

Consultation with SICC/SLCC about education issues (10 July 2015)

Approximately 10 young people were involved. We started by thinking about aspirations (what young people would like to have in their lives as young adults), then thought about barriers and finally about solutions to the problems. **The young people added more ideas at a subsequent meeting.**

Please note – some of the solutions might apply to other barriers (as well as the ones they have been placed against)

Aspirations	Barriers that can make it hard to do well at school	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live near family • Own a shop (sweet shop) • Nice house and car • Job • University • Money • Holidays (regular) • Good health • Save money for university • Graduate – go to college, good education • Live abroad – New York, Canada, Paris, Venice • Good home (wealthy husband, live with Linda V) • Career (noted twice) • Baby and career 	<p>1. PLACEMENT/SCHOOL CHANGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement changes • Lots of school changes/moves • Not having the right equipment/uniform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get me a school place where they support me • Fight to keep me in school • People buying the right equipment • Social worker tries and keeps you in one place • School has been good • Make sure I have the correct uniform for when I start. • Help schools to better understand the difficulties/stresses CLA experience, help them to understand why I am stressed. • Let schools know of any changes in placement before I get there, so I don't have to explain myself and they understand. • Try to stop changes happening, find solutions, ways around it. • Better planning, no unnecessary placement changes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army job • Pets • Friends • Holidays • Family 	<p>2. TRAVEL/DISTANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long travel times • Transport (late) • Transport late (let down) • Moved away from school and having to travel 1 1/2 hours there and back 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placements/ accommodation should be found as close as possible to young people's school/ college • Get voluntary drivers to sign a pledge/ promise about their responsibilities / expectations.

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	<p>3. CARE SETTINGS / CARERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children homes closing • Bad stuff made me realise (via foster carers) that I need to be a better person and have a better life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't close children's homes • Better explain things to young people- why stuff is happening/ why it has happened. • Better support to enable young people to understand why certain things happen. • Better planning – ie, not moving placement/schools, unless it's long term, permanence
	<p>4. INDEPENDENT LIVING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent living • Losing support at 21 (leaving care and Promise) I would change my behaviour – to do better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with what you choose to do in the future • Giving people space to do one thing at a time, ie exams, moving to independent living • Buddy system • Better Planning re post care accommodation, so can plan what college • Find ways to implement the leaving care charter.
	<p>5. HOME ENVIRONMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour of brother at home – want peace and quiet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better match with ages – residential care • Ensure I get 'me' time. • Help me to make friends where I live • Consider group dynamics when placing young people together • Give me the opportunity to have my friends around • Help for carers to help – find space, time and understand how to help me with my homework. • Help me join clubs, groups to attend where I live, positive activities, places to go that are helpful. • Help me to work through my problems at home/placement
	<p>6. LISTENING/ COMMUNICATION / STAFF CHANGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of communication with social workers/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication to be regular • Listen to young child • Listen to me

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	college <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different social workers • Staff not understanding/supportive • Falling out with support foster carers • Not being asked about changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to me/us • Listen • Do what you say you are going to do • Giving me the physical/emotional support when needed • Have a good connection so 'people' understand you • Adults to keep their promises • Understanding each person's individual needs • Understand that it is my choice not social workers/ leaving care worker • Research so you also understand different sides of life • Adults behave the same as they expect me to • Adults to fight for me • Making it less obvious that young person has been/is in care • Meet me on my terms not theirs • Same worker or gradually get to know new worker. • Stop constantly changing my worker, without good reason, let me know this reason (Lead worker, social worker, leaving care worker). • Introduce leaving care worker earlier, 16 still no leaving care worker. • Don't tell me/ give me false hope in case it doesn't happen, ie new placement. • Only give me a choice if it's a real choice. • Better lines of communication between schools/colleges carers & social worker/lead workers. • Ensure I am happy where I am. • Quality social workers/ lead workers

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	<p>7. FAMILY/FRIENDSHIP SEPARATION / PROBLEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want my brother and sister to live with me • Living in different area from friends • Losing contact with family • Falling out with friends/family • Family problems which causes loss of concentration, determination and motivation • Pets dying/loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try and keep close to school and family • Support around bereavement/ loss • Help me to stay in contact with those who are important to me – and more contact • Help me make friends • Help me to better understand why my family doesn't live together • Help me to overcome problems with friends • More help for my family so we do not become separated in the first place. • Give me more support when I experience a loss / separation / major changes, so I can better understand.
	<p>8. BULLYING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying • Being assaulted • Being different – 'singled out' • People being judgemental • Feeling different 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to make new friends to help with bullying. Good friendship = support • Buddy systems in school/ colleges • Meetings outside of school (to the young person's discretion) • Consider group dynamics when placing young people together • Don't highlight I'm CLA • Help me to understand how I can stand up to my bully, deal with bullying • Help bullies to understand their behaviour. • More education around what is bullying and cyber bullying • Give me a safe place where I can escape bullies
	<p>9. PEERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer pressure • Friendship group(s) • Difficulty with friends supporting them through bad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEPs outside of class/school time – so peers don't know care status unless I tell them. • Buddy system – peers or adults • Don't highlight I'm CLA

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	times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudes in school to change – explain to other children? Educate why children become looked after. • People to help you find ways to explain being care. • Hard to make/keep friends when you keep moving school or have missed a lot of school.
	<p>10. ACADEMIC ISSUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams • Being slower than others/peers/students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never have exams • 1:1 tuition • 1:1 revision sessions • School has been good • Be clearer in school so that I know what teachers are on about • Bespoke timetable • Mentor type support in schools. Help with all sorts of things – reading, social, help. Could be adults or peers • Virtual teachers to fight for us • Have work sent home, if I am away or excluded, falling behind • Train carers so they can better help with revision & homework. • Extra tuition in school or at home if needed. • Revision groups • Ensure I have all the support I need at the earliest point, school/ exams
	<p>11. SCHOOL EXCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kicked out/miss school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education the next day after exclusion – no non-school time • Have work sent home • Schools to have better understanding of the difficulties CLA and care leavers experience • Have a limited time frame for CLA out of education;

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		<p>make it a policy that CLA will be found alternative education within so many days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make schools realise that exclusion is the easy option for them but I need the continuity of a stable education/ environment.
	<p>12. PREGNANCY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexpected pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra support in school to support pregnancy • Easy access to contraception & advice, in schools etc
	<p>13. SUBSTANCE ABUSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs and alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate from a younger age, Yr 7 • Have specific/ specialised workers within the school & specific lessons. • More support, explain more about the help available • Stories from people who have been there
	<p>14. MOTIVATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to get you started/motivated • Alternative curriculum • Buddy system • Find activities that I am interested in and incorporate these into my timetable / school time to give me an incentive to attend school.