

# **The role of Personal Advisers**



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# Someone else's shoes....

- Imagine you are a parent.....



- Now imagine that you are the parent of 25 young people, all of whom are aged between 16 and 25.



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## Your 25 children.....

- 12 of your 25 children have poor emotional health and well-being, ranging from mild anxiety to serious self-harm. One of your children has attempted suicide;
- 10 of your children are unemployed, and 8 are long-term NEET;
- 2 of your children have disabilities that prevent them from working;
- 2 of your children are young parents - one is coping well, but the other isn't and there is a risk that her child will get taken into care;

- 3 of your children are former UASC – one has leave to remain and work in the UK, but the other two are still trying to resolve their immigration status and are worried that they will be sent back to their country of origin;



- 1 of your children is in prison 150 miles away, and one of the others has been in prison previously, which makes it hard for them to find work;



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- Only 3 of your children achieved 5 good GCSEs when they were 16, so the rest are either having to catch up, or are struggling to engage in EET/find work;
- 1 of them has a serious substance misuse problem, but you suspect many more of them take drugs recreationally or drink more than they should;
- 2 of them are in university, which is great. But one is studying 100 miles away and gets lonely, so needs support too;







- Nearly all of them - whether at university, in work or unemployed - are constantly broke and in debt.
- And that has led to some of them losing a tenancy;
- 2 of them are in accommodation that is definitely unsuitable. Around 14 of them are in some sort of supported accommodation, not all of which is good. The other nine live independently, but struggle to manage and rely on you for handouts when they run out of electric or don't have any food;
- Nine of them are in other education or training/work, but even then they are generally on low incomes;
- There have been many occasions where your children have been sanctioned by DWP, which means they revert back to you when they've got no money and you have to help them make a new claim;



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- You worry that all of them are at risk of the negative aspects of social media;



- In addition to all this, you worry that that the more vulnerable might be at risk of getting involved in gangs or being sexually exploited.



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**If you are a leaving care  
Personal Adviser, you don't  
have to imagine any of this,  
because this is your reality.**



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