

Testing the use of social investment to improve support for care leavers

Partner	Type of organisation	Status
1625 Independent People	Voluntary and community sector provider of children's social care services	Confirmed
Bridges Fund Management	Social investor	Confirmed
Bristol City Council	Local authority (Lead)	Confirmed
South Gloucestershire Council	Local authority	Confirmed
Bath and North East Somerset Council	Local authority	Confirmed
North Somerset Council	Local authority	Confirmed

The problem to solve

Whilst education, training and employment outcomes for care leavers have improved over the past three years with approximately 6 in every 10 care leavers now in education, training or employment across the sub-region, this is still well below the rate for all 18-25 year olds. Current systems and approaches are failing to substantially transform outcomes for those care leavers who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)

Summary proposal

Linked to a guaranteed offer of education, training and employment, we will create an innovative model underpinned by an evidence based, psychologically informed approach to develop care leavers' interests, skills, aspiration and motivation in order to transform learning and employment outcomes and engage all sectors in supporting Corporate Parenting responsibilities across the region.

Focussing on over 200 of the West of England's care leavers who are at risk of or not in education, training and employment, our proposal has been developed with care leavers input to achieve the following 3 key objectives:

1. Improved outcomes for care leavers, by supporting those furthest from the labour market into sustainable EET that meets needs and aspirations.
2. Whole system change supported by workforce development funded through the Social Impact Bond. Working with partners we will develop a partnership across Business, Education, Voluntary and Public sectors. As such, this Social Care Innovations funding will create the conditions for transformational change across the sector.
3. Supporting the West of England Combined Authority's (WECA) role in employment, business development and training and providing an impetus to inclusivity for everyone, and the Bristol Mayor's vision of a city for all, with Local Authorities partnering in designing delivery across all sectors (and LA boundaries) in order to be effective in meeting our extended duties to Care Leavers. Our proposed model aims to pro-actively support care leavers to succeed in the community and will create a replicable model that may be scaled and built into future commissioned arrangements.

This Partnership pilot will seek to deliver services and will evaluate this proof of concept pilot through

independent evaluation.

1625ip will recruit a new team of EET workers highly skilled at building relationships with care leavers, employers and training providers, co-located in LA Leaving Care teams to ensure the project is effective and collaborative.

Fit with current service provision

This proposal has a strong strategic and operational fit with existing services.

Underpinning our partnership approach is the shared commitment to be the best corporate parents we can be, simply applying the test 'is this good enough for my child' to everything we do.

1625ip workers will be co-located in each local authority (LA) Leaving Care Service, offering carefully co-ordinated, additional and targeted support. The team will work with external support to develop and integrate the approach, across all participating LAs and existing work with 1625ip and partner agencies.

For us this is about building capacity and capability across the workforce - not just *understanding* the problem but about having the *tools and tenacity* to tackle it.

The new project and existing services will work together to support good parenting, avoid duplication and share information and learning in a number of ways.