

**What Makes The Difference?
GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE**

This example of good practice relates to criteria of the National Leaving Care Standards contributing to ECM outcomes:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

Name(s) and region of agency/organisation in which this piece of work was developed:

Aimhigher and Rainer Surrey 16plus Service

Target group(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled young people | <input type="checkbox"/> Young people 19+ years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people with mental health needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Girls only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Boys only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people from black and minority ethnic groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Young people as trainers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people not in education, training and employment (NEET) | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Older looked after children 15+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Young people leaving care |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foster carers | <input type="checkbox"/> Researchers/evaluators |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Girls and boys | <input type="checkbox"/> Trainers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people involved as researchers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service managers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive and lead members/councillors | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lead professionals (social workers/personal advisors) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other support/care workers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth workers | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information workers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people in custody | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young parents | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Young people 16+ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young people involved in services(SUI) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) | |

Purpose and intended outcomes of this work

Aimhigher Surrey has been working in partnership with Surrey Children's Services [SCS] and Rainer Surrey 16+ Service [support agency for LAC young people aged 16-25] over the past two years developing projects to support both LAC students and staff.

Description of what was carried out in this piece of work (the intervention/s)

1. 'How to Go Higher' booklet:

In April 2006, in partnership with Rainer Surrey and Surrey County Council [SCC], Aimhigher produced an information booklet for Surrey Care Leavers. The 1st part of the booklet provides a generic guide to Higher Education and the 2nd part a comprehensive overview of the SCC funding support available to most Surrey Care Leavers going into Higher Education. The booklet was 'launched' by David Davis [Leader of the Council] in May 2006 with a very well publicized event, bringing LAC young people and council committee members together in workshops, at County Hall, Kingston. It has been distributed to all Surrey Care Leavers over the past 2 years and has proved to be highly popular with staff as well as young people. Other Aimhigher regions have also picked up on it as the booklet can easily be adapted to reflect their local funding policy.

2. 'How to Go Higher' training:

In 2006, as part of the launch initiative, Aimhigher ran a 'How to Go Higher' training day for Rainer Surrey's staff. The training covered routes into higher education, funding in Higher Education, the application process and SCC funding support for LAC students. Over 50 Rainer staff attended the training & all indicated that the training was invaluable and would inform their future work with Care Leavers.

In 06/07, further funding secured through Aimhigher South East [AhSE] to allow the extension of this training to SCS staff, residential workers, foster carers, teachers and school governors working with Looked After Children (LAC) students. A series of 4 training days were offered across the county and we had 45 workers attend across the 4 days. Attendance was much lower than anticipated which was disappointing, especially as the training was very well received by all attendees. ' and Again, the teacher who did attend felt the training should be 'compulsory' for all school staff and governors working with LAC young people.

3. 'How to Go Higher' Yr 12 LAC Easter School [3rd-4th April]

In 06/07, Aimhigher secured funding through the Learning & Skills Network [LSN] to run a 2 day non-residential event for Surrey Care Leavers on 'vocational routes & opportunities'. The event was held at Woking YPod Centre [part of the YMCA] and they aimed to recruit at least 9 [10%] Surrey LAC students aged 16 – 17 involved in education or training. The event had a Sport and Technology theme and, over the course of the 2 days, they compared vocational training opportunities v university within these two career areas. As a follow-up to the event, students were also offered e-mentoring support through an Aimhigher Surrey programme and encouraged to attend the Aimhigher Rainer Summer School in July [a residential 2 day/1 night event].

The programme included workshops on:

How to succeed vocationally in Sport and Technology, A university admissions tutor's view on vocational routes into university [*very well rec'd*], An overview of vocational opportunities, Interactive Learning & Memory Skills session, Q&A session with EA Games and:

A trip to the EA Games UK office to learn more about work-based learning v graduate entry and the range of careers on

offer in a multi national company [*highlight of the 2 days for most students as they got to play against the actual FIFA World Champion 2006 - for the uninitiated, EA are the leading producer of computer games for Playstation and Xbox 360!*]

4. 'How to Go Higher' Aimhigher Rainer Summer School for Leaving Care students

AHSE funding to run a Summer School for up to 14 LAC students and the University College for the Creative Arts [UCCA] Farnham agreed to host the event and so a **2 day/1 night residential Summer School** with a Film School theme was offered for 16-20 yr old LAC/Care leavers.

The lecturer for the two days was an experienced documentary filmmaker and gave the students a film brief of 'my hopes and fears' to work on in groups of 4. They were also supported by 3 student ambassadors over the two days – all students of UCCA Farnham involved in film and art studies. 2 Rainer Surrey staff also stayed over for the two days. Both of them entered 100% into the filming and commented that they found the 2 days a 'really worthwhile experience'.

Report compiled by Glyn Hibberd: Aimhigher

<p>Service structures and processes that were set up (e.g. posts, partnership groups etc)</p>	<p>Glyn Hibberd: Aimhigher Co-ordinator</p>
<p>Type of agency/organisation in which this work was developed</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - unitary <input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - metropolitan <input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - borough council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - county (shire) council <input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - city council <input type="checkbox"/> Local authority department - London borough <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-agency (please specify agencies involved) <input type="checkbox"/> Health agency (e.g. PCT, NHS Trust) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education agency <input type="checkbox"/> Youth justice agency <input type="checkbox"/> Youth service <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) </p>
<p>Region where work was developed</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> National (please specify UK nation i.e. England, Scotland, Wales, N. Ireland) <input type="checkbox"/> NW England <input type="checkbox"/> NE England </p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> SW England <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE England <input type="checkbox"/> London <input type="checkbox"/> East Midlands <input type="checkbox"/> West Midlands
Name(s) of tools/resources developed as part of this work	'How to Go Higher' booklet 'How to Go Higher' training

In what sense is this 'good practice'? The evidence	
Underlying evidence used to develop the interventions in this piece of work	<input type="checkbox"/> None - new exploratory/developmental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not known <input type="checkbox"/> Practitioner knowledge/experience only <input type="checkbox"/> Published research evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Local research / evaluation
Source of evidence available to show the <i>impact</i> of the interventions used in this work	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal / self-evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anecdotal / impressions <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Not known <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive impact (if any)
What this evidence/information suggests	<p>'How to Go Higher' training: The residential staff and foster carers who attended stated 'This training should be compulsory for ALL staff and carers working with LAC students'</p> <p>'How to Go Higher' Aimhigher Rainer Summer School for Leaving Care students: 95% of attendees indicated that it was highly motivating and had challenged many of their preconceptions about Higher Education. Feedback from the students included: 'gave me confidence'.. 'good to know about funding' and 'a great experience, I didn't know I could do all that'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 of them indicated that they were 'definitely planning to apply to university now' and the Summer School had helped them reach that decision • 5 of them indicated that they were 'probably planning to apply to university now' and the Summer School had helped them reach that decision • 1 of them indicated that they still weren't sure, but the summer school had

	<p style="text-align: center;">‘definitely given them more confidence to help them make that decision’</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Negative impact (if any)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other impact</p> <p>‘We only had 1 designated teacher attend and no school governors – it may be that offering training in ‘twilight sessions’ or ‘school inset days’ would be a better way of reaching them.’</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not known</p>
<p>Type of evidence about the ‘process’ of delivering the interventions used in this work</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Positive impact (if any)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Negative impact (if any)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other impact</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not known</p>
<p>Feedback/evaluation report available on this site?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, click here to view</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Contact details for further information about this piece of work and the evidence of its impact</p>	<p>Name and title: Phil Doyle, Service Manager, Rainer Surrey 16plus Service</p> <p>Tel: 01483 517070</p> <p>E: mail: phil.doyle@surreycc.gov.uk</p>