and settled (or hope to do so) away from their parent council will be exempted from the requirement to prove their ‘local connection’ to be eligible for social housing priority in their new local authority area. This is a very positive reform and could have a significant impact on thousands of care leavers and signifies that the scandal of care leaver homelessness is now recognised at the highest levels of government, but more is needed. NYAS considers the following areas for potential reform and improvement are equally important.

Make care experience a ‘protected characteristic’ under the Equality Act 2010

The discrimination facing care-experienced individuals is like that felt by others with protected characteristics under the EA. The Care Review recommended an amendment to the EA to make care-experience a protected characteristic, increasing legal protection and providing mechanisms to challenge care-related discrimination in the provision of goods and services. This would mean that public bodies and organisations would have to consider the impact of their policies and decision-making on individuals with care-experience, as they do with other protected characteristics.

While this call was ultimately rejected by the previous government following concerns that ‘self-declaration of care experience could increase stigma’,²² campaigner Terry Galloway has found a way to achieve a similar outcome at a local level. Since 2022, Terry has campaigned across the UK for councils to pass a motion to treat care-experience as a protected characteristic within their local area. As of October 2024, 106 councils have passed this motion, equating to just over 30 million people in the UK (46% of the total population) now living somewhere where care-experience is regarded by their local

20 The International Journal of Childhood and Children’s Services, 2022, p1280-1295. [‘It’s the way they look at you’: Why discrimination towards young parents is a policy and practice issue - Owens - 2022 - Children & Society - Wiley Online Library](#)

21 Centre for Child and Family Justice Research, 2023, p9. [CFJ-Care_experienced_mothers_and_their_children_in_care_in_Wales_report_-FINAL_13_Feb_2024_.pdf \(lancs.ac.uk\)](#)

22 Department for Education, 2023, p196. [Children’s social care stable homes built on love consultation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

authority as a protected characteristic. This incredible work should result in positive outcomes for anyone with a history of care. Perhaps most importantly, it signifies that across the country, decision-makers are recognising and proactively working to end the discrimination facing individuals with care-experience.

Extending corporate parenting duties

When the decision was made not to amend the EA, an alternative proposal was to extend corporate parenting responsibilities. In their current form, corporate parenting duties only apply to local authorities' children's services rather than all public bodies which interact with care-experienced children and young people. If corporate parenting was to be extended and fulfilling these duties made statutory, it would encourage all public bodies to always prioritise and act in the best interests of care-experienced children and young people. In practice, this would mean the views, wishes and feelings of care-experienced children would be at the forefront of decision-making and any opportunities created to help them thrive into adulthood. Making this duty statutory would mean that public bodies could be held to account for any failures to implement the duty.

If corporate parenting was to be extended and fulfilling these duties made statutory, it would encourage all public bodies to always prioritise and act in the best interests of care-experienced children and young people.

Expand and standardise deposit & guarantors' schemes & eligibility

There are examples of great practice in some councils already, such as Kent County Council's Care Leavers Local Offer, translating their corporate parent duty into dedicated schemes to support their care leavers as young tenants.²³ These include not only proactive commitments to act as guarantors and pay rental deposits, but also to work and negotiate with local landlords on young people's behalf, reducing the stigma and fears of accepting care leavers as tenants, and giving meaningful support and learning opportunities to young people in developing the financial and behavioural habits they'll need to maintain their tenancies.

Such schemes have evolved without needing a legal duty but the extreme disparities between this kind of positive, proactive tenancy support and those councils which offer neither deposits nor guarantorship are stark. Whether by specifying the active prevention of homelessness as part of the corporate parent duty in law or by investing in spreading best practice, standards across all councils should be raised to the best standards successfully pioneered by some already. The promised Children's Wellbeing Bill will be an important opportunity to seek government commitments on this.

Renters Rights Bill – more specific protection from discrimination in housing

The Renters Rights Bill is currently in passage through parliament. Some of the reforms already promised, and indeed long-awaited, will benefit care leavers alongside other renters. The end of 'no fault' evictions would increase the security of tenure for young people too often abruptly uprooted, through no fault of their own, from their homes. The Bill presents an opportunity to raise awareness of, and prevent, both direct and indirect discrimination against care leavers in the private rental sector. Following campaigning led by Shelter, landlords are already being prohibited from discriminating against benefits recipients, even without that being an EA protected characteristic. This development has set a precedent for a further prohibition on discrimination against potential or actual tenants with care experience. The Bill may also be an opportunity to require landlords to accept a council as a tenant's guarantor, rather than insisting on a named person.

²³ Kent County Council, 2024. [Kent County Council to act as guarantor for care leavers - BBC News](#)

Help to Buy ISA

While no-one in our society has a simple right to buy a home, per se, it is the most common desired housing goal for most people as they grow into adulthood, especially as they start families. There are huge problems for a great many young people (not only young care leavers) in achieving this goal, but for those who do make it onto the housing ladder in their 20s or early 30s, family financial support and backing is usually essential. In recognition of these profound challenges for young adults, the government has created a '*Help to Buy ISA*' savings scheme, which can only be used to pay for a mortgage deposit, and which the government will top up by 25% of the saved amount.

Forward-thinking councils should consider the role of such a scheme for their care leavers' futures and include consideration of the option in care leavers' pathway plans. Where appropriate, and if the young person agrees they want to save towards it, councils could also consider making a lump sum deposit to start one off as a smart use of their budget to support their young people, and a strong, incentivising investment in a young person's ambitions for their future.

In conclusion

Ensuring that no child who needs care ever faces homelessness as an adult is complex. It requires addressing systematic failures and inconsistencies in both housing and social care, and more fundamentally, confronting the realities of the prejudice and discrimination care-experienced young people often face. NYAS's mission is to devote every effort to standing by children in and leaving care in the decisions which affect them, promoting their rights, views and opinions, and campaigning for change. The organisation is keen to hear from all those who want to share and contribute to achieving the change they deserve.