



SUPPORTING LONDON'S CARE LEAVERS

NOVEMBER 2023 ISSUE

Welcome to the Supporting London's Care Leavers newsletter.

We use this space to help develop a 'community parenting' approach, bringing together the wide range of partners who support care experienced young people in London. We share news, great practice, and look 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.

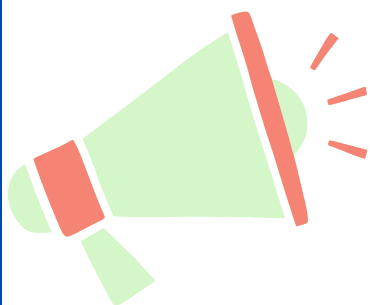
To find out more about regional work to support Care Leavers in London, please visit the **LIIA Care Leavers website page [here](#)**.



THIS MONTH

- National Care Leavers Week
- Ensuring Care Leavers can vote
- Pan London Care Leavers Compact
- Meeting the deputy mayor!
- Wider Ambitions

NATIONAL CARE LEAVERS WEEK



Local Authorities, the GLA and organisations that support Care Leavers put on events between 25th October to 1st November to raise awareness and celebrate our care experienced communities.

Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children's Services LBHF and ALDCS strategic lead on care leaving commented:

'On behalf of the London Care Leavers Trust Board, we would like to take the opportunity in National Care Leavers week to recognise and celebrate the diverse talents and achievements of the capital's care experienced young people. We have come together as a dynamic partnership of young people, boroughs, health, business, the voluntary sector and the GLA to build consistent and wide reaching support offers for London's care experienced community. We've made some great progress, but as the national Care Review notes, 'The disadvantage faced by our care experienced community should be the civil rights issue of our time' - there is so much more we can do together. We are determined to make a difference.'

There was too much activity to capture everything here, but we'd flag the national Care Leavers Wanted campaign by the Care Leavers Covenant to connect Care Leavers with 1000's of businesses. The campaign was visible across many London boroughs and events, including this partnership with the London Borough of Lambeth to light up the London Eye in the Covenant colours and celebrate with young people.



We'll take this opportunity to share the **Covenant's Inclusive Employment** toolkit, which can help businesses and other organisations who are wanting to support care-experienced people.

ENSURING CARE LEAVERS CAN VOTE



JOIN US TO MAKE SURE THAT EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE CAN EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE

BECAUSE YOUR VOTE MATTERS

With support from the Greater London Authority, we want to understand the barriers to voting faced by care leavers, and support them to get their voice heard. We are running workshops across London to support young people to:

- Understand their democratic rights
- Understand why voting is important
- Register to vote
- Make sure they have an accepted form of photo ID
- Apply for a postal or proxy So young care experienced peoples voices are heard and counted.

ELECTION DAY

You can do the following things:

- Register to Vote
- Update Voter Record
- Check Voter Status
- Request a Vote-by-Mail
- Find Election information
- Get Your Questions Answered

For more information contact:
louisa.foyle@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Supported by the Greater London Authority, City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE, printed and promoted by Partnership for Young London, Guildhall EC2V 7HH

Following changes to voting legislation, it is especially important that we ensure Care Leavers are able to have their vote counted and voice heard. Partnership for Young London (PYL), with support from the GLA, are running workshops across London for young people and to raise awareness amongst the organisations that support them.

Please sign your borough up to make sure young people can exercise their right to vote. We are very keen to visit at least 10-15 Boroughs across London to engage young people to sign up to vote. There will be a £300 pound contribution to any borough who engages in voter ID focus groups. Please contact louisa.foyle@cityoflondon.gov.uk for more details.

PAN LONDON CARE LEAVERS COMPACT UPDATE

The Pan London Care Leavers Compact will build greater consistency and quality in the support offers available to London's Care Leavers. Click here to read about the [Pan-London Care Leavers Compact](#) and to view the [PYL video](#)

The Pan London Care Leavers Compact is an umbrella for a series of partner agreements to bring consistency, breadth and quality to the support offered to London's Care Leavers. We are looking to launch the first version of the Compact in February '24, although several of these offers are already available to Care Leavers. Recent updates on this work include:

TFL Travel Discount - The Mayor of London announced on **9th October** the TFL travel discount for Care Leavers. We anticipate this will be live early next year. [Please click here to find out more.](#)

Health – ICS health partners are working to develop offers on eye care and dentistry to go with their work to exempt Care leavers from prescription charges.

Housing – Local Authorities are developing housing offers as well as closer relationships with the Care Leaver Covenant.



MEETING THE DEPUTY MAYOR!

The London Children in Care Council, care-experienced young people, and DCS leads met with Joanne McCartney, Deputy Mayor and members of the GLA Children and Young Londoners team on September 21st.

A range of areas were discussed, including a request to extend the TfL concession and review GLA activities against Care Leaver needs. All present were keen to work together on developing a more ambitious support programme.



The London Children in Care Council and Directors of Children's Services meet Joanne McCartney, Deputy Mayor for Children and Young People, Sept '23

WIDER AMBITIONS



The Department for Education have provided further funding support to develop regional plans to meet **Care Leavers Health, Housing, Education, Training and Employment, and Relationship** needs. We also want to ensure that across these areas we are meeting the specific needs of former Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, who represent approximately 35% of London's care leaving population. We are currently consulting with experts and those already active in these areas and welcome contributions and offers to get involved!

FIND OUT MORE

We welcome your comments, feedback and news items - please send to Nadiyah.rahman@londoncouncils.gov.uk

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

GET IN TOUCH

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

THANKS FOR READING!

FOLLOW LIIA

 **Linkedin**

 **Twitter**