



SUPPORTING LONDON'S CARE LEAVERS

MARCH 2024 ISSUE

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

- Pan London Care Leavers Compact Launch
- Skills Bootcamps for London – Information for Training Providers, Employers and Young People
- Report on meeting the mental health needs of care leavers
- Tina McElligott's story as a care-experienced leader in Barnet's Childrens Services
- Lived and Learned Experience
- Information Commissioner Office's survey of experiences accessing care records
- Pure Gym offer via the Care Leavers Covenant of 50% off membership

PAN LONDON CARE LEAVERS COMPACT LAUNCH 5TH MARCH



Young people, national and regional government, and partners including the NHS, Transport for London, the Care Leavers Covenant, and Catch 22, came together at the Guildhall to celebrate the launch of the **Pan London Care Leavers Compact**. You can read more about the Compact [here](#).

The event was hosted by **Louisa Foyle** and **Victoria Odude** from Partnership for Young London and heard from **Minister Jonny Mercer** on prioritising cross-government support for Care Leavers, and from **Debbie Jones**, Director of Children's Services in Croydon on the achievements of the Compact as well as the need to do more. **Mark Ridell**, the National Care Leaver's Advisor, facilitated a young people's panel which made a powerful case for more, and better co-ordinated support, flagging gaps which could be filled – in some cases quite easily – by an informed, collaborative, partner effort.



Minister Johnny Mercer, cross-government lead for care leavers, addressing the launch

Caroline Clarke, Regional NHS Director, **Ade Adetosoye**, Chief Executive of Bromley, and **Cllr Grace Williams**, Leader of Waltham Forest, each answered young people's questions and expressed their commitment to lead improvements in care leavers experiences of health, employment and housing. Participants discussed and made pledges around their individual and organisational roles in supporting care leavers.



A young people's panel outlining what is needed to support care experienced people in London

SKILLS BOOTCAMP FOR LONDONERS



The Mayor of London has secured **£21.6 million** grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver Skills Bootcamps in London in 2024-2025.

The application window is now open to training providers and employers looking to upskill their current workforce and closes at **5pm on Thursday 18 April 2024**.

What are Skills Bootcamps?

Skills Bootcamps aim to help Londoners aged 19+ to enter employment, upskill or change career and are open to adults who are full-time or part-time employed, self-employed or unemployed, as well as adults returning to work after a break.

Bootcamp training courses provide access to in-demand sector specific skills training and provide a guaranteed job interview on completion. In addition to technical training, learners will also receive guidance on entering professional working environments to fully prepare them for new roles.

The Skills Bootcamps for Londoners programme supports Londoners to gain in demand skills and move into jobs in 11 priority skills sectors:

- Digital skills
- Construction
- Creative
- Health and Social Care
- Logistics (HGV)
- Technical (Engineering and Manufacturing)
- Professional Services
- Hospitality
- Early Years

The following weblink gives information to Training Providers and Employers on applying for grant funding and also has a link for young people around accessing existing skills bootcamps.

[Find out more by clicking on this link](#)

BEYOND THE COMPACT

There is collective determination that the launch of the Compact is the start of the journey to better support care-experienced people in London. The partnership that worked on the Compact is developing four regional workstreams to improve care leavers experience of **Housing, Education Training and Employment, Health and Relationships.**



Each of these will also consider the specific needs of former unaccompanied asylum seeking children, who make up around 35% of London's care leaver cohort. To find out more or get involved in this work please email: matthew.raleigh@londoncouncils.gov.uk

NEW GUIDANCE ON MEETING THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF CARE LEAVERS



The Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation team at Transformation Partners in Health and Care (TPHC) has launched new guidance for supporting care experienced young people with their emotional and mental wellbeing.

TPHC has worked with young people, as well as partners in NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), local authorities, the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) and specialist therapeutic services supporting care experienced young people in the development of this guidance. This guidance is for ICBs, local authorities and NHS provider trusts, as well as the voluntary sector.

[Click here to read the full guidance document.](#)

BARNET'S COMMUNITY FOCUSED SOCIAL WORK APPROACH

London Social Work for Children spoke to Tina McElligott, one of the driving forces behind Barnet Council's community-focused social work approach. A care leaver herself, Tina's journey through social work and passion for the profession is an inspiration. Please [click here to read more](#) about Tina and Barnet's work.



LIVED AND LEARNED EXPERIENCE

We wanted to share a link to Ashleigh Searle's blog on using lived and learned experience of children's social care to develop best practice in the sector. At LIIA we are huge fans of Ashleigh's blog, which is insightful and powerful, as well as containing important practical advice for anyone working with, or designing services for, children. [Explore Ashleigh Searle's blog by clicking this link.](#)

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is calling on people with experience of the care system in the UK to share the challenges they have faced when accessing their care records from organisations.

With a survey launched on 28th February, the UK data protection regulator is committing to improving the support it provides to both people who grew up in the care system in the UK and the organisations that hold their information.

To find out more about the ICO work, please [visit here](#).



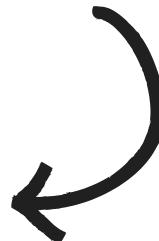
This survey is for people who want to, are trying to, or have accessed their records from their time in care. It is also for people wanting to access someone else's records.

We are aiming to collect views on your experience with the process, challenges you've faced, and how it has affected you. Your views will help us gain a deeper and more complete perspective on how care experienced people access their information rights. As a result of this engagement, we will produce a report which identifies what we have learned and recommends future steps.

The survey will close on **Wednesday 10 April 2024**. If you have any questions or difficulties, please contact careexperienced@ico.org.uk

The survey should take between **10 and 20 minutes** to complete.

To complete the survey, [please click here](#).



PURE GYM

Pure Gym have joined forces with the Care Leavers Covenant to offer **50% off** gym memberships for young people with care experience.

[Read more about it here.](#)



GET IN TOUCH

Please visit our website: lilia.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.

THANKS FOR READING!

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