



NEET and Housing

The views of 12 Children in Care
and 8 Care Leavers
September 2020

What practical support do you feel you need to help you continue in or to get in to education, training or work?

'The right clothing, buy a bike to get there. Money for lunch until i get paid. Help to continue seeing friends and family after work as i'm quite far away so get a lift'

'To make sure i have support with homework'

'I need structure, what is the purpose of me going to the job centre, just for money? No to get a job and make something of myself'

'Having friends who help when upset'

'I can leave the room when my anxiety is high and the staff are good are using other prompts to help me communicate with them, which I can't always do with words when I'm anxious'

'Equipment bought for me, hobbies paid for that relate to my course and further education'

'Get a taste of something better and increase our aspirations'

'My apprenticeship has given me belief in myself and increased my aspirations.'

'My carers help me as I don't like the school I go to'

To access further education 'continued support like I had through school but haven't really thought about university after college just yet'

'Encourage us to work earlier, get a part time job when we are 16'

'Being able to take time out of class if needed'

'Carers and incentives'

'Make sure young people have a CV'

'Let me know what is expected of me'

'Believe we have aspirations'

*'Conversations
about this at an
earlier age'*

*'You're 18 go to the
job centre and get
your benefits, there
is a different path'*

*'They should believe I
can do more than I
think I can'*

*'Riding a bike to and
from school some days'*

*'I have one to one support in school and I can focus
on my actual work instead of being distracted with
other things. I can take time out when I need it. I
get to make stress boxes and fidget boxes'*

'At work I have someone to talk to, she used to be a mental health nurse. I feel like I can raise issues in confidence and it's nice to know people who have been in the same boat and listen'

"Meeting new friends who came to my school during lockdown' (key worker hubs)

'I do sea cadets and we go on the reservoir and do rowing 3 times a week, this helps me to get rid of my energy'

'My student support officer helps, I'm not told what to do, they just listen' 'There is a counsellor in college and that helps, I wouldn't be able to get out of bed without those people'

'I think with my placement they didn't encourage me to get a job and I feel like it was because they didn't want me to be more independent and they wanted me to be reliant on them'

When thinking about leaving care what practical help do you feel you need so you can have a safe and settled home?

'Someone to help decorate and furnish. Someone I can call in an emergency. That the house is liveable as my brothers wasn't and was just painted over. Enough money to live and not worry. In an area I want to be so I can see friends and family when ever'

'Practical life skills and pay bills and shopping on a budget'

'Financial help. Help to know which bills to pay and when.'

'Help me to make my own decisions'

'Less delays, messing me about. That's how my mum treated me so I might as well have stayed with her'

'I don't need any thanks, i've got my mum'

'Help with structure and routine, time management so you can make sure you can keep your home clean as well as everything else you are doing'

'Managing it, financially, how to manage, practically how to manage like looking after it, cleaning it'

'life skills – didn't know how to alter the pressure in my boiler'

'Priority for housing for care leavers is different under different boroughs'

'Processes need following in a timely manner – staff training'

'Ask yourself - would you put your children in this housing for a month'

'Budgeting support and mental health support as the isolation can be difficult to cope with at first'

Key Themes

NEET

- One to one support for young people in school
- Options to be able to leave lessons or take a break from work if needed
- Hobbies related to studies paid for and made available
- Have conversations about education, employment and training at a younger age
- Encouragement to get into work at a younger age - instill work ethic
- Financial support for the first month before the young person gets paid to support them in getting to work and maintain support networks
- Make education or work the preferred path and believe in the young people even if they don't believe in themselves
- Have practical things in place such as a CV

Key Themes

Housing

- Support with practical skills such as budgeting, simple household fixes such as boiler pressure, changing plugs or simple plumbing fixes.
- Someone to call when there is an emergency
- Properties that are at an acceptable liveable standard and help with making it their own such as decorating and buying furniture and other 'homely' items
- Close to family, friends and support networks
- Mental Health support and practical ideas to cope with isolation
- Routine of how to take care of a home such as a cleaning schedule