

National Care Advisory Service offer to provide advice and assistance to local authorities in relation to older young people in and leaving care

Background

NCAS are funded by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) to provide advice to local authorities on how to improve and develop their leaving care services. Our work helps to support the Government's goal to improve outcomes and services for care leavers, which has been highlighted through the Care Matters agenda and Public Service Agreement 16. In doing this we are working closely with the DCSF and the Social Exclusion Taskforce.

What is the aim of the 'offer'?

- To help local authorities identify models, tools, resources, practice examples that will assist service improvement and development.
- To provide information about NCAS products that will provide further assistance and development.

Who is it for?

Any local authority in England who identify themselves as in need of assistance and development.

What do we do?

We provide structured support by using the [national standards](#) in leaving care, the [self assessment process](#) and [practice database](#). We can also utilise good practice from a range of projects including the information and resources gathered by our accommodation project.

There are three stages to this free support:

1. Pre-visit work via telephone or email to local authorities to advise them how to conduct a self-assessment of their leaving care service. This process will help to identify areas where support is needed.
2. A meeting to go through how the local authority can develop an action plan to address the issues raised by the self-assessment.
3. A follow up contact to collate the information, practice examples, tools and resources identified as assisting the authority with service development, which may be provided in the form of a short report.

Who will deliver the support?

The NCAS team currently has 10 members. We have area leads for each of the 9 Government Office regions. Most work will be carried out by area leads who will generally support authorities in their region, although other members of the team may be allocated to a local authority depending on the basis of their expertise, capacity and availability.

Additional work

NCAS may be able to offer more in-depth support on a consultancy basis. In the past our consultancy work has included delivering corporate parenting training to staff; working with young people to deliver preparation for adult life training; helping authorities to develop their Pledges; setting up young people's participation fora and conducting audit reviews of leaving care services.

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information and resources please go to our website www.leavingcare.org or contact:

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ABOUT US

The National Care Advisory Service (NCAS) is the national advice, support and development service for children in and from care (age 13-25) and those who work with them. We work at local, regional, national and European levels to develop solutions based on good corporate parenting that include and empower young people, professionals and policy-makers to continually improve service quality and outcomes. Our aims are:

- To promote improvement in outcomes for older children in care and care leavers by supporting work at a national, regional and local levels.
- To support the specific implementation of the Care Matters agenda across the country.
- To support local authorities to empower young people to be fully involved in the design, development and delivery of successful services.



NCAS is supported by Catch22. Registered charity number 1124127. Catch22, the charity that helps young people out. Before we were Catch22 we were Rainer and Crime Concern, two national charities which merged in 2008.

