



# SUPPORTING LONDON'S CARE LEAVERS

FIRST ISSUE: JULY 2023

Dear Colleague

Welcome to the first edition of a revised Newsletter to share regional developments in the support of London's Care Leavers. We hope this space helps to develop a 'community parenting' approach, bringing together the wide range of partners who support care experienced young people in London. We will look to share news, great practice, and to spark new initiatives to support our care experienced community.



The Newsletter is produced bimonthly by the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA), working closely with the London Children in Care Council and the regional Care Leavers Trust Board. We welcome your comments, feedback and news items.

To find out more about regional work to support Care Leavers in London, please visit the LIIA Care Leavers website page [here](#).

Care Leavers Trust Board

## THIS MONTH

- Care Leaving to Become the Fifth ALDCS Priority Area
- Re-Introducing the Care Leavers Trust Board
- Lead members workshop - 10th May 2023
- Taking care report
- Pan-London Care Leavers Compact-Progress Update
- GLA Apprenticeships

# CARE LEAVING BECOMES THE FIFTH ALDCS PRIORITY AREA



**The Association of London Directors of Children's Services decided on 15th May to make Care Leaving their fifth strategic priority.**

Support of London's Care Leavers therefore joins Workforce, Resources and Commissioning, Adolescent Safeguarding and SEND as a key priority for regional collaboration and development.

**Several converging factors mean we are presented with a moment of opportunity to improve Care Leaver support and outcomes. There is untapped potential in the partnerships being developed through the Pan London Care Leavers Compact.** The government's 'Stable Homes Built on Love' consultation makes recommendations and provides a number of opportunities. Several London Boroughs have decided to recognise care experience a 'protected characteristic', with others interested to learn. There is increased enthusiasm from the business sector, that with improved co-ordination can connect effectively with care experienced young people. A revised Ofsted inspection approach supports wider ambition by placing a new, separate judgement on the experiences and progress of Care Leavers.

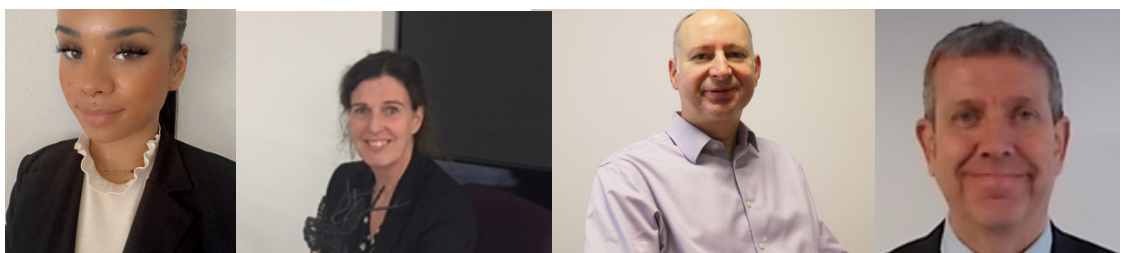
**ALDCS are therefore looking to develop a wider regional Care Leaving work programme and will consult and work with the wide range of partners involved in supporting London's Care Leavers.**

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## RE-INTRODUCING THE CARE LEAVERS TRUST BOARD

**The Care Leavers Trust Board was developed to oversee the progress of the Pan London Care Leavers Compact.** Over time, and because of its range of partners, it has become a key forum for developing wider range of regional practice to support Care Leavers. It will therefore be the partnership that informs and supports the development of Care Leaving as an ALDCS priority. The Trust Board partnership includes; **Children's Services, the London Children in Care Council, Partnership for Young London, the Greater London Authority, ICSs (Health), Catch-22, Mark Riddell (the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers) and John Lewis.**

The Trust Board has new strategic leadership. This is shared between **Jacqui McShannon (Director of Children's Services, LBHF), Stephen Kitchman (DCS Bexley), James Thomas (DCS Tower Hamlets) and Louisa Foyle (Development Officer, Children in Care Council).**



**Louisa Foyle**

**Jacqui McShannon**

**James Thomas**

**Stephen Kitchman**

# DINNER FOR COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE - CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION



Last week the Pan London Children in Care Council were invited to this event by Ruby Sayed, the Chair of the Communities and Children's Services Committee, the event focused on how we need to respond to the needs and ambitions of London's care leavers.

Louisa Foyle, and Zhane Decembre spoke at the event and encouraged all guests to commit to be **'community parents'** supporting young people to achieve their ambitions. The event was also attended by Mark Riddell, the National Advisor for Care Leavers and this is part of the ongoing work of the Pan London Compact with ALDCS and LLIA to create a pan London offer for care leavers.

***'Some are left voiceless, without parents, and without assistance. It is time for us to implement change not only at a logical level but also on an emotional plane. This will enable us to provide the vision and creativity that these young individuals need to shine, whether they aspire to become the next prime minister, a creative genius, or a future healer in the medical field. We must break free from limiting people based on our own beliefs and instead offer them a service founded on love.'***

*Louisa Foyle, Pan London Children in Care Council*



# RECOGNISING CARE EXPERIENCE AS A PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC



Many congratulations to the four London Local Authorities – **Lambeth, Waltham Forest, LBHF and Sutton** who have decided to recognise care experience as being a protected characteristic!



As a relatively recent policy direction, other boroughs are keen to explore what this would mean for their **Care Leavers**. Lambeth have offered to lead a workshop to share their experience and provide a forum for discussion – we will ensure all Local Authorities are invited.

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## LEAD MEMBERS WORKSHOP – 10TH MAY 2023



The London Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers Trust Board hosted an online workshop for Lead Members for Children Services.

This was an opportunity to present the work of the **Pan London Care Leavers Compact** and the role of the Care Leavers Covenant. It was also an opportunity for members to share journeys of their local authorities, for example around ‘whole council approaches’ to supporting their care experienced young people and the ‘protected characteristic’ discussion.

Members expressed their enthusiasm and support for the regional work, as well as a strong wish to be kept informed of emerging practice.

You can find out more about the **Care Leavers Covenant** [here](#), who are the (DfE funded) national inclusion body for Care Leavers. They provide two main roles; hosting a wide range of national and local offers for Care Leavers and providing support/guidance to organisations (including Local Authorities) who wish to support Care Leavers.

# PAN LONDON CARE LEAVERS COMPACT PROGRESS UPDATE



The Pan London Care Leavers Compact intends to build greater consistency and quality in the support offers available to London's Care Leavers. To find out more about this project please see the attached briefing and video prepared by the London Children in Care Council. These briefings can be shared with partners.

Click here to read the [Pan-London Care Leavers Compact](#) and to view the [PYL video](#)

**There are several areas of progress in Compact agreements:**

- **Free Prescriptions** – These are now available in two of the five ICS areas and nearing point of delivery in two more.
- **50% reduction in Bus and Tram travel** – This is complex to administer, requiring an identity check of up to 16,000 Care Leavers. We are currently beginning testing of an administration system between TFL, LIIA and the Boroughs.
- **North West London and North Central London ICS areas are piloting the NHS Universal Family Programme** in conjunction with the Care Leaver Covenant. This will support 25 Care Leavers into education, training and employment within their NHS areas. This will be rolled out to all ICS areas next year.
- We have engaged with Housing Needs Managers and Lead Members for Children around a set of **five housing proposals for Local Authorities**. We will undertake further engagement with Housing Directors and Chief Executives with a view to progressing these in every borough over the summer.

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## GLA APPRENTICESHIPS



Please see the attached link for details of 20+ GLA business apprenticeships, which may be suitable for some care leavers.

**Click here to find more about [Business Administration Apprenticeships](#)**

# TAKING CARE REPORT



On behalf of the South London  
Refugee Association

Our **Taking Care report** found that delays in providing help on immigration and nationality issues for children in care is costing local authorities hundreds of thousands of pounds per year and preventing children from being able to lead full lives.

On this basis we have been calling on local authorities to sign a pledge, which commits them to:

- **Identify all looked-after children and care leavers with immigration and nationality issues;**
- **Connect looked-after children and care leavers with good quality legal support as soon as possible;**
- **Take a proactive and informed role in supporting looked after children and care leavers through any immigration applications and appeals;**
- **Enable those who are eligible to apply for permanent status and British citizenship.**

We are delighted to announce that today we have published a learning package for local authorities, designed to support them in implementing the pledge commitments.

**This package is now available on the SLRA [website](#).**

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## FIND OUT MORE

To learn more about regional work to support Care Leavers in London, please visit the LIIA Care Leavers website page [here](#).

We welcome your comments, feedback and news items - please send to [Nafisa.Abdiresak@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Nafisa.Abdiresak@londoncouncils.gov.uk)



## GET IN TOUCH

Please visit our website: [liia.london](https://liia.london) for more detailed information on each of the ALDCS priorities, or contact the team directly to discuss anything in greater detail.

Please let us know your feedback on this newsletter [via email](#) so we can keep improving future editions.

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## THANKS FOR READING!

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