



SUPPORTING LONDON'S CARE LEAVERS

NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE

It is National Care Leavers Month, and this edition of the newsletter is built around hearing voices, with particular emphasis on care experienced voices, on a range of key issues. It is our opportunity to hear a little of what is going well, but also what more needs to happen across our London care leaving partnership and nationally.



We are also delighted to share video messages from some of the professionals working to improve London's care leaving offer. Kath Evans, Matthew Blood, and Sophie Konradsen provide incredible leadership around strengthening the health, ETE and housing offer (all on top of extremely demanding day jobs!). And colleagues at the Care Leaver Covenant and C-22's National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum help us enhance the offer and keep it connected with national developments. We also dive into one LA's journey as an example of London practice.

In wider news we welcome MOPAC's revised Reducing Criminalisation Protocol, with enhanced commitments for care leavers. And we highly recommend reading the Rees Centre Report on 'Success - Whose definition counts?'. We round off by sharing two personal, beautiful stories - Louisa Foyle from Partnership for Young London and Lennie James appearance on Desert Island Discs.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and wish you a happy National Care Leavers Month!



THIS MONTH

- Criminal Justice – Launch of the MOPAC Reducing Criminalisation of Children in Care and Care Leaver protocol
- Rising as Me – London Children in Care Council / Partnership for Young London
- Messages from an LA – Hearing from LBHF young people and staff in care leavers month
- Education, Training and Employment – A message from Matthew Blood
- Housing – A message from Sophie Konradsen and Hackney's Young People
- Health – A message from Kath Evans and PYL's interview with London Health Leads
- Care Leaver Covenant – A message from Rosie Blackett and 10% off at B+Q
- NLCBF – A message from Hannah McCowen
- Success – Whose definition counts? – Rees Centre research hearing from the care experienced community on how we should measure success
- Stories – A poem from Louisa Foyle at PYL, and a link to Lennie James' Desert Island Discs



MOPAC – REDUCING THE CRIMINALISATION OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS PROTOCOL

This revised protocol is a significant landmark for London with the new agreement offering much greater provision for care leavers.

The protocol secures the commitment of partners to make change and improvement in several areas, including identification and information sharing, increased prevention and diversion, and better support of care leavers within the criminal justice system. Whilst the protocol establishes the overarching commitment of partners, further work is required on the detail of change.

The protocol can be viewed [here](#).

Work to develop this detail has started immediately. We are very grateful to **Deputy Keith Bottomley**, Sheriff of the City of London, for hosting a group of partners and young people at the Old Bailey to begin the process of bringing the protocol commitments to life. It is also extremely welcome that the MOJ have said this effort will also take place at a national level. [Read more about it here](#).



RISING AS ME – A MESSAGE FROM PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUNG LONDON AND THE LONDON CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL



There's a moment in every care experienced person's life when you stop surviving as someone's story and start rising as your own. For too long the word care has been defined by systems, not by us. But this month we reclaim it. We rise as our whole selves' complex, creative, independent, and free.

"Rising As Me" is about identity beyond the paperwork. It's about learning that you are not your file, your placement, or your past you are your becoming.

*To every care leaver:
you are not what happened to you.
You are what you build,
the stories you tell
and the lives you'll impact next.*

*We rise for those who came before
we rise for those finding their way
and we rise as us.
Care experienced loud and resilient.
Strong. Seen. Self-defined.*

[#NationalCareLeaversMonth](#)

This [film](#) was developed by the Pan London CiCC.



MESSAGES FROM AN LA



Hearing from LB Hammersmith and Fulham young people and staff in care leavers month

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

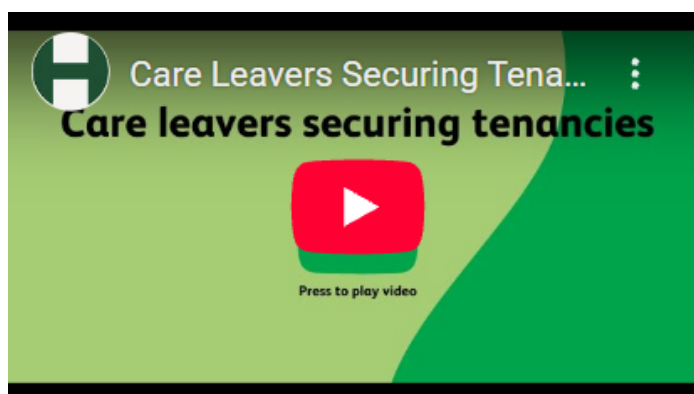


A message from Matthew Blood, Virtual School Head, Islington

HOUSING

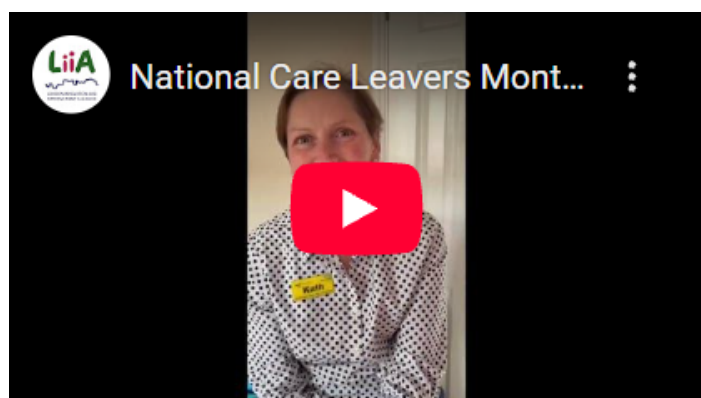


A message from Sophie Konradsen, Lead Commissioner for Housing, Lambeth

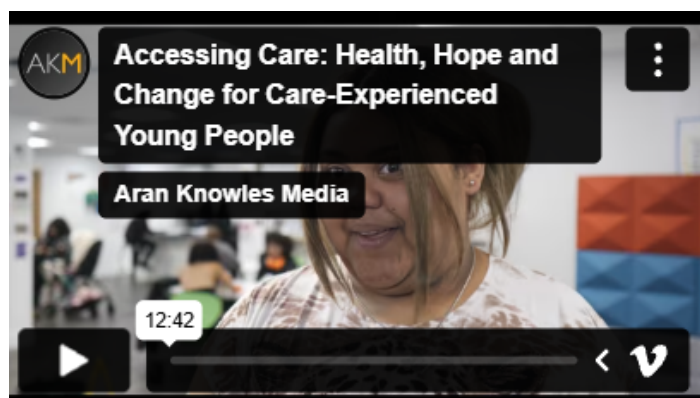


A message from Hackney's Young People

HEALTH



A message from Kath Evans, Director of Children's Nursing, Barts Health



PYL's interview with London Health Leads

CARE LEAVER COVENANT

NATIONAL LEAVING CARE BENCHMARKING FORUM



A message from Rosie Blackett, Participation & Engagement Manager, Care Leaver Covenant



A message from Hannah McCowen, NLCBF Manager, Catch 22



From 10th November 2025, leaving care teams across England can benefit from a 10% discount on all B&Q products when purchasing items on behalf of care leavers. This is a brilliant opportunity to help young people create a safe, comfortable space as they move into independence – whether that's through flooring, decorating, or simply adding personal touches to make a house feel like a home.

Key information

- **Discount:** 10% off all B&Q products.
- **Who can use it:** Local authority leaving care teams purchasing items for care leavers.
- **Eligible purchases:** All products, including DIY materials and more.
- **How to access:** Full guidance on redeeming the offer can be found below.



Organisation:
TradePoint B&Q

Type:
Discounts & Retail

Region(s):
National

Ref: TraB&Q0001

10% off all B&Q Products instore and online on the TradePoint website

Summary:
Get 10% off almost everything at B&Q with a TradePoint card-exclusive for Care Leaver Covenant partners.

Further Details:

Launching from National Care Leavers Month 2025

Sign up for a TradePoint card and have access to your 10% off almost everything in B&Q.

Some of our TradePoint services include:



National Care Leaver Month

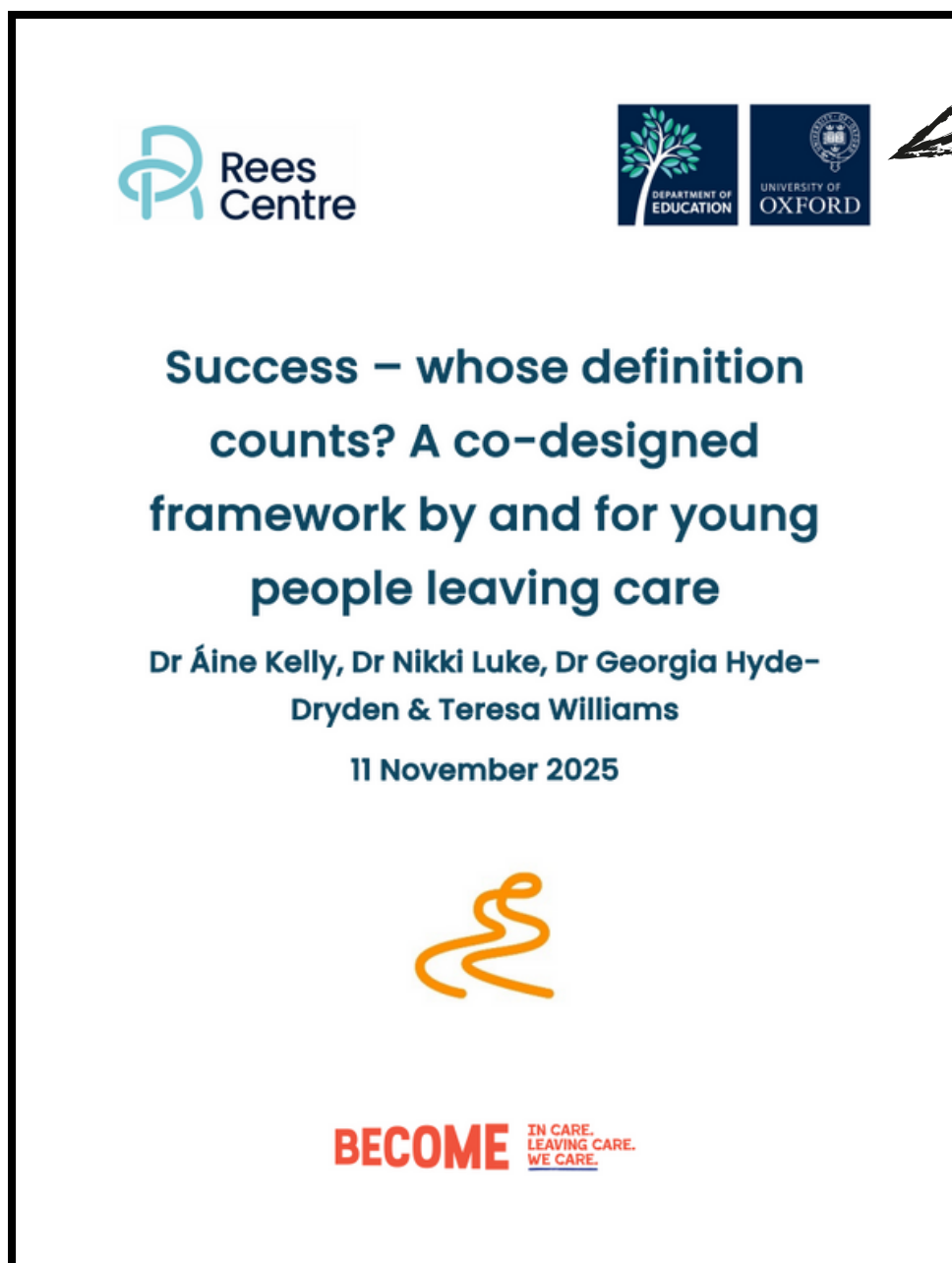
This opportunity comes from an organisation that has gone the extra step of providing a dedicated opportunity specifically for #NCLM.

Discover more about **National Care Leavers Month** on our dedicated [hub page here](#).

SUCCESS – WHOSE DEFINITIONS COUNTS?



Please see this important research from the Rees Centre which challenges us to reflect on how success should be defined for the care experienced community.





STORIES – LOUISA FOYLE AND LENNIE JAMES

We hope you enjoy Louisa Foyle's poem, Bold, Black and Beautiful. Louisa has been a key leader of the Pan London Care Leavers Compact since its launch in 2021.

*A poem born from the in-between:
between girlhood and motherhood
between belonging and being displaced
between silence and song.
It's about identity
not the one given to her
but the one she claimed,
shaped through resilience rhythm, and radical self-love.*

*This poem isn't just words
it's a movement.
For every young person who was ever labelled
for every Black girl who turned survival into art
for every care leaver still finding her voice.*

*I am Black,
I am bold,
I am beautiful
and I am becoming.*

Please see the video of Louisa's poem here – <https://lnkd.in/eeiGAvqX>

We also hope you enjoy Lennie James's appearance on **Desert Island Discs**. Lennie tells his story of race, migration, care experience and London which does not shy away from trauma whilst remaining profoundly uplifting, with important messages for the care system.



Lennie James, actor

Lennie James, actor and writer, shares the eight tracks, book and luxury item he would take with him if cast away to a desert island. With Lauren Laverne.

[Show more](#)

Available now
🕒 59 minutes

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.

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

THANKS FOR READING!

FOLLOW LIIA



LinkedIn