

What Makes The Difference? TOOLS and RESOURCES

Name of tool/resource: Notes to Fairness and Diversity Standards

Name and region of agency/organisation that developed this tool/resource:

National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum

Purpose and brief description of tool/resource:

These notes provide guidance on some of the particular needs of young people with particular additional needs of young people such as young parents, young black people, young disabled people , young people with mild/moderate learning disabilities, young asylum seekers, young people with mental health needs and Gay and Lesbian young people.

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Evidence for the effectiveness/ impact of this tool/resource

Positive impact of this tool/resource:

1. Not Known

2. Not Known

3. Not Known

Notes to Fairness and Diversity Standards

Most young people have additional needs which relate to their sex, race, culture, religion, parental status, disability, sexual orientation or health.

These notes provide guidance on some of the particular needs of young people with particular additional needs.

1. Young Parents

- Foster care or accommodation with support should be available to young parents. They should not prematurely have to live independently.
- There should be a split and clarity between the roles of support for the young parent and child protection issues.
- Young parents should have access to childcare if they wish to take up education, training or employment.

2. Young Black People

- Young black people should have access to adults from a similar racial or cultural background.
- Young black people should have access to appropriate health, skin and hair care.
- Young black people should have access to information and education on their own culture and history

3. Young Disabled People

- Service should insure that young disabled people have access to appropriate leaving care services.
- Constructive relationships and agreements should exist between leaving care services, children's disabilities services and adult services to ensure that young disabled people do not 'fall through the net'.

4. Young People with Mild/Moderate Learning Disabilities

- Leaving care policies should recognise the vulnerability of some young people and the difficulties they have in making a transition to independent living.
- Specific services should be available to provide the additional support needs some young people have.
- It should be possible for young people with mild to moderate learning difficulties to remain in residential or foster care beyond their 18th birthday.
- Wherever possible services for young disabled people should be integrated not separate

5. **Young Asylum Seekers**

- Young asylum seekers should have a clearly defined status under the Children (Leaving Care) Act.
- Young asylum seekers should have access to expert legal advice.
- Where necessary young asylum seekers should have access to an interpreter who has been police checked.
- Young asylum seekers should have access to adults from their own racial and cultural background.
- The needs assessment and pathway plan should deal with the issues relating to a young asylum seeker's additional needs and present and future legal status.

6. **Young People with Mental Health Needs**

- Young people's needs assessment and pathway plan should deal specifically
- With their mental health needs.
- Young people experiencing mental health problems should have access to an early assessment and appropriate treatment.
- Staff should be trained in how to recognise signs of young people's possible mental health problems.

7. **Gay and Lesbian Young People**

- Gay and lesbian young people should be able to expect to be treated with an attitude which enables them to talk openly with adults about their sexuality.
- Subject to child protection policies Gay and lesbian young people should be able to expect confidentiality in their disclosures to adults
- Gay and lesbian young people should have access to advice and support from gay and lesbian adults and other gay and lesbian young people.